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Cult members arrested

Israeli police fear millennium violence

By YOSSI MELMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Eight adults and six children belonging to a Denver-based apocalyptic Christian cult were arrested last Sunday in the Jerusalem suburbs of Mevasseret Tzion and Motza, as a result of surveillance by a high-powered undercover team drawn from the Mossad intelligence agency, the Shin Bet internal security service and the police.

The group, called the Concerned Christians, is suspected of planning violent acts in Jerusalem ahead of the millennium to hasten the second coming of Jesus.

A joint task force from the three security bodies had been monitoring the phenomenon for weeks prior to the raid. A representative of the task force warned that some cults in the United States may decide to commit mass suicide on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem – the supposed site of the second coming – if Jesus does not appear by the end of the millennium year 2000. The official added that there are one or two cults in Europe with a similar potential for drastic action.

Dozens of uniformed and plainclothes police, led by Jerusalem District Police Chief Yair Yitzhaki, swooped down on two spacious suburban homes about 1.5 kilometres apart on Jerusalem's steep, hilly outskirts, neighbors said. The cultists did not resist.

The episode highlighted the fears of Israeli authorities that the months leading to the millennium will bring an influx of religious extremists to Israel, some of them dangerous. Police said the group had planned to provoke a bloody shootout by opening fire on Israeli police, believing that this catastrophic act would hasten the second coming of Christ.

"They planned to carry out violent and extreme acts in the streets of Jerusalem at the end of 1999 to start the process of bringing Jesus back to life," said police spokesperson Elihu Ben-Onn.

The cult's leader, Monte Kim Miller, was reportedly not among those picked up in the raids. The 44-year-old former Denver man has described himself as a figure in prophecies in the Book of Revelations, and says he is destined to die in the streets of Jerusalem in the final days of December 1999.

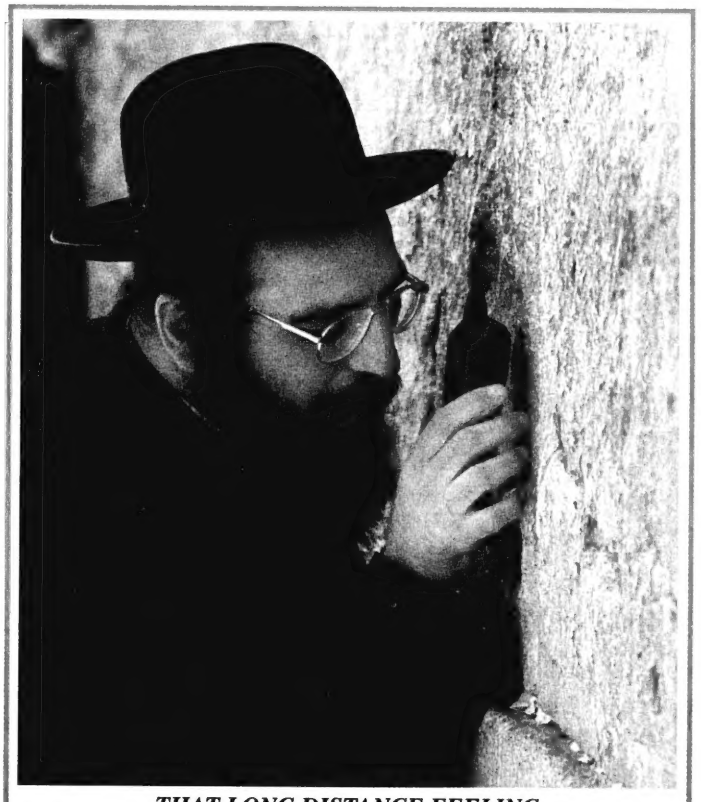
"We are continuing to monitor the subject and we will take all the necessary measures," Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, chair of the ministerial millennium committee, told *Ha'aretz*. "We want the year 2000 to pass quietly."

Katsav said Israeli security authorities were working hand in hand with their counterparts in the United States.

The report presented to the ministerial committee noted that additional members of the Denver cult planned to arrive in Israel during 1999. But the task force also acknowledged that it does not have a great deal of information about this or other cults, noting they are just beginning to familiarize themselves with the subject.

Officials estimate that about four million tourists will visit Jerusalem, a city of about 625,000 people, in connection with the year 2000. A force of about 400 police will safeguard the Temple Mount, where a sophisticated electronic system of magnetic gates, closed-circuit television cameras and concealed observation points has been set up.

A police spokesperson added that every effort will be made to give free access to holy sites by members of all religions, but attempts by extremist groups to interfere with the flow of Christian tourism will be dealt with firmly.



THAT LONG DISTANCE FEELING

Nachman Bitton places his cellular telephone against the stones of the Western Wall to enable his friend from France to join in the prayers last week on the 10th day of Tevet, a fast day in the Jewish calendar. *[RNS/Reuters photo]*

INSIDE

A photo display of the possible candidates for the prime ministership of Israel. *Please see page 9.*

Don't miss an issue. Call 416-391-1836 today

Palestinians moving gradually to statehood 9

The News in Brief

CANADA

Cohen Was Friend of Israel

OTTAWA — Shaughnessy Cohen, the Liberal MP who collapsed in the House of Commons and died of a brain hemorrhage Dec. 9, was remembered by the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) as a friend of Israel. A non-Jew, Cohen was immediate past chair of the Canada-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group, a collection of 130 MPs and senators who foster good relations with Israel. In 1994, she also participated in the CIC's annual mission to Israel for elected officials.

Diplomat Honored

MONTREAL — Per Anger, the Swedish diplomat who served with Raoul Wallenberg in Budapest during World War II, was recently honored here by the Raoul Wallenberg International Movement for Humanity and the Canadian Friends of Raoul Wallenberg. The award was accepted on Anger's behalf by Sweden's ambassador to Canada, Jan Stahl. Anger, 85, worked closely with Wallenberg in providing Hungarian Jews with fake Swedish passports. Wallenberg, who is credited with rescuing 100,000 Jews, disappeared into Soviet custody in 1945.

Science Students Sought

TORONTO — Six outstanding science students will be chosen to represent Canada this summer at the Dr. Bessie F. Lawrence 30th International Summer Science Institute on the campus of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, from June 30 to July 30. The English-language program is open to students entering university in Sept. 1999 to pursue science studies, and includes a stint at a field school in the Negev. Application deadline is March 1. For further information, call Edie Bayer at 416-733-9220.

ISRAEL

Clash On Army Deferrals

JERUSALEM — Spiritual leaders of two haredi movements in Israel said no yeshiva students should be drafted into the army. The comments by four rabbis of the groups which comprise the United Torah Judaism bloc in the Knesset, came a few days after the High Court of Justice ruled that a long-standing agreement granting the students army deferrals is illegal.

Non-Orthodox Appointed

JERUSALEM — Representatives of the Reform and Conservative movements were appointed to religious councils in the Israeli cities of Jerusalem and Kiryat Tivon. The appointments came after Israel's High Court of Justice ruled that the councils must accept representatives of these movements. The approval of the appointments came from an official in the Prime Minister's Office after Interior Minister Eli Suissa refused to ratify them.

Residents Open to Deal

JERUSALEM — Residents of a Jewish settlement that has become surrounded by Palestinian self-rule areas following the recent troop redeployment in the West Bank said they would accept compensation to move. In a letter to a member of the Knesset, 39 of the 43 families living in Ganim wrote that they would be open to such an arrangement.

Shamir, Peres Agree

JERUSALEM — Former prime ministers Yitzhak Shamir and Shimon Peres asked the Knesset to repeal a law calling for the direct election of the prime minister. Advocates for repeal maintain that the fragile coalition of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was a result of the double ballot, one for premier and one for Knesset, instituted in 1996.

WORLD

President to Speak Out

BERN — Switzerland's first Jewish president says she plans to use her new post to speak out about her country's role in World War II. Ruth Dreifuss says she had refused in the past "to speak as the token Jew of our government," but now intends to seize the opportunity to speak as president, "which gives me much clearer legitimacy." Dreifuss took over the largely ceremonial post, which rotates among members of the Swiss cabinet, on Jan. 1.

Anti-Semitism Peaks

SYDNEY — Anti-Semitic incidents reached record levels in Australia in the year ending Sept. 30, according to the main Jewish umbrella group here. There were 324 such incidents, a 22 percent increase over the year before, and 16 percent higher than the previous record. On the positive side, the number of violent incidents was down, which the community attributed to increased security at synagogues and other Jewish institutions.

Yeltsin's Pledge

MOSCOW — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has promised a "major offensive" against anti-Semitic and extremist statements. Yeltsin's statement came after Russia's Justice Ministry said it would send the draft of a new bill against political extremism and anti-Semitism to the Duma before the end of the year. Experts believe that such a bill has little chance of passing the Communist- and nationalist-dominated parliament. In the meantime, Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov has declared that the "spread of Zionism" in Russia is "one of the reasons for the current catastrophic condition of the country."

Court Rules on Non-Orthodox Conversions

JERUSALEM — A court has ordered Israel's Interior Ministry to recognize as Jewish 23 people who underwent Reform and Conservative conversions.

The court opposed the stance of Interior Minister Eli Suissa of the Shas party, who has refused to recognize the conversions.

Despite the ruling, which ordered the ministry to register the petitioners as Jewish on their identity cards, Orthodox authorities will likely continue to refuse to recognize the converts, their marriages and burials.

But the court's decision, which gives recognition to the converts in all civil affairs, was hailed as a breakthrough by the Reform and Conservative movements.

Rabbi Uri Regev, director of the Reform movement's Israel Religious Action Centre, said the decision "reinstates the lost dignity of dozens of converts and their families" and "opens a wide door for thousands of new immigrants and others who seek to convert."

The ruling drew a rapid response from Orthodox Knesset members, who are hoping to enact legislation that will bypass the court decision.

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Web site focuses on dormant bank accounts

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Jewish organizations and individuals with long-forgotten Canadian bank accounts may now claim their dormant funds with a simple click of a computer's mouse.

The Bank of Canada has unveiled a searchable database on the World Wide Web, enabling anyone to find out whether they have money in a dormant account waiting to be claimed.

The site enables searchers to type in a name or a word, or even part of a name. It lists thousands of individuals, organizations, schools and clubs.

Included are instructions on how to make claims online, and who can make them.

Eventually, all bank accounts which stay dormant for long periods are transferred to the Bank of Canada. The same goes for certified cheques, money orders and bank drafts that are never cashed.

A *CJN* search turned up 13 groups with "Jewish" in their names. All have unclaimed money in old accounts. Among them are:

• the Jewish Singles Group in Montreal has a forgotten balance of $21, last at the Royal Bank of Canada's main Montreal branch, dating back to 1985;

• the Toronto Jewish Soccer Club has an unclaimed $153.80, last accessed in 1987 at the Toronto Dominion Bank branch at Don Mills and York Mills.

• the National Council of Jewish Women in Nepean, Ont. has $205.18 waiting to be claimed;

(Also with an unclaimed account is *The CJN*, with a balance of $35 that has gone untouched since 1981.)

Some Jewish groups have heftier sums coming to them:

• the Trent University Jewish Students Association in Peterborough has $640.46 waiting to be claimed;

• the Jewish Hospital of Hope Foundation in Montreal can contact the Bank of Canada to pick up a balance of $591.99;

• the "Jewish Community Day School of Toronto" has an unclaimed sum of $874.39. The account was last accessed in 1973 at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, 199 Yonge St.

Other searches reveal Toronto's Associated Hebrew Schools, the Sephardic Hebrew High School of Montreal and the Hebrew Academy of Montreal's yearbook staff all have unclaimed funds in forgotten accounts.

So do B'nai Brith and a B'nai Brith Youth Organization chapter in Saskatoon.

Accounts of $500 and over will stay at the Bank of Canada indefinitely. Anything under that goes to the receiver-general after a 20-year waiting period.

The site is at [ucbswww.bank-banque.ca/]

USDS SPORT-A-THON

The Middle School students of United Synagogue Day School, Bayview campus, recently held a Sport-A-Thon at the Bathurst Jewish Centre as part of the Free the Children program. The aim of the program is to ship school kits to needy children all over the world. The kits contain pencils, pens, sharpeners, erasers, a box of crayons and a small ball.

Government fails to denaturalize Dueck

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — For the second time in four months, the federal Justice Department has failed in its bid to strip an alleged Nazi war criminal of his Canadian citizenship.

In a decision released in Ottawa recently, Federal Court Judge Marc Noel ruled that Johann Dueck did not gain admission to Canada through fraud or misrepresentation. In late September, Federal Court judge William McKeown ruled in Toronto that Peteris Vitols, a member of a Latvian auxiliary police battalion and later of the Latvian SS, did not lie about his wartime activities either.

With the two rulings, the Justice Department's war crimes unit has registered as many losses as victories since it switched from criminal prosecutions to attempts to denaturalize and deport alleged war criminals. Two, Mamertas Maciukas and Ladislav Csizik-Csatary faced removal as a result of denaturalization proceedings, while Wasily Bogutin has delayed his deportation by claiming refugee status.

In the Dueck decision, Noel rejected the Crown's case on a number of fronts. The Federal Court judge found that the most damaging eyewitness evidence against Dueck was based on hearsay and was not credible. Some witnesses had ties to the country's previous Communist administration and some had attended a public meeting organized by the KGB in 1988 in which the evidence of witnesses was solicited. He questioned the credibility of that evidence.

As a result, Noel rejected the government's contention that Dueck served in the Selidovka raion (district) police in German-occupied Ukraine from 1941-43. Instead, he accepted Dueck's contention, corroborated by government witnesses, two of whom had themselves collaborated with the Nazis, that he had served as a civilian interpreter for a local Gendarme police unit but

Continued on page 21

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From the editor's desk

Bar-Ilan solution-seekers

The upcoming election campaign in Israel will be a mirror in which all of Israel's domestic tensions and conflicts will be reflected. As in all election campaigns in all democracies, the contending politicians will place greater emphasis on the country's dangerous fault lines than on its elevating peaks. The voters, and we, following closely the developments of the election at a large geographic remove, will be subjected to a constant cataloguing of Israel's problems.

And indeed, as we know, there are a number of serious problems coursing through the texture of that society's unique, multi-variegated, many-colored fabric.

We must not make light of these problems; nor can we dismiss them as merely marginal issues.

But nor should we ignore that there are many fine people trying to find solutions to these problems, or at least trying to lay the groundwork to enable the next generation to find those solutions.

During my visit to Israel in November, I met with a number of the solution-seekers on the campus of Bar-Ilan University (BIU) in Ramat Gan.

Yigal Amir stained the university. But that stain, thankfully, has long since washed away. BIU stands for tolerance of diversity and pluralism of thought and belief, values that Amir found offensive.

It is Israel's second largest university. It is a lusciously verdant, urban campus occupying some 70 acres, soon to double with the addition of 75 acres to its main campus; 25,000 students attend its 6,000 courses.

The "solution-seekers" at BIU are trying to reconcile the gaps between various groups in Israeli society: religious and secular, rich and poor, men and women, Jew and Arab, Israeli and Palestinian.

Dr. Ruth Halperin-Kaddari teaches at the faculty of law. She is co-director of the university's new interdisciplinary program in bioethics, philosophy and law. She is a leader on the forefront of the women's rights movements in Israel and happens also to be Orthodox.

Halperin-Kaddari is 36, married and the mother of three children. A graduate of Bar-Ilan and Yale University, she views as her personal mission, the improvement of the social and legal status of the women of Israel.

Keen-eyed, with a sharply incisive intellect, she harbors no illusions about that mission. As she told *The CJN*, "The key is in education. Our hope is with the younger generation, but we need the resources to influence the younger generation."

Dr. Ella Belfer was born in Russia at the end of World War II. Her specialty is political theory, but her special project right now at Bar-Ilan is to have helped organize and lead workshops for her students called Democracy and Judaism.

There are 20 such workshops, each with approximately 20 students. The workshop explores and confirms the compatibility of Jewish and democratic values.

"We have succeeded in securing a state," Belfer told *The CJN*. "But we must still struggle to *build* a state. We do not have an adequate sense of 'we,'" she said, using the Hebrew *anachnu*.

With enthusiasm and energy and excitement, Belfer unambiguously emphasized that her purpose is to help embed deep into the soil of Israeli society, Judaism's and democracy's intertwined roots.

Prof. Yaacov Iram was born just after World War II had broken out. He is head of the department of educational studies at the School of Education of BIU, Israel's largest. Since May 1995, he has also been the incumbent of the Josef Burg Chair in Education for Human Values, Peace and Tolerance, which was established to train teachers to promote fundamental democratic values: tolerance and mutual respect.

The CJN met with Dr. Iram in his office, along with two of his colleagues, key instructors Shimon Ohayon and Rachel Galley. They described their mission as three intersecting circles at the centre of Israeli society: bridging tensions between Jew and Jew, between Israeli Jew and Israeli Arab, and between Israeli and Palestinian.

The group delivers specialized seminars and workshops to teachers, teachers-in-training and parent-teacher groups.

The seminar/workshops adopt and adapt the Anti-Defamation League's successful educational program called A World of Difference (AWOD).

Supported by a small grant from the American Embassy, Iram and his colleagues are also conducting AWOD-based workshops for Palestinian staff at El-Kuds University. The two groups explore their respective cultural attitudes towards each other.

Galley feels optimistic about the program with her Palestinian counterparts. "We can only measure results in the long term. But we must start with self-awareness, then learning how to control our biases and our prejudices. We speak openly, we speak frankly and we speak with good will, trying to make some changes in ourselves as well as in the other."

The upcoming elections in Israel will generate a loud, deafening din of acrimony and accusation. Through the noise though, we must remember to hear not only the voices of the politicians but also those of the solution-seekers, striving in their own quieter way to solve Israel's unique societal problems.

MBD

SEE JN

FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN

George Weinberger, seated left midst the group of young schoolchildren, was part of a delegation from the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto that recently visited the Toronto Jewish Community Campus in Kfar Gvirol, Israel. The children attend a brand new elementary school that forms part of the campus, built through the assistance of the Toronto Jewish community. [Bill Kassel photo]

Greater Toronto Area

Austria to help Jews recover lost property

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

In the spirit of coming to terms with its Nazi past, Austria has redoubled its efforts to shed light on property losses sustained by Jews before and during World War II.

In Canada, the beneficiaries of this policy will be former Austrian Jews.

"There exists a moral obligation to make up for injustices as far as is possible," said Wolfgang Spadinger, minister counsellor of Austria's embassy in Ottawa.

"Comprehensive compensation for the victims of Nazi injustice is in the interest of Austria," he added in a release.

According to Spadinger, Jewish property worth $1.5 billion was "Aryanized" following Germany's annexation of Austria in 1938.

The vast bulk of the booty consisted of real estate, businesses, equity, paintings and jewelry.

Spadinger said that Chancellor Viktor Klima has established a six-member Commission of Historians to study all aspects of Austria's restitution program so that those who feel they were not fairly compensated may file claims.

Referring to Austria's most recent restitution efforts, Spadinger said that former Austrian Jews who have so far received little or no assistance are eligible for payments disbursed by the Vienna-based National Fund, created by parliament in 1995.

And under an amendment to the Austrian Nationality Act, they may re-acquire their Austrian citizenship, without having to live in Austria, and thus qualify for various kinds of assistance.

Spadinger said that more than 1,200 persons around the world, including 800 in Israel, have reclaimed their Austrian citizenship.

By his estimation, about 25,000 individuals persecuted by the Nazis for reasons of race, religion or politics are currently drawing Austrian social security pensions, which amount to $270 million annually.

Since 1945, Spadinger said, Austria has passed several edicts for the return of expropriated property to Jews.

Not all the property has been claimed and restored to their rightful owners.

Works of arts seized by the Nazis were auctioned off by the Austrian government in October 1996. The proceeds were transferred to the Jewish community in Austria, which has the authority to render compensation payments.

Spadinger acknowledged that Austrian banks, insurance companies and industrial firms have been hit with class action suits by Jews claiming compensation.

These suits remain in the litigation phase.

For more information about these issues, call the Austrian embassy (613) 789-1444.

Jewish groups angered by messianic ad

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Jewish groups have registered strong objections to a full-page ad in the *Globe and Mail* from a Hebrew-Christian organization.

"Is it reasonable to be Jewish and believe in Jesus?" asked the ad, which ran Dec. 21, the last night of Chanukah. It was placed by Chosen People Ministries, which maintains a congregation on Sheppard Avenue.

'Highly provocative'

The ad shows a picture of 16 people of different ages and purportedly different professions, all of whom have one thing in common: "The most Jewish thing we have ever done is to believe that Jesus is the Messiah."

The ad includes a clip-out for a free brochure "which tells the stories of 15 Jewish people who discovered that believing in Jesus is very Jewish – and very reasonable."

It is usual for full-page ads from so-called messianic Jewish groups to appear around Chanukah. In the past, these kind of ads have appeared in both the *Toronto Star* and *Toronto Sun*, both of which subsequently developed stringent guidelines on advocacy advertising, especially the kind which targets members of a specific religion.

In a letter to the *Globe*, Rabbi Michael Skobac, director of education for Jews for Judaism, calls the ad "highly provocative" and says it "directly offends a significant segment of your readership" with its "conversionary message."

Rabbi Skobac told *The CJN* the ad triggered a flurry of media interest. Radio shows in Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal devoted segments to it.

In a letter to *Globe* publisher Roger Parkinson, Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) president Moshe Ronen called Chosen People Ministries "a Christian proselytizing organization," and said that the newspaper's decision to run the ad "makes [it] complicit in the ad's provocation of our community."

B'nai Brith Canada (BBC) also weighed in, calling the ad "deceptive and misleading, as it seeks to proselytize members of the Jewish faith."

The CJN's calls to the *Globe* were not returned by press time.

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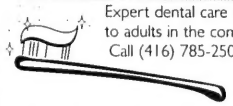

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Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care

Greater Toronto Area

Spanish historian explores lost culture

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Spanish historian Assumpció Hosta had a pretty good idea she was researching the pre-expulsion Jewish quarter of Girona, but it wasn't until she and her team discovered some Hebrew parchments that she was able to hold tangible proof in her hands.

The documents, which she surmises were no longer needed, had been used to stuff the covers of a book. They included family birth, death and expense records, as well as synagogue seat allocation and a page of religious text.

Hosta, who is not Jewish, spoke recently at a Saturday evening program at Petah Tikva Anshe Castilla Congregation about pre-1492 Sepharad. Her visit was sponsored by the Spanish National Tourist Office and Iberia Airlines.

About 12 years ago, she was asked by the mayor of Girona, a town of 70,000, to start a project based on the restoration of what turned out to be the former Jewish area of the city.

"From nothing we developed a big huge project," Hosta said in an interview at the downtown Toronto hotel where she stayed. The Patronat Municipal "Call de Girona," of which she is director, eventually initiated an eight-city Mediterranean Sephardi Jewish network.

The *patronat* (public foundation), which is funded by local and national government, is housed in Girona's medieval synagogue and includes a study institute named for Nahmanides, the 13th-century Spanish scholar and Girona native. A museum is in the planning stages, Hosta said. She and her team work closely with the tourism industry to plan specialty tours of Jewish interest.

Before the Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492, there were 1,000 Jews in Girona, a substantial proportion of a total population of 5,000.

Today there are no Jews in the city, although it's likely there are some descendants of converted Jews.

Assumpció Hosta

Currently, there are 25,000 Jews in Spain, with communities in Barcelona, Madrid and Malaga, and a few families scattered elsewhere.

She suspects there are more medieval synagogues in Spain than are currently known. There was a law in 14th-century Spain that communities could only keep one synagogue, she said. "The others disappeared. They were mainly converted into Christian churches. We have a theory that in some places churches today were once synagogues, but we don't have proof."

Non-Jews in Girona are interested in local Jewish history, although they've had little if any exposure to Jews, said Hosta.

When it became apparent that her research would focus on the Jewish community, she went to Jerusalem for a month and a half to study Hebrew, then organized Hebrew classes in Girona.

By the second year of classes, there were 40 students, and the course had become a university credit course.

Hosta's institute has held exhibitions of Jewish modern art as well as educational, historical exhibits.

For Hosta, the project has been like "opening a door to a new world."

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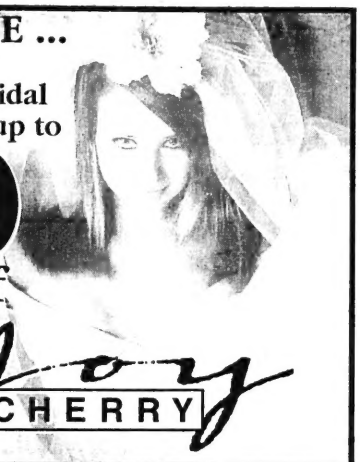

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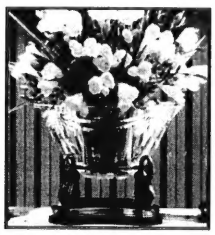

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Judy Halpern shows off a garter snake

Teacher brings environmental 'magic suitcase' to students

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — When Judy Halpern shleps her "magic suitcase" to schools around southern Ontario, it's not so she can perform tricks like pulling a rabbit out of a hat.

There are no amazing feats of prestidigitation in her repertoire, no death-defying illusions, no card tricks and certainly nobody gets sawed in half.

Nope. The magic in her suitcase is much more down to earth, more physical than metaphysical. It's designed to explain rather than to confound.

Halpern is a teacher with more than 14 years of experience who specializes in outdoor education, informing kids from kindergarten to Grade 4 about mother nature, her creatures, the seasons and all aspects of the world around them.

She employs an assortment of hand puppets, cut-outs, flash cards, bird feathers and other imaginative aids to get her message across and to interest the munchkin-sized students in the environment around them.

A former teacher in the York Region school system, Halpern now works as a freelance educator helping schools supplement their programs. She calls her company The Magic Suitcase because most of her teaching tools can be contained in one well-travelled satchel and they can be made to magically appear at will.

Based in Kitchener, Halpern travels from North Bay to Niagara, from Kitchener to Kingston, bringing the Magic Suitcase to appreciative student audiences.

She also has designed several teaching guides that comply with curriculum standards and assist teachers in presenting courses and programs that focus on the environment. Her bird kit, for instance, contains questions and tasks for the children, a guide to help identify different birds, cut-out bird silhouettes, a bird hand puppet, a bird call, goose feathers and cards that go with a food chain game.

Other educators' kits include Goin' on a Bear Hunt, which explains how animals cope with the changing seasons; Go Leaves Go, which looks at the life cycles of trees; and Earthly Delights, which explains nature's delicate balance.

Bear Hunt

Outings near the school go hand in hand with the kits since mother nature is just about everywhere.

On one auspicious trip last fall into the woods near a school in Waterloo, students witnessed a cornucopia of mother nature's creatures. They saw moles, a dead shrew, a garter snake, as well as a red-tail hawk, a chickadee and a woodpecker, Halpern said.

That's the kind of activity that really gets kids interested in nature, she noted.

A nature-lover herself, some of Halpern's fondest childhood memories go back to "doing leaf projects with my dad, collecting leaves and trying to identify them," she said.

Halpern later turned that interest into an occupation. She trained as a teacher and obtained a specialty in environmental studies. From 1990-94, after 10 years in the York Region school system, she got what many teachers consider a plum assignment, working at the Milne Outdoor Education Centre, in the Rouge Valley near Highway 7 and McCowan.

"It was a heavenly job," she said. "You're out there every day in all kinds of weather."

At the time, there was plenty of government funding for the centre and a constant stream of kids came by to learn about the environment, she recalled.

When she reluctantly concluded her four-year stint at the centre, Halpern and her husband, Rob Spackman, took a year off to travel the world.

They visited India, Nepal, East Africa, Israel, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia, among other exotic locales, and viewed firsthand how environmental issues impact on those societies.

When they returned, Halpern learned that funding for outdoor centres was being cut, so she devised a new approach to outdoor education. If the students couldn't come to the centre, the centre would come to the students.

Using the contacts she'd developed in her years as a teacher, Halpern arranged half-day programs at various schools, making sure what she taught was connected to the curriculum.

"The whole idea behind the Magic Suitcase is that you could go anywhere, do it anywhere," she said.

An upcoming highlight for Halpern will take place next summer when she and her husband, who is also a teacher, will take a group of Grade 11 students from Toronto to St. Andrews by the Sea in New Brunswick for a course in marine biology.

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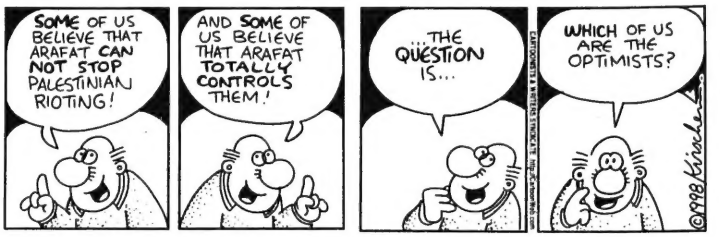
Dry Bones
SOME OF US BELIEVE THAT ARAFAT CAN NOT STOP PALESTINIAN RIOTING!
AND SOME OF US BELIEVE THAT ARAFAT TOTALLY CONTROLS THEM!
...THE QUESTION IS...
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A trying time

The 15th Knesset of Israel will be elected on May 17, fully two years before its formal expiry date, and fully five months after its members voted on Dec. 21 to approve first reading of the bill calling for early elections, the culmination of a particularly acrimonious period of debate in Israel's legislature.

The government's coalition dam could no longer hold back the swirling high tide of emotions let loose by the signing of the Wye Accords some two months ago. To the right of the prime minister, former coalition partners and other Knesset members could not abide the very signing itself of the Wye Accords, inveighing against the further requirements upon Israel to surrender more land to the Palestinian Authority.

To the left of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the opposition could not abide his decision to suspend, even if temporarily, the implementation of those very same requirements which he had committed to paper and signed in the name of the people of Israel at the Maryland plantation.

Thus, by a vote of 81-30, the dam burst into a chaos of competing ideological pieces that Israelis will try to put together again on May 17. But re-assembling those many sharp-edged pieces will require the voters of Israel to endure a long and, if the past two weeks weeks are an indication, probably a very difficult and nasty election campaign.

Not only will voters be electing the next Knesset, they will also be directly electing, likely for the last time, the prime minister. A bill to repeal the direct election of the prime minister is even now wending through the Knesset, though if enacted, it would not apply to the upcoming elections. As of this writing, it is still not known how many candidates will be vying for the prime ministership. There will be at least three, (Netanyahu, Ehud Barak and possibly Amnon Lipkin-Shahak); perhaps five (plus Dan Meridor, Uzi Landau or Roni Milo) perhaps even as many as seven (plus Ze'ev Begin or Ariel Sharon). In case no single candidate for prime minister wins a majority of the vote, a run-off vote will be held on June 1.

The next five months in Israel therefore, promise to be an emotionally taut and trying time. The campaign will be loud and caustic. The peace process will be essentially frozen. And the many extremist, radically violent enemies of Israel will be plotting their own bloody interventions into the campaign.

As we observe that campaign from our posts in the Diaspora, we express the hope, perhaps naive, that the result that finally unfolds from the five-month political cacophony of accusation and promise, will be a stronger, more united Israel, more meaningfully at peace with its neighbors and with itself.

Arafat disappoints

One of those extremist, radically violent enemies of Israel is Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the leader of the Palestinian Hamas movement in Gaza. Two days after his release by Yasser Arafat from "detention," Yassin roused his followers with a typically bloodcurdling diatribe against Israel. "The land drenched with the blood of the fallen is Palestinian, Arab and Moslem land...It is our people's right to oppose this [Israel's existence] and wage jihad until our rights are restored and we establish our state," he told his adoring audience. That Yassin would publicly incite violence against Israel is hardly surprising. That Arafat chose to lift Yassin's house arrest is also not surprising, but deeply disappointing nevertheless. He never misses an opportunity to erode Israeli confidence in the peace process.

WISDOM OF THE AGES
"And there arose a new king over Egypt who did not know Joseph."
Parshat Shemot

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Debate not possible with opponent of brit milah

Historically, those who have wished to destroy the Jewish people or completely undermine Jewish faith and tradition have pursued one of three methods.

They have banned the practice and teaching of Judaism. They have forbidden *shchitah*, the traditional Jewish method of meat preparation, and they have discouraged, scorned, ridiculed or prohibited brit milah or male circumcision.

In modern times, the excuses offered to try to ban *shchitah* and brit milah have been rationalized as being based upon "scientific" and "humanitarian" grounds.

But the underlying purpose has always been to undermine the foundations of the allegiance of the Jewish people to our history, traditions and observance.

Dr. Margaret Somerville declared her views on circumcision publicly some months ago and was heavily criticized. My impression was that at that time she received some education about the meaning of brit milah to Jews.

That education should not have been necessary in the first place.

Had Somerville asked knowledgeable people in the Jewish community about brit milah, she would have come to understand its history and its significance and the profound implications of challenging it or objecting to its practice.

That she still came to spout her nonsense, demonstrates a profound cultural insensitivity, particularly in a city with a large and strong Jewish population, including many Holocaust survivors and children of survivors, who have come from countries where brit milah was banned.

Even the most superficial research would have revealed to her the enormous lengths to which even adult male Jews of Russian origin have been prepared to go in recent years to have the brit milah that their parents had been too frightened to allow them to have when they were small children.

When I was studying to be a doctor in Britain 30 years ago, the experts in urology taught us that male infant circumcision was healthy and preferable – but its practice was divided along social classes. It was performed on the children of the royal family and a large percentage of young upper class males, but the lower classes avoided it because of its associations with being Jewish.

Today, some doctors think differently and discourage it. Somerville has claimed that research has shown male circumcision to be associated with harmful consequences, but every doctor has seen examples of phimosis, a painful and unpleasant condition that arises in young boys who have not been circumcised.

Those are ongoing debates within the field of medicine, and as we see, fashion can change on such matters within a relatively short time.

But religious Jews believe that our values are eternal. Many of our values have been around for at least 2,000 years, and in the case of brit milah for closer to 4,000 years.

Whatever words she may have used, she did not demonstrate any respect at all for a much older and wiser tradition, but revealed antipathy and animosity. There is no debate possible with such a person on this issue, only a complete rejection of her and her views.

Dr. Joseph Berger
Toronto

Smiles aside, opposition to Jewish school help continues

The CJN article entitled "McGuinty expresses support for school funding" (Dec. 17) misleadingly suggests that he is in favor of extending public funding to Jewish schools. One may conclude, given other similar stories recently published by *The CJN*, that funding for private schools is just around the corner.

A more careful reading of the articles, however, demonstrates that any sense of optimism is completely unwarranted. The smiling face of Ontario Liberal leader Dalton McGuinty flanked by equally cheerful representatives of the Canadian Jewish Congress belies the Ontario government's continued discrimination against Jews and others as it maintains policies that deny these disenfranchised groups equity in education.

While the Liberal leader is not "ideologically opposed to ensuring public funds" for Jewish schools, he cannot promise any movement "until we first inspire confidence in public education." Mr. McGuinty is effectively advising us that he will not support the Jewish community in its efforts to obtain equity.

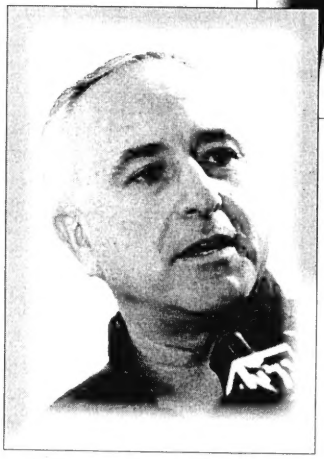
Why then the smiles? Our families continue to be burdened with high tuition fees, economically crippling large segments of Ontario's Jewish middle class. This outrageous situation is taking its toll on the community as families struggle to make ends meet. McGuinty's position is symptomatic of a political system that is content to serve the Roman Catholic and public school system at the expense of our children. We must send a clear message to our politicians that photo opportunities will just not do and that we will not rest until we are treated equitably.

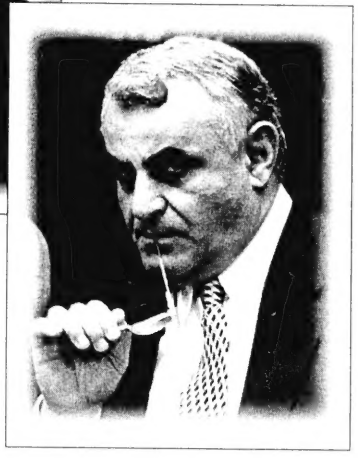
Joseph Adler
Toronto

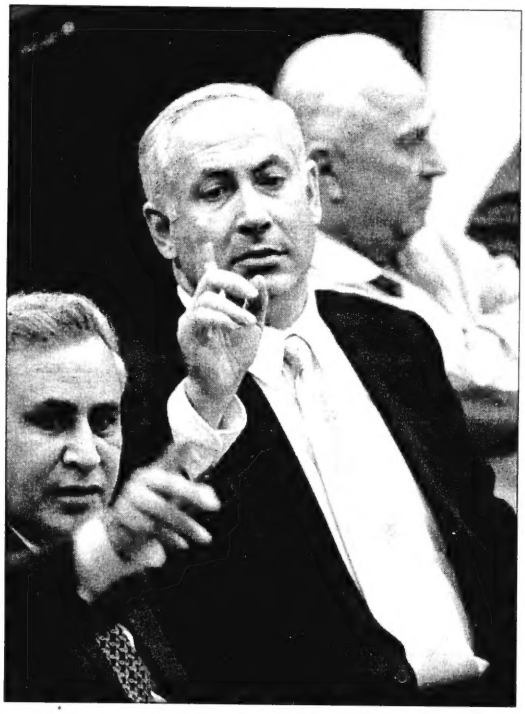
Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

The men who would be Israel's prime minister

By a vote of 81-30, on Dec. 21, the Knesset overwhelmingly approved a bill to hold new elections, the date for which will be May 17. In the immediate aftermath of the vote, politics in Israel have been swirling with news and announcements of new parties and new candidates for prime minister. Here is a list of the possible candidates for the prime ministership as of Dec. 30, 1998.







Clockwise from top left, *Roni Milo*, the former mayor of Tel Aviv, is forming a new "centrist" party for the election; *Ze'ev "Benny" Begin* is forming a new "rightist" party; *Ehud Barak* is the leader of the Labor party; *Yitzhak Mordechai*, the minister of defence in the Netanyahu cabinet, is "weighing his options," which are said to include joining the new "centrist" party; *Uzi Landau*, former chair of the Knesset foreign affairs committee, will challenge Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for the leadership of the Likud party; *Netanyahu*; former chief of staff *Amnon Lipkin-Shahak* will either join the new "centrist" party of Roni Milo or form one on his own; and *Dan Meridor*, former minister of finance in the Netanyahu cabinet, also said he will form a new "centrist" party.

[Israpet and RNS/Reuters photos]

Opinions

'Tis the season and all that

Christmas in Halifax is a two-month event. Promptly after Hallowe'en, the witches, ghosts and goblins come down and up go the reindeer and the jolly old Santa Clauses. On my daily walks to and from school, I see strings of colored lights burning brightly as a reminder of the occasion. 'Tis the season and all that.

Jennifer Fox in Halifax

Haligonians must take their holiday season very seriously to warrant such a large campaign of Christmas cheer. Torontonians usually wait until the American Thanksgiving to haul out their boughs of holly and mistletoe.

King's College takes a traditional approach. Every year, the school holds College Christmas, a day filled with tree trimming, carolling in the chapel, and something called Frivols, which I'm told involves storytelling. A friend and I have started our own College Christmas tradition – spending the entire day watching movies and devouring junk food.

Two months of a holiday I don't celebrate and not a hint of the one I do celebrate is a little much to take. While munching on dinner and being treated to the umpteenth Christmas song that day, I had a revelation. For the sake of my sanity, I would always live in a city with a large Jewish community: large meaning a city with numerous synagogues to choose from and decent bagels. I don't necessarily want to live right inside the Jewish community, but knowing I can hop on a bus, ride 20 minutes and get blintzes is all I ask for.

It would be easy to complain of the bombardment of Christmas images and claim that Chanukah is an unobtrusive holiday celebrated in the quiet of one's own home. Perhaps. But not in Thornhill.

In the heart of the suburb's Jewish community is a grocery store with a menorah made out of blue and white balloons. A minivan from a local Jewish community centre drives by with a functioning electric menorah strapped to the roof. The sight reaffirms the presence of Jews in the area. Chanukah can be as "in your face" as Christmas, but is this necessarily a good thing?

Chanukah has never been my favorite Jewish holiday. I prefer Passover because it brings my family together, or Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur because they're times for reflection. Chanukah is just a festival, though important to observe, which North American society has hyped up because it falls so close to Christmas.

Of course my disenchantment with Chanukah might have something do with my deathly fear of fire. This holiday is a pyrophobic's worst nightmare. Candles are lit for eight days and each day another candle is added – which just increases the chance that one will fall from its less-than-sturdy holder and hit a scrap of wrapping paper that might be lying around.

In my family, we light two large menorahs and three small menorahs, one for each child, totalling 220 candles. Throw in a cat who likes to rub up against table legs, and the chance of accidents increases even further. So far no fires – thank goodness.

Tacky lights and fire hazards aside, Christmas and Chanukah are supposed to be celebrated with loved ones. School is put on hiatus for a few weeks to be spent at home (or in Florida, which is quite popular in my neighborhood). A little holiday cheer regardless of the holiday; some schmoozing with the relatives and friends you haven't seen in a few months; and a chance to have a New Year's bash without worrying about missing classes the next day due to "exhaustion."

It's a brilliant idea really. And since I'm at home, someone else can strike the match to light my menorah.

Of sports and Jewish values

About a year ago, I lectured in the southern United States, and there I met Rabbi Mitchell Smith, who, in addition to his rabbinic duties, also serves as a counsellor to a variety of professional sports organizations.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

I recently saw some excerpts of Rabbi Smith's preaching, in which he compared athletic efforts and the preparation they require to the way in which we approach the exercise of prayer and other obligations.

Here are some samples of what he wrote: "No athlete succeeds without constantly working to improve himself. A young gymnast who aspires to compete in the 2000 Olympics trains five hours a day, six days a week, in addition to his studies at university. Home runs swatted into the stands or out of the park may be the flash of glory that we see played time and again on the nightly news, but for a Sammy Sosa, a Mark McGwire, or any other athlete, this is a small fraction of the effort they have invested over an entire career. In a time when we are too often seduced by thoughts of instant success and instant rewards, athletes who have paid the price for their success are role models for us all. Life's accomplishments come at a price, but too often we lose sight of this and pursue the prize, unwilling the pay the price."

Rabbi Smith then quotes the Talmud: "If a person tells you, 'I have worked and not achieved,' do not believe him. If a person says, 'I have not worked, but still I have achieved,' do not believe him. But if the person says to you, 'I have worked and I have achieved,' he is to be believed."

Michael Novak, author of *The Joy of Sports*, writes that religions are built upon *ascesis*, a word that derives from the discipline that the ancient Greek athletes imposed upon themselves in order to give their will and desire control over their bodies. *Ascesis* signifies the development of character through patterns of self-denial and repetition.

"These considerations," Rabbi Smith writes, "come in an era when many of us in other walks of life have acquired a low tolerance for frustration, failure and plain old hard work."

Rabbi Smith then applies athletic lessons to prayer, which, he says pointedly, is not a spectator sport. "No athlete would think of stepping onto the field without adequate preparation. If we intend for prayer to have an effect on our lives we need the same kind of concentration that we have seen Mark McGwire engage in when he is on deck deepening his mental focus and clearing his mind of all other concerns. The same capacity to direct one's thoughts – to be fully in the present moment – serves the athlete looking to connect with the ball and the individual looking to connect with his soul.

"Our prayers are not answered when we are given what we ask, but when we are challenged to be what we can be. When we find through prayer and self-examination what is truly important in life and commit our focus to that, we can modify the impact of life's harsh decrees."

We are the same persons when we are engaged in sports or when we shop or talk to God. Everything is part of a life that in a way is controlled by our will, our dedication and our effort.

The world's like a huge game of Twister

'Twas the season. True confessions. My friend's uncle from Vancouver asked me yesterday, "So, how's school been this year?"

Erica Horn in Montreal

My immediate reaction: "It's nice to be on vacation."

This can be interpreted in two ways. The first is to assume that I had a horribly stressful semester and that I am trying to erase it from my memory entirely. The second option is simply that I am hoping to relish every last moment of these two weeks, that I studied hard and that I am trying not to think about school too much. It's over. I consider the latter to be a more accurate representation of my sentiments.

I must confess. For three weeks, all I did was eat, sleep and study. I found, however, that towards the end of exam period, I was extremely distracted by the situation in Iraq. I could not bring myself to finish my take-home exam for my Introduction to Rabbinic Literature course, because the computer and the television are not in the same room. I sat endless hours staring at the tinted green screen of the nightscape and watching and listening to endless reports from Baghdad, Washington and around the world on the unfolding events.

News reporters were struggling. Some didn't know which way to turn.

After the first night of attacks, some analysts said Clinton had attacked Iraq to distract attention from the issue of impeachment; others defended the president by saying that he acted in accordance with the recommendations of UNSCOM (the United Nations Special Commission). Everyone had an opinion, and even worse for us students trying to study, everyone felt the need to share theirs.

By Day 3, however, there were special reports on the situation in Iraq, followed by a special report on the impeachment hearings, and then a special report on the special report.

Innumerable foreign journalists were forced to report from the roof of a ministry building in downtown Baghdad.

If Clinton was really trying to have people forget for awhile about the impeachment, he definitely should have chosen some other strategy.

The intertwining of reports – on possible civilian casualties, the risk to the lives of British and American troops and Clinton's possible removal from office – was likely to (and did) attract more viewers than the New Year's Eve Dick Clark show from Times Square.

The attacks ceased, and I submitted my final exam (on time). A lull in all the action. Now... vacation time, relaxation time and anticipation time. How did I fare in school? Will Clinton be impeached in the Senate? (Please note: I am not implying a necessary connection between the two, despite my overwhelming distraction from my studies as a result of Clinton's military strategies).

***

I sit at my computer. Four hours, 17 minutes and 38 seconds until 6 a.m. My deadline is rapidly approaching, and my mother is waiting for me to finish packing my bags for New York (the Hornmobile is leaving at 6 a.m. sharp).

The tunes from the endless Christmas carols I heard at the mall today are almost out of my head. My brother just finished unwrapping his Chanukah gift: a copy of the Ken Starr report wrapped in green and red wrapping paper and a bow with holly (the bookstore did the wrapping).

The candles in our Menorah are out.

News broadcasters have moved on to the five centimetres of snow we most recently received. When will there be more? Will it stick?

I'll guarantee that tomorrow morning there will be a special report on the effect of the weather on the president's decisions and how Iraq is going to combine the celebration of Ramadan and Christmas. It seems it's a good thing that we got Chanukah out of the way – we wouldn't want analysts to have three events to tangle!

Our grades will be posted shortly. Damage from the attacks will be assessed. The U.S. Senate will convene. Ski hills will open all their trails. I feel like an observer of a huge game of Twister.

'Tis the season.

Dry Bones
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The Kirshner File

Republicans plunge into impeachment's murky waters

In a vengeful exercise framed by moral absolutism, underpinned by neo-puritanism and leavened by surrealism, the U.S. House of Representatives impeached President William Jefferson (Bill) Clinton, charging him with perjury and obstruction of justice. Clinton, one of the most progressive – and popular – presidents in modern times, now faces the ugly spectacle of a Senate trial in the new year. Not since 1868, when the accused was Andrew Johnson, has such a constitutional crisis confronted the United States.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

The Republicans, a majority in the House of Representatives, could have spared the country grief, rancor and divisiveness simply by censuring Clinton. Censure, as Democratic whip David Bonior said, would have been punishment enough.

Furthermore, censure would have reflected the will of most Americans. By plunging headlong into the murky waters of impeachment, the House of Representatives proved to be an unrepresentative body out of sync with public sentiment.

No one, not even his most ardent acolytes, denies that Clinton was the author of his own misfortune. By his reckless behavior, and through a strategy of denial and legalistic evasions, he demeaned himself, embarrassed his family and tarnished the presidency. His conduct, in the Paula Jones affair and in the Monica Lewinsky case, was foolish and reprehensible.

Clinton's attempts to conceal his shameless philandering did not rise to the level of "high crimes and misdemeanors." Clinton, for all his libidinous folly, did not use his immense powers to subvert the constitution, to diminish the rule of law or to undermine the nation's national security. He did not commit treason, theft, bribery or murder. He lied to a grand jury and impeded the administration of justice, grave infractions in and of themselves. But these, surely, were low crimes and misdemeanors, committed while trying to bury sordid sexual affairs. Try as he might, independent counsel Ken Starr – a Republican zealot behind that bland smile – was unable to produce evidence to incriminate Clinton on potentially more serious matters like the Whitewater land deal and campaign financing corruption.

Henry Hyde, chair of the judiciary committee, had grandly and piously intoned that impeachment, to be credible, would have to be bipartisan. Yet last month's proceedings, which unfolded surrealistically as the United States and Britain bombarded Iraq for non-compliance with United Nations resolutions, were jaggedly partisan. Only five Republicans voted against and only five Democrats voted for the two articles of impeachment. As a result, the process smelled of politics, and was not purely judicial beyond a reasonable doubt.

The rush to impeachment was initiated and nurtured by a coalition of southern conservatives like Bob Barr of Georgia and born-again Christians such as Tom DeLay of Sugar Land, Texas, who despise Clinton's liberal agenda, and who still blame the Democrats for having hounded Richard Nixon, a Republican president, out of office in 1974 over the Watergate scandal. That so-called moderate Republicans joined them in their sanctimonious crusade is a sad commentary on the effects of brute political pressure and lamentable short sightedness.

If you compare Watergate to the present situation, you may agree that Nixon's attempt to cover up the burglary of Democratic party headquarters by Republican operatives was far worse than Clinton's offences because it was a direct attack on the political system, a subversive crime whose magnitude would have been incalculable.

One hopes that the Senate, in its wisdom, will act expeditiously and spare the nation the agony of a prolonged and unnecessary trial. The Senate, in short, should censure Clinton without removing him from office.

Clinton, his personal peccadilloes notwithstanding, has successfully managed the economy, and is a reformer with good and sincere intentions, particularly in the fields of civil rights, health care and education. As president, he has exhibited an unprecedented affinity for minorities, especially African Americans, and he has fought hard to eradicate prejudice – the perennial bane of American democracy.

His record with respect to Jews is similarly commendable. "Bill Clinton is probably the first, openly warm, philo-Semitic president in the White House," Gary Tobin, director of Brandeis University's Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies, has correctly observed. And Clinton's efforts to further the Arab-Israeli peace process, and to keep Saddam Hussein contained, are also noteworthy.

I'm not suggesting that we should support Clinton because he is pro-Jewish and pro-Israel. Judge him on his merits. Based upon his accomplishments in domestic, economic and foreign policy, Clinton has been a better-than-average commander-in-chief.

It's a shame that the Republicans, out of ideological malice and a misreading of the constitution, showed such an alarming lack of judgment, proportionality and common sense. History will not be kind to them.

Saddam stands tall

The new year begins as the old one ended, with Saddam Hussein firmly in the saddle. As long as he is around, the Iraqi cauldron will simmer and, occasionally, boil over.

Desert Fox, last month's four-day bombing campaign launched by the United States and Britain, degraded Iraq's military infrastructure to some degree. Command and control centres, Republican Guard barracks and missile factories were damaged or destroyed. Also hit were hangars housing pilotless drones which can spray deadly substances over a city and kill and maim thousands of people.

However, dual-use facilities – breweries and pharmaceutical plants – which can be converted into chemical and biological factories were not targeted for fear of unleashing poisonous fumes into the air. This means that Desert Fox could not, by definition, fulfill its main objective of disabling Iraq's ability to produce weapons of mass destruction. Saddam, therefore, remains a potential threat to his neighbors, particularly Israel, which bore the brunt of 39 Iraqi Scud missiles during the 1991 Gulf War.

One immediate but unintended consequence of Desert Fox is that the arms inspection system, a thorn in Saddam's side since 1992, has run its course. The Iraqi government will no longer permit the United Nations Special Commission (Unscom), headed by Richard Butler, to work in Iraq. Unscom played an extremely useful role in the drive to defang Iraq, ferreting out and dismantling illicit weapons. Nevertheless, Iraq is still in possession of hundreds of chemical arms, tons of nerve gas, more than 100 germ weapons and parts for about four nuclear warheads. It boggles the imagination.

With Unscom banned from operating in Iraq, the United States will have no alternative but to monitor this vast country through heightened aerial surveillance, and to maintain a strong, battle-ready air force, army and navy in the region.

Iraq will be bombed yet again if it tries to rebuild its weapons of mass destruction, threatens neighboring countries, challenges Allied aircraft or moves against the Kurds in the far north. Call the policy, if you will, disarmament by force rather than by inspection. Only time will tell whether it succeeds. In the meantime, the economic sanctions are in place, and Washington is upgrading its relationship with the splintered Iraqi opposition movement.

Unlike in the past, the United States is now publicly committed to Saddam's overthrow. But don't hold your breath. Saddam, in one guise or the other, has been around for 30 years, and his regime is deeply entrenched. He can be deposed only in a coup d'etat.

Conservative Arab leaders fear and hate Saddam, at least in private, but the masses regard him as a hero capable of confronting the United States and Israel.

Desert Fox notwithstanding, Saddam stands tall.

A TIME TO LEARN

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	7:30 - 8:30 pm	***My Brother, My Enemy*** (Starting Jan. 25) with Rabbi Sacknovitz
	8:30 - 9:30 pm	***Joshua & Judges*** (Continuing...) with Rabbi Shulman
TUESDAY	9:30 - 11:00 am	***Chumash, Parshanut & Midrash*** (Continuing to June 1999) with Dr. Shoshana Zolty - **Fee**
WEDNESDAY	9:45 - 11:15 am	***Chumash, Parshanut & Midrash*** (Continuing to June 1999) with Dr. Shoshana Zolty (Women Only) - **Fee**

TALMUD & MISHNA

MONDAY	8:00 - 9:00 pm	***Mishna Makkot*** (Starting Jan. 11) with Rabbi Hoschander
WEDNESDAY	8:30 - 9:30 pm	***Talmud Pesachim*** (Continuing...) with Rabbi Shulman

JEWISH THOUGHT & PRACTICE

TUESDAY	7:30 - 8:30 pm	***Body and Soul*** (Starting Jan. 12) with Dr. Elliott Malamet
	8:30 - 9:30 pm	***Pirkei Avot - Ethics of Our Fathers*** (Starting Jan. 12) with Rabbi Diamond
	7:30 - 8:30 pm	***A Tapestry of Customs - The Minhagim*** (Jan. 26, Feb. 9 & 16, Mar. 9) with Chazzan Motzen
WEDNESDAY	7:00 - 8:15 pm	***Spiritual Journeys: 13 Principles of Faith*** (Continuing...) with Rabbi Shulman
	8:30 - 9:30 pm	***Learn to Lead Daily Services*** (Starting Jan. 13) with Chazzan Sheni Shloimo Sufrin
SHABBAT	8:00 - 8:45 am	***Shabbat Shiur*** (Starting Jan. 23 — Except Shabbat Mevorchim & Shabbat Rosh Chodesh)
	9:30 am - Noon	***Pray and Learn*** with Dr. Elliott Malamet
	Prior to Mincha	***Parshat Hashavua*** with Rabbi Shulman

A BLEND OF JEWISH EXPERIENCES

Book Club *- March 14 -* ***The Far Euphrates*** *by Arjeh Stollman, reviewed by Cynthia Gasner*

Parenting *with Rochelle Meister Diamond & Lori Tamari Ulmer* **- Fee**

Introductory - AM (Jan. 11 - Feb. 15) ***Continuing Study -AM or PM*** (Jan. 6 - Feb. 10)

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Your care and kindness continues to strengthen us in this very difficult time in our lives.
With sincere appreciation,
Mary, Bill and Michael

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Jewish Morocco slowly vanishing

By AVI BENLOLO

Jewish Morocco is disappearing into the past. Any evidence of a once thriving Jewish community can now be committed to history books.

The exodus of some 350,000 Moroccan Jews to Israel, France and Canada over the past 50 years has left a centuries-old infrastructure to endure the test of time.

Many synagogues that once echoed with prayer now lie empty and decrepit in numerous cities and villages. Some are being used as theatres, others as boxing-rings. Still others are preserved by a few individuals, mostly for the tourists, who either come to remember or to explore.

Genizahs in synagogues, where sacred texts are buried, are often pillaged by individuals who hope the ancient artifacts they contain will be worth something to somebody.

Some "genizah plunderers" have even figured out a scheme whereby they sell Jewish visitors documents which they claim have a connection to the visitor's ancestral past including ketubot, contracts and manuscripts.

Jewish artifacts that stand as a testament to Morocco's Jewish past have also become commodities. They are sold to travellers from abroad as souvenirs when they should be placed in museums as symbols of the past.

Many cemeteries have become run down and have been overtaken by the elements. Headstones in Marrakech's cemetery, for example, have begun to crumble and are overgrown with weeds. The absence of flowers is a testament to the lack of visitors. The cemetery is guarded by old men who aspire to bless their few visitors and direct them to a grave in return for a small donation.

Some cemeteries, such as the one in Fez, house small exhibits of the past desperately depicting anything and everything about Jewish life in Morocco, including photographs, news articles, books, Torah covers, tricycles, mirrors and henna dresses. It appears as if the cemetery is their final resting place too.

Most of Morocco's 5,000 remaining Jews have left their homes in major cities and towns throughout the country to form a small community in Casablanca. The infrastructure of the community is smaller than the past and includes several synagogues, a community centre, schools, a medical centre and a nursing home.

Those remaining in Morocco are either too old, too young or have too much at stake financially to leave. The population, however, is clearly continuing to decline. The young leave for France or Israel as soon as they complete high school. Their parents who are in business inevitably follow. The old remain to live out their days in the hands of the community.

The same tale can be told about numerous countries where Jews once lived. Despite this decline, the Jewish community in Casablanca recently embarked on an ambitious project to open a museum there so that the past is never forgotten.

But a wealth of Jewish knowledge and history remains to be uncovered and documented in Morocco. Further research needs to be conducted about the history of Moroccan Jews and their legacy – perhaps a documentary, Simcha?

The humble cholent

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The days are short. The nights are cold. And if there is one Jewish food perfect for the season, it is cholent. Since cooking is forbidden on Shabbat, cholent is prepared and pre-cooked on Friday, and left to simmer on the top of the stove or in the oven overnight. By Saturday morning, the fragrance of the cholent has permeated the home, and after shul, it's ready. Although cholent may not seem to be exotic fare, there are countless varieties and many closely held recipes. Thankfully, on the Jewish Highway, people share.

Eliezer Segal suggests that the humble cholent is actually "a sublime expression of Jewish identity." **[http://www.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/Shokel/940120_Tsholent.html]**.

When the Roman satirist Juvenal depicted Jewish poverty, he said Jews only owned "a basket and a box of hay." In fact, that "box of hay" is described in the Mishnah and the Talmud as a way to insulate cholent on Shabbat.

Centuries later during the Spanish Inquisition, Edicts of Faith were issued with tips to recognize people who were illicitly observing Jewish traditions. One example to help spot Conversos: "cooking on Fridays such food as is required for the Saturday, and... eating the meat thus cooked on the Friday."

Sure it's tasty. But can cholent be an obsession? Just ask the members of the Cambridge University Cholent Society **[http://www.cam.ac.uk/CambUniv/Societies/cujs/cholent/]**. The Society, which is "devoted to the consumption of cholent," includes both recipes and photos of some of their favorite creations. They even share the recipe for Cholent for 900 People. You'll need 50 kilograms of diced beef, 50 kg potatoes, 10 kg lentils, 5 litres soy sauce, etc. Unfortunately, the massive cholent was a bit too watery to the cholent maven who only gave it 7 out of 10.

If you need a recipe for a cholent that's a bit smaller, there are plenty out there. Philip Goldwasser provides some history and a traditional recipe **[http://www.jcn18.com/Newstand/bonapetit/bt5.htm]**.

Yakar Elbaum not only reveals the family secret, but also provides links to other cholent pages **[http://www.yakar.demon.co.uk/CHULPAGE.HTM]**.

The slow cooker cholent recipe **[http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/~ab522/cholent.html]** uses veggie dogs and barbecue sauce. And if you'd like to do without meat, here's a suggestion from Sandra Steingart **[http://mail.bcpl.lib.md.us/~sandyste/recipes. html]**.

The proprietors of Jerusalem's Heimish Essen Restaurant have provided their Heimish cholent recipe **[http://www.go-out.com/heimishe/recipe.htm]**. But if you are in the neighborhood and prefer to have them do the cooking, Internet surfers are entitled to a 10 percent discount.

Usually, there's nothing wrong with modifying with a cholent recipe. But when the *Washington Post's* Candy Sagon tinkered with her mother-in law's classic, she was playing with fire **[http://detnews.com/menu/stories/32233.htm]**. All she wanted to do was get away from the standard beef, barley, beans, onions, salt and pepper and try something different.

Everything was fine until Candy's husband "lifted off the lid of the pot and looked inside. 'My mother doesn't use carrots. It won't taste right.' He gave me his best beseeching look. I caved. Out came the carrots. I put the lid back on.

"He lifted the lid off. He sniffed. 'Is that chicken broth? But you always use beef broth.' We poured off the liquid, added beef broth and water. I put the lid on.

"He lifted it again. 'Potatoes?' ... In the end, this is what was in the pot: beef, barley, beans, onions, salt and pepper. 'You know,' my husband said afterward, 'I really like this new recipe.'"

***

Mark Mietkiewicz is a television producer in Toronto with an interest in the Internet. He can be reached at [mdm@inforamp.net].

Jewish Life

Assault on history

By ELI RUBENSTEIN

About two months ago, the *Globe and Mail* printed an article by Eric Timm, a Toronto schoolteacher of German descent, who pleaded for the commemoration of the loss of German soldiers during World War II alongside the memorial ceremonies held for Allied soldiers. This plea is wildly misplaced.

Guest Voice

Our tradition – shared by many world religions – mourns the loss of life of any member of the human family. Thus, the death of the enemy, those who reluctantly went to battle and even those who willingly fought on the side of the Nazis, is a sad occurrence, an utterly needless waste of life. No one would deny the relatives and friends of these casualties the right to grieve their losses.

But Timm took his argument much further. He claimed that the German war effort is unfairly stereotyped and grossly distorted. He took exception with the approach that describes Germans as "nothing but militaristic, cowardly anti-Semites willing to commit any crime, including genocide, in their power-crazed rush for world domination," while ignoring the atrocities the Allies committed against defenseless civilians.

He concluded his argument with the following: "It must not be forgotten that the vast majority of German soldiers, airmen, and sailors did nothing more or less than the average Canadian would have done in their place; they fought for their country when it called them to arms, sometimes grudgingly, often heroically…

"My hopes are that some day German Canadians will be able to mourn the catastrophe of the world wars alongside other Canadians, that German Canadian war veterans will gain entrance to commemorative ceremonies, and that good people like my folks will not have to dread the approach of Nov. 11."

Timm's equation of the Allied losses with German losses, and his argument that atrocities committed by the Nazis are somehow balanced out by Allied atrocities of World War II, are examples of moral relativism gone berserk.

World War II was started exclusively and solely by Nazi Germany. This immoral and evil act was indeed a "power-crazed rush for world domination" (the phrase Timm himself derided). The efforts of Germany's armies led directly to the murder of millions of innocent civilians, not as a by-product, but as a direct objective of their overall military strategy. The Allies' response was a defensive measure, aimed at saving human life and restoring countries to their territorial integrity. To compare whatever criminal acts Allied soldiers allegedly committed during World War II with the over-arching terror of the Nazi assault on humanity is too absurd to even necessitate a response.

Further, to maintain that we ought to commemorate the "heroic" actions of German soldiers "who did nothing less than the average Canadian" by fighting for their country, completely blurs the reasons both sides were involved in the war in the first place.

If tomorrow, my country – Canada – calls upon me to begin a murderous campaign against the disabled, visible minorities, certain ethnic groups, or to invade a completely defenseless and innocent foreign country, I have three possible responses: To go along willingly, to go along grudgingly, or to resist.

Jewish tradition obliges me to resist, even at the cost of my own life, for I am not allowed to conclude that my existence has more value than another's. If I were to gleefully – or even reluctantly – join my country's immoral campaign, and die in the process, I pray no one would mourn my death as heroic, and include my memory alongside a ceremony commemorating the innocent victims of my country's moral recklessness.

Mr. Timm, mourn the needless loss of life of so many Germans who perished as a result of Nazi insanity. But please do not ask us to elevate their status to that of the Canadian soldiers whose lives were lost in the Allied effort to oppose Hitler, or to that of the millions of other innocent civilian victims from every race, nationality, ethnic group, political stripe, and sexual orientation.

A greater assault on their memory could not be imagined.

Eli Rubenstein is director of the Young Leadership Program of UIA Federations Canada.

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Roots & Remembrance

A family chronicle

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

On an autumn day in 1890, Daniel Baldinger, a 35-year-old married Orthodox man living in Krakow, reached a monumental decision: he would divorce his wife of 10 years, Reizel, because she had not borne him any children.

Baldinger was soon remarried to a much younger wife, Lieba, who eventually grew to love him and worried that she, too, would be cast aside if she failed to produce offspring.

"If I can't have children, I hope a carriage runs me down in the street," she sobbed to her sister-in-law. "I couldn't bear it if he divorced me."

Still childless after four years in his second marriage, Baldinger went on a pilgrimage to a revered rabbi in Nowy Sacz, according to Diane Armstrong, author of *Mosaic: A Chronicle of Five Generations*.

"There was an aura of piety in the austere book-filled room where Aron Halberstamm, the Sanzer Rebbe, held his court," Armstrong writes. "After praying with the other worshippers, Baldinger asked the rebbe for his blessing so that he would have a son. Aron Halberstamm had piercing pale blue eyes and a grey beard that hung over his chest in two Vs like a biblical prophet. When he looked at someone, he seemed to be able to see inside their soul. 'You will have a son,' the sage told Baldinger. 'Call him Avner, after the son of King David.'"

Daniel and Lieba indeed had a son in 1895 and named him Avner. Another 10 children followed over the next two decades. Armstrong presents many of their loves, laments, turmoils and tribulations in an equally vivid and dramatic fashion, just as though she were writing a novel of shtetl life. Isaac Bashevis Singer's *The Family Moskat* comes to mind, as does Bernice Rubens' *Brothers*.

But *Mosaic* differs from a novel in one essential respect: It is drawn directly from real life and presented as a true story – the saga of Armstrong's own family over five generations.

A master of both the personal interview and historical research, Armstrong excels at presenting rich stories from her family's past.

Some genealogists may imagine that ancestral ghosts inhabit their daily lives, compelling them to research their family trees. Armstrong, by contrast, projects herself as a ghostly presence following her grandfather and other family members through streets where once he walked. She is "a shadowy figure…pursuing him through the crowd, dogging his footsteps, craning to catch every nuance of his expression."

The title is a clever pun, alluding to both the Jewish fabric of the book and the array of characters whose lives are woven into the author's intricate tapestry. In the book's second part, which covers the pre-war and Holocaust years, many of the threads inevitably lead to the concentration camp and gas chamber. Part 3 conveys the continuation of life beyond the tragedy to modern times.

Writers in recent years have produced intensely personal histories of shtetl life and family history sagas. In Theo Richmond's Konin: A Quest, for example, a detailed history of his parents' home town unfolds as a personal quest. And in *Journey to Vaja*, Elaine Kalman Naves uses a "creative nonfiction" technique to reconstruct scenes and dialogue of her family's 200-year-long saga in Hungary.

With *Mosaic*, Armstrong, an Australian journalist, pushes the family history genre to a higher level of artistry, putting all the narrative techniques of a polished novelist at her disposal.

These solidly constructed scenes and conversations are true to art, but do they also meet the genealogist's rigid requirements for accuracy? Some might say not, but that is certainly a moot point, given how well the book succeeds on its own terms.

Mosaic: A Chronicle of Five Generations, by Diane Armstrong. Hardcover, 592 pages, illustrated. Random House, Australia, 1998.

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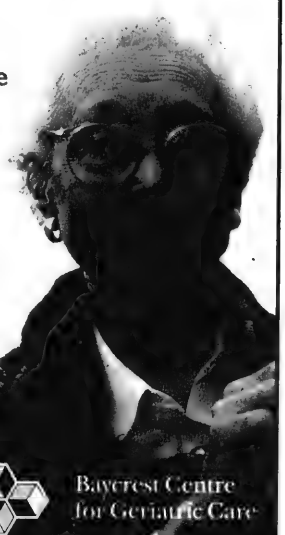

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Guyana's leader thanks Ve'ahavta

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Guyana's president Janet Jagan, thanks Avrum Rosensweig, founder and executive director of Ve'ahavta. [Ron Csillag photo]

TORONTO — How does a Jewish girl from Chicago become president of Guyana?

"Oh, that's a long story, dear," responds the grandmotherly Janet Jagan (née Rosenberg), who has led the South American nation of 700,000 for the past year, following the death of her husband Cheddi, who had been a beloved president and fighter for democracy. "But it *is* interesting."

That's an understatement.

The 78-year-old Jagan is, in her own right, a popular leader of the former British Guyana, which achieved independence from London in 1966. Her country, however, has massive problems, beginning with the fact that it's the second poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, after Haiti.

But there was little evidence of gloom as the president joyously took part in – by her own admission – her first-ever Shabbat luncheon recently in Toronto.

She was in town to visit her daughter, and address members of the city's large Guyanese community, but also to thank leaders and volunteers of Ve'ahavta, the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee, which has done much relief work in Guyana.

In 1997, Ve'ahavta organized a medical mission to the country, bringing relief to thousands of adults and children suffering from dozens of tropical diseases.

The organization is planning to return to Guyana from Feb. 19 to March 5, armed with thousands of dollars worth of donated medicines and vitamins.

A beaming Avrum Rosensweig, founder and executive director of Ve'ahavta, told the small gathering he never would have dreamed that his idea for reawakening the traditional Jewish values of *tikkun olam* and *chesed* would one day result in a personal thank-you from a head of state.

He kidded that during the Guyana mission, it must have been strange for the Jewish doctors, nurses and other health practitioners to know they were the only Jews in the country "besides the president."

In her brief remarks, Jagan said Ve'ahavta's efforts helped alleviate suffering in remote and inaccessible parts of the country, and reiterated the need for international cooperation.

But the thought on everyone's mind was how the former Janet Rosenberg managed to become head of a small South American coastal country that threw off the cloak of British colonial rule.

As she explained it, she knew little of Judaism, having come from an assimilated Chicago family whose origins, several generations back, was Transylvanian.

In any event, in 1943, she married a Guyanese dental student named Cheddi Jagan, who took his new bride back to his country. Almost immediately, both got involved in politics. In 1950, they co-founded the People's Progressive Party (PPP), and she became the first woman to get elected to the city council of Georgetown, the capital.

Three years later, she was elected to the national House of Assembly.

But in 1955, the British, fearing a communist threat, outlawed the PPP, and threw both Jagans in prison for six months.

The episode did little to dampen their fighting spirits. Throughout the late 1950s, they solidified their positions and became Guyana's premier power couple. In 1957 and again four years later, Cheddi led his party to convincing electoral wins, and appointed his wife to several cabinet posts.

During their tenures, the British formally granted the country independence. The couple then waged a 26-year campaign for the restoration of freedom and democracy. Guyana's first free and fair elections took place in 1992, with Cheddi Jagan winning the presidency.

But he died of a heart attack in 1997. His wife was appointed prime minister, and nine months later, was elected president and commander-in-chief of the armed forces – the first woman to hold the country's top jobs.

In addition, Janet Jagan has written several political, historical and children's books.

She was presented with a personalized chanukiyah designed by local artist Asher Benlolo.

MINYANIM IN THE GTA
WEEK OF JANUARY 8- 14/'99

Synagogue	Address & Tel.	Fri. Night	Shabbat	Sun. A.M.	Daily A.M.	Daily P.M.
Agudath Israel (O)	129 McGillivray Ave. (416) 789-5514	4:40 PM	8:45 AM	8:00 AM	7:00 & 7:40 AM	4:40 PM
Beth Avraham Yoseph (O)	613 Clark Ave. W. (905) 886-3810	4:40 PM	8:45 AM	7:30 AM	6:45 & 7:30 AM	4:40 PM
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda (C)	100 Elder St. (416) 633-3838	4:50 PM	8:45 AM	7:30 & 8:30 AM	7:30 & 8:15 AM	4:55 PM
Beth Tikvah (C)	3080 Bayview Ave. (416) 221-3433	6:00 PM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	7:15 AM	7:30 PM
Holy Blossom (R)	1950 Bathurst St. (416) 789-3291	6:00 PM	10:30 AM	9:00 AM	----------	6:00 PM
Ohr Somayach / JEP (south) (O)	2939 Bathurst St. (416) 785-5899	4:40 PM	8:30 AM	7:45 AM	Mon. Thurs. 6:35 AM Tues. Wed. Fri. 6:45 AM	4:40 AM
Shaar Shalom (C)	2 Simonston Blvd. (905) 889-4975	4:45 & 6:00 PM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	Mon. Thurs. 6:45 AM Tues. Wed. Fri. 7:00 AM	7:00 PM
Shaarei Shomayim (O)	470 Glencairn Ave. (416) 789-3213	4:45 PM	9:00 AM	7:30 AM	7:30 AM	4:40 PM
Shaarei Tefillah (O)	3600 Bathurst St. (416) 787-1631	4:50 PM	8:45 AM	8:30 AM	6:30 & 7:30 AM	4:40 PM

This is not a comprehensive listing of the synagogues in the Greater Toronto area. The information is provided by the Vaad Harabonim of Toronto and the Toronto Board of Rabbis. The Vaad and the Board will periodically revise the listings. For statutory holidays, please call the Synagogue for any changes in times.

Greater Toronto Area

Srebrnik explores lost world of Jewish Communism

Academia

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO – Henry Srebrnik is a specialist in a phenomenon in the Jewish world which, for all practical purposes, no longer exists.

He studies the Jewish Communist movement, which peaked before World War II.

Three years ago, Srebrnik – a McGill graduate who teaches in the department of political studies at the University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown – published *London Jews and British Communism, 1935-1945*. It is a book which explores the rise and fall of Phil Piratin, a Communist who held a seat in the House of Commons from 1945 to 1950.

More broadly, Srebrnik's thoroughly researched volume is an intriguing case study of the allure Communism once exerted on a segment of working-class Jews in London's Stepney district.

Having studied this facet of Communist identity, Srebrnik is now hard at work on a book about ICOR, the Organization for Jewish Colonization in Russia. In Yiddish, ICOR was known as the Yidishe Kolonizatsye Organizatsye in Rusland. He expects to finish it by the turn of the millennium.

ICOR, with branches in Toronto and Montreal, championed the cause of the Soviet Union in general, and of Birobidzhan in particular. Birobidzhan was an ill-fated Soviet project to establish a Jewish socialist republic in the wastes of the far east, adjacent to the Soviet Union's border with China.

"A considerable number of books and articles have been written by scholars about the Jewish Communists and their support organizations," Srebrnik said.

Yet, to the best of his knowledge, no one has ever produced a scholarly treatment of ICOR, despite the significant role it played in North American Jewish leftist circles for decades.

"I hope to shed light on some of the following questions: How prominent were such movements in the

Henry Srebrnik

wider political arena? What might we conclude about their successes and failures, within the context of both Jewish and North American history?

"Did they pursue aims congruent with Jewish values, or did their allegiance to Communism place limits on their freedom of manoeuvre and distort their Jewish orientation?"

Such research, he explained, might help determine whether ICOR was really a Jewish movement or one whose leadership pursued an agenda ultimately shaped by non-Jewish concerns.

"Given my preliminary findings, I personally tend toward the latter view," said Srebrnik, who was a passionate socialist as a university student, and who has since grown "older and wiser."

"I think the members of ICOR, and the rest of the Jewish Communist movement, were caught in the contradictions of their own ideology: an abstract though pro-Soviet internationalism combined with an interest in Jewish national regeneration; support for a Zionist-style enterprise in Siberia but opposition to Zionism itself. It simply couldn't sustain itself in the long run."

Srebrnik, whose research has taken him from Toronto's Province of Ontario Archives to Montreal's Jewish Public Library, says that ICOR's Canadian chapters in 17 cities and towns had 5,000 members by the mid-1930s. Among its activists was Reuben Brainin, a Russian immigrant who edited the Montreal Yiddish newspaper, *Kanader Adler*.

Srebrnik, 53, the son of Polish-Holocaust survivors who settled in Montreal in 1948, says that ICOR rapidly faded as the Cold War intensified.

As for Birobidzhan, a bold experiment in social engineering, it fared no better. "Stalin, after 1948, became increasingly paranoid and the Soviet Union more xenophobic," he explained. "Soviet Jewish intellectuals were executed, accused of plotting on behalf of imperialism and Zionism. The Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee was disbanded.

"Anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union was clearly more deep-rooted and resistant to a solution than the heady propaganda of the 1930s ever imagined. And it became apparent that Birobidzhan was stagnant, that its tiny Jewish population would not increase and that it would remain marginal to the future of Soviet Jewry."

Perhaps the coup de grace was the creation of Israel

Perhaps the coup de grace was the creation of Israel. "Many Jews, in the Soviet Union and elsewhere, drew the conclusion that the Holocaust was due to statelessness and lack of sovereignty, a condition Israel would at least partially rectify, but which Birobidjan could not."

In terms of his scholarship, Srebrnik's interests are eclectic. At the University of Prince Edward Island, he lectures on topics ranging from Canadian government and politics and Quebec society to the American political system, ethnic nationalism and Middle Eastern politics.

Before joining the University of Prince Edward Island in 1993, he was affiliated with the University of Calgary (where his wife Pat teaches English literature), Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania and Dawson College in Montreal. At these institutions, he gave courses on modern Jewish history, the Holocaust and Yiddish culture in Eastern Europe.

Born in Czestochowa, Poland, Srebrnik graduated from Outremont High School in Montreal. After McGill, he studied at Brandeis and the University of Birmingham, from which he received his PhD.

Srebrnik left Montreal in 1982 on the heels of a controversy. He and a colleague published an article in *The Jerusalem Post* depicting the problematic future of the Jewish community in Quebec in the face of French Canadian separatism. In response, the editor of *Le Devoir*, Lise Bissonnette, wrote an editorial suggesting that they had defamed Quebec. Several days later, the chair of Canadian Jewish Congress' Quebec region, Frank Schlesinger, issued a press release which essentially disavowed their piece.

Srebrnik and his colleague sued *Le Devoir*, and the newspaper finally printed an apology in December 1985. "By then I was long gone from Montreal," he said.

After finishing his doctorate, he lived in Washington, D.C., where he was the opinion page and book review editor of the *Washington Jewish Week*.

Journalism was not something new to him. In 1967, shortly after graduating from McGill, Canadian Press hired him to track the stock market. The experience whetted his appetite for the newspaper life. "The adrenalin flows in journalism in a way it rarely does in a university."

Asked why he gravitated back to academia, he said, "Perhaps it's because one can pursue long-term projects that would be difficult to do on a newspaper."

Srebrnik, however, continues to dabble in journalism, having written for dailies in Canada on Canadian and comparative politics. As he put it: "I've never been one of those 'ivory tower' types who write only for scholarly journals."

CJC wants names released of Israeli psychiatric patients

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The dispute over making available the names of Holocaust survivors who are patients in Israeli psychiatric hospitals is still unresolved.

Though Israel has agreed to make the names known on a "case by case" basis, this does not satisfy the needs of survivors' representatives, said Moshe Ronen, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC).

Such representatives claim that relatives will not come forward voluntarily, and that access to the names of all survivors in Israeli institutions remains "a primary humanitarian objective," Ronen said.

He released a letter to Shmuel Tsur, administrator general of the hospitals, expressing appreciation of the "case by case" offer, but asking for further action.

He said survivors are suggesting that the names be released to the CJC, or other umbrella Jewish organizations, who would then make the names available to survivor organizations, landsmanshaften and nursing health care institutions providing aid to survivors.

Ronen wrote that the CJC recognized that Israel may wish to avoid a public release of the names and other pertinent information, such as the town or concentration camp from where they came.

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Greater Toronto Area

New Miss Tall Toronto raises issues related to height

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — When Gerri Rose tells youth to stand tall and be proud, she knows what she is talking about.

Rose, 33, who was recently named Miss Tall Toronto by the Tall Club of Toronto, was 6 foot 1 inch tall by the time she was 12 years old. As ambassador of the 50-year-old club, part of Tall Clubs International, she travels across North America raising awareness of issues related to being tall.

Tall Clubs, established in California over 60 years ago by a Disney artist, now has 65 clubs in the United States and Canada, and 55 more in Europe. Currently, there is a club starting up in Australia.

Rose says she was always the tallest in her class growing up, but it was not until she became an adult that she learned to appreciate her height. "When I was a child, it was difficult to find clothing that flattered me and that fit. Nothing was long enough. When I was a little older, everyone assumed I would date the tall guy, and play basketball and volleyball."

Things are a lot easier for this generation, she says. "Shoe stores carry a lot of larger sizes, and manufacturers cater to taller youth. Kids have more choice in clothing."

Gerri Rose, Miss Tall Toronto, is seen with Toronto Tall Club disc jockey Rob Best (left) and Don Russ from the Rochester Tall Club, at the Toronto club's 50th anniversary reunion party.

Rose, who met her fiance at a Tall Club convention, credits the club, which she joined in 1996, with changing her life. "At the club, I am close to being the shortest in the room. When we get together, we discover that we have so many similar experiences. We have something in common; there is a connection.

"We also discuss social issues and do fundraising." Currently, the club is raising money to buy bed extenders for hospitals – "many people do not realize that hospital beds could be too short" – and for the Canadian Marfan Association. Marfan is a potentially fatal genetic connective tissue disorder affecting mostly tall people.

As well, the club awards a scholarship to someone who writes about their experiences being tall or "different."

As part of her mandate as Miss Tall Toronto, Rose appeared on *Canadian Living's* TV program, taped a CBC program for children, and appeared on Global and CITY TV talking about self-esteem issues. "I always stress that young people need to have self-confidence, and they should celebrate who they are."

Parents, she says, need to teach their children to stand tall and be proud. "Self-esteem starts at home. It didn't click for me until I was older. I wish I had had a tall club when I was growing up. I would like to see a youth division of the Tall Club."

שישאר בינינו

גידי קורן וחברים

נפל דבר בישראל:
נפל דבר בישראל. לא, לא נפילת הממשלה והבחירות המוקדמות, אלא דבר חמור שבעתיים. אבל זה יקח לי כמה שורות להסביר לאלה מיכם שלא עקבו. בסוף שנות השבעים נעצרו בשכונת התקווה ארבעה ישראלים יהודים והואשמו בחבלה ופשעים אחרים בנסיבות מחמירות תוך חשד שהם עשו זאת כמחתרת פוליטית. הארבעה כונו בעיתונות "כנופית מע"צ" (מועצת עבריינים צעירים). במשפט זוטא שקדם למשפטם טענו הארבעה שהם ענו קשות בזמן החקירה, ושההודאות שלהם נסחטו תוך מכות, השפלות, ואפילו מכות חשמל. המשטרה הכחישה טענות אלה ובית המשפט האמין למשטרה. הארבעה ניזונו לתקופות מאסר ארוכות (עד עשר שנים) תוך שהם ממשיכים לטעון בדבקות שהם חפים מפשע. עברו שנים והארבעה שוחררו מבתי הסוהר. והינה, כשהנושא הפך כבר להיסטוריה שנשכחת כל כך מהר במזרח התיכון, הופיע בשנת 1994 אחד מחוקרי המשטרה בטלביזיה והתוודה שאכן הארבעה עונו קשות, כולל מכות חשמל. החוקר טען שאת שיטות העינוי האלה למדו אנשי המשטרה מהשב"כ, שבדרך כלל עוסק בחקירת פלשתינאים בחשד לטרור.
לפני מספר שבועות פסק בית המשפט העליון חד משמעית שההאשמות כלפי "כנופית מע"צ" בטלות בששים, ואין אפילו אפשרות לערוך משפט חוזר מפאת הזמן שחלף וחוסר האפשרות להוכיח ראיות אחרי עשרים שנה. הארבעה יפוצו כנראה בסכומים גבוהים מאוד על ידי המדינה,כאילו שאפשר לפצות מישהוא על אובדן חופש, השפלה ונזק נפשי. עד כאן העובדות היבשות. ועכשיו ההרהורים הלחים שבעקבותיהם: מזה שנים טוענים אמנסטי ואירגונים בינלאומיים אחרים שמצב זכויות האדם בישראל, ובעיקר כלפי מעטים הוא בתחת. באחרונה גם פורסם שהבדואים בנגב נושלו מאדמותיהם נגד כל זכויות האזרח הבינלאמיים. לישראל יש כמובן בעיה אמיתית, הלא היא דילמת "הפצצה המתקתקת"- ואפילו בית המשפט נאלץ להסכים שבנסיבות קיצוניות ניתן להפעיל כוח יתר כדי להביא לראיות במקרה של טרור. ועכשיו הנעתי לעיקר:
ככה זה, כשהמשטרה וכוחות הבטחון משתמשים באמצעים לא חוקיים- זה מתחיל כלפי חשודי טרור אבל ממשיך כלפי אזרחים מהשורה. זוהי הפעם הראשונה שהמשטרה מודה שהשתמשה במכות חשמל נגד אזרחים ישראלים יהודים. דברים דומים קרו במדינות אחרות שבהן הדמוקרטיה התחילה לצלוע- המשטרה ודומותיה מתחילים להפעיל כוח לא מוצדק כלפי אזרחים רגילים. ואי אפשר שלא לשאול האם היו מפעילים מכות חשמל אם היו אלה, נניד, ישראלים מצפון תל אביב או איזו היאחזות, ולא משכונת התקווה? רק לפני כחודשיים הפעילה המשטרה כוח בתלי סביר ואכזריות בוטה כלפי סטודנטים שובתים, רבים מהם אחרי שירות בלבנון. אין לי ספק שיש ביניכם גם כאלה שחושבים שהכתיבה הזו שלי נועדה להשחיר את מה שקורה בישראל. WELL, אם ישראל באמת חשובה לנו- צריך לדאוג שהיא תמשיך להיות דמוקרטיה מערבית ולא דמוקרטיה נוסח טורקיה.

"החגיגה":
ה"חגיגה" או "The celebration" כפי שהיא נקראת כאן, הוא סיפור יום ההולדת הששים של עשיר דני, שמשפחתו מתאספת לחגוג בטירה המשפחתית. את הסוד הנורא שיוצא לאור ומהווה את מרכז הכובד של הסרט- אינני הולך לגלות לכם. זהו סרט דני על פי מיטב המסורת של "המסיבה של באבט" ו"Antonias line", כולם זוכי אוסקר. קולנוע אמיתי, ללא ויתורים, ללא קיצורי דרך. אזהרה: בהחלט לא סרט מבדר למי שמחפש משהוא בסגנון קריסמס אבל מסיבה אמיתית למי שרוצה לחשוב. שמונה וחצי בסולם קורן.

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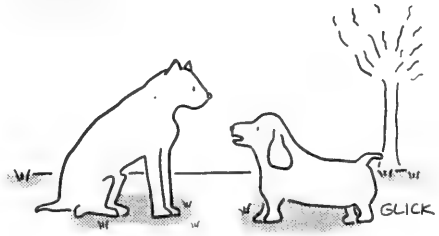

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Chips are down: Jewish charities feel gov't pinch

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Jewish charities are feeling the pinch in the wake of a government decision to eliminate permanent charity casinos.

Though the impact of the move varies from agency to agency, some charities have been hard pressed to make up the money they had expected would flow from casino events.

The permanent casinos were to come into effect on April 1, but public pressure forced the government of Ontario to rescind a decision to replace roving three-day casinos with permanently located venues.

With no charity gaming to replace the three-day Monte Carlos, charities were left scrambling to make up the shortfalls in their budgets.

"It's cut off the lifeblood for us. It's put a dent in our cash flow," said Allen Gerskup, a senior official with Maccabi Canada.

"We're accepting it. We really have no choice," said Lorraine Levene, executive-director of Na'amat Canada's Toronto section. "It certainly has affected our funds...It's lost revenue," she said.

"It's been difficult, obviously," said Elissa Hermolin, fundraising coordinator for the Morris Winchevsky School. "It's a big chunk of the money available to us. Gaming has always been a big part of how we raise money."

To soften the blow experienced by charities across Ontario, the provincial government has introduced two compensatory programs, said Gary Gladstone, vice-chair of Charities First Ontario. One is a $40-million grant that will be divided primarily among charities that had sponsored the three-day events. "The funds are slow in coming, but they are coming," Gladstone said. The one-time $40-million grant is four times the annual totals all charities received from charity casinos, he noted.

The second temporary measure is a distribution of cash from a $100-million fund operated by the Trillium Foundation. The funds will be allocated to charities through district funding councils, Gladstone said.

"We're glad the government recognized the need to fund charities but we don't like the handouts. We'd prefer to work for it," he said.

Gerskup, chair of Maccabi Canada's national athletic committee, said the organization raised more than $150,000 from three-day events over the organization's last four-year fundraising cycle. "That's gone. We can't replace it unless we get something out of the $40-million fund," he said.

Funds raised through casinos were earmarked for subsidies to bring athletes to Israel for the quadrennial Maccabiah Games. It also went to "ongoing programs in Canada," such as contributing to the administrative costs of the North American Youth Games and to develop youth programs, he added.

Maccabi Canada is considering steps to make up the funding shortfall, including hosting gala events, raffle draws, and soliciting contributions from supporters.

In 1997, Na'amat Canada raised $50,000 from charity casinos. Prior to the shutdown of the three-day events on March 31, it netted $1,500, leaving the organization $48,500 behind last year's total. Revenues from bingos have also gone down by $15,000 in 1998, Levene said.

The shortfall was felt in the organization's camp subsidy program, which partially supports about five or six children's camp fees. This summer, only one child received a full camp subsidy, she said.

Na'amat also "hasn't filled the [funding] gap" for its leadership development program.

"We're trying to compensate, to come up with other ideas, but times are hard" for fundraisers, Levene said.

Na'amat has applied for a share of the $40-million government fund. Among the other ideas being canvassed by Na'amat are charity auctions. "Today we have to look at innovative fundraising" as well as cutting costs, she said.

The Morris Winchevsky School averaged about $30,000 a year from charity casinos – in a good year, netting $50,000 – during the past 15 years, Hermolin said. Prior to the March 31 deadline, the school made about $10,000, leaving it far short of previous year's totals. From 25 to 33 percent of the school's budget used to be attributable to casino funds.

So far, the school, which has 70 students enrolled in a secular Jewish studies program, has "had to increase tuition. Because not that much time has gone by, we've been scraping by," Hermolin said. "It may turn into a bigger problem in 1999 when we receive no [casino] money."

The school will attempt to make up the revenue shortfall through new fundraising efforts, concerts, membership appeals and from the government funds that are now available, she said.

One avenue being studied is sponsoring more bingos. On average, the school receives $50,000 a year from bingos and the sale of Nevada Tickets, she said. In the meantime, "there is no talk of cutting programs."

The Jewish Camp Council, which subsidizes children's summer camp experiences, has "coped fine," said Ellen Nash, the council's executive director. "We were worried initially...but we've expanded some of our bingos to cover the [lost] revenues."

By doubling the number of bingos it sponsors from two to four a month, the agency's revenues have kept pace with the sums it received prior to April 1. Overall, the revenue from bingos contribute no more than three percent of the agency's budget, she added.

Roz Fine, president of the National Council of Jewish Women Toronto section, said the agency earned $4,000 from charity casinos to the end of March and "we really haven't made up the amount we've lost."

Volunteer loves Sar-El experience

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Lorraine Cruikshank has been to Israel four times to explore her Jewish roots, the last being in November as one of 22 Canadian volunteers for Israel helping out at a paratrooper training base south of Tel Aviv.

Cruikshank, 47, believes her Spanish-born grandmother, Agustina Mercedes Martinez, was Jewish. On her trips to Israel, Cruikshank has talked to Shulamith Levy of Jerusalem, an expert on Jews of Spanish descent, who has supported the possibility that Cruikshank has Jewish ancestry.

"If I ever find out for sure that I am Jewish, I will make aliyah, for I want to be part of Israel," the Burlington resident says.

She says her grandmother, whose family owned a sugar cane plantation, lived in a Jewish district in Sosua in Puerto Plata, now a popular resort area of the Dominican Republic.

Cruikshank, whose grandmother died "in her 80s" in the Dominican Republic, says she has been "stonewalled" in her attempts to learn more about her grandmother from her late mother's three sisters and a brother who still live in the Dominican Republic.

"My late mother was Marie St. Onge, born in the Dominican Republic, married in Halifax, Canada, and who died young at the age of 49. She told me very little about my grandmother. It was a closed subject with her." Cruikshank's father, George St. Onge, lives in Nova Scotia.

Cruikshank says her husband, Roger, is very supportive of her attempts to find her Jewish connection. His own parents were missionaries and are buried atop Mount Zion in Israel.

Cruikshank's recent three-week volunteer trip, where she cleaned the kitchen and packed straps for parachutes, ended all too quickly. "I could have stayed another six weeks at least," she says.

Lorraine Cruikshank

In her volunteer group were people from Canada, the United States, Holland, South Africa and New Zealand.

One of Cruikshank's co-volunteers was Walter Ireson, 63, of Ancaster, a former superintendent with Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police, and a member of the Ontario Council of St. John Ambulance.

"I was very impressed with the love of Israel, and their commitment to it, shown by the Canadian Jews who were in our group," he says.

"Up to now, I thought that such feelings were just a Hollywood dream, but now I know different."

On his fifth tour as a volunteer was Len Berk, 64, one of 12 Torontonians in the group. He says one of the highlights for him was a chance to see early-morning parachute drops by Israeli paratroopers near the camp where they worked as volunteers.

George Frid, 67, of Ancaster, a former deputy police chief, was another volunteer.

Sar-El, the world wide agency that recruits volunteers for Israel, arranged sightseeing day trips for the volunteers.

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Jan. 11, is deadline for Jan. 21 issue and Monday, Jan. 18, is deadline for Jan. 28. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Thursday, Jan. 7

BB ROMANIAN LODGE

Dr. W. Filderman Lodge, B'nai Brith, Romanian speaking, monthly meeting, 6:30 p.m., B'nai Brith Building, 15 Hove St. **Lev Shore,** engineer, speaks on Commemorating 300 Years of the Birth of the **Baal Shem Tov**, the founder of Chassidism. 631-0634.

Sunday, Jan 10

JEWISH FILM SOCIETY

Toronto Jewish Film Society launches its 21st season with the Israeli film *Don't Touch My Holocaust* , by **Asher Tlalim,** 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Art Gallery of Ontario, Jackman Hall. **Alain Goldschlager** of the Holocaust Literature Research Institute at the University of Western Ontario introduces the film. The society is an affiliate of the Bloor Jewish Community Centre. To become a member or obtain a 1999 season brochure, 924-6211.

JUDGE'S INSTRUCTIONS

Holy Blossom Temple Brotherhood breakfast program features **Jonathan Freedman**, professor at University of Toronto specializing in psychology and legal issues, speaking on Judge's Instructions: The Jury Doesn't Get It. Service 9 a.m., breakfast 9:30, program at 10. Co-sponsored by Temple Library.

HABONIM BREAKFAST

At Congregation Habonim, spiritual leader **Eli Rubenstein** talks about The Question of Questions: Who wrote the Torah? God, a person or a number of individuals? 10 a.m., Beth Habonim, 5 Glen Park Ave. Breakfast and lecture $6.

ABOUT DEATH

Temple Sinai lecture, How to Talk to Young Children About Death, by **Michael Benjamin,** 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 12

THE AGUNOT ISSUE

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Sisterhood evening on the Agunot Issue presented by **Esther Rodzynek**, 8 p.m. 633-5500.

Wednesday, Jan. 13

PROJECT OSHER

Open House information session for students (18-22) interested in eight weeks in Israel from Feb. 14, 7 p.m., 3995 Bathurst St., Suite 300. Israel Aliyah Centre, 633-4766.

ART LECTURE

Artist **Ina Gilbert** discusses how computer tools open new creative possibilities and the symbolism and inspiration behind many of her images, 8 p.m., Holy Blossom Temple. Gilbert's exhibit, Original Prints from Digital Art, is on view at the temple through Jan. 28.

MAGEN DAVID ADOM

Open House information session for students (18 plus) interested in volunteering as a medic for Magen David Adom this summer in Israel, 8 p.m., 3995 Bathurst St., Suite 300. Israel Aliyah Centre. 633-4766.

Thursday, Jan. 14

NA'AMAT SINGLES CLUB

New Na'amat club is forming for single women 20-40 interested in meeting new people, networking and helping women and children both here and in Israel, 8 p.m., Centerpoint Pickle Barrel. **Doris Wexler**, advisor, 905-771-7988 or Na'amat office 636-5425.

PILLAR OF FIRE

Pillar of Fire – Chapter XVII, a documentary series on the history of Israel's rebirth from 1898 to 1948. Introduction and commentary by **David Goldberg** of The Foun-

Continued on page 19

Greater Toronto Area

Volunteering boosts Crohn's patient's self-esteem

Helps deliver Meals on Wheels

By DANIEL WOLGELERENTER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Charlie Brewda describes the death of his father Zelik as a turning point in his life.

While saying Kaddish at Adath Sholom Synagogue two years ago, a devastated Brewda met shul president Mike Rogow, who got him involved delivering Meals on Wheels for Senior Care (now called Circle of Care).

It was the beginning of Brewda's dedication to volunteer service in the community.

But what makes Brewda's dedication special is that he has a severe case of Crohn's disease, an inflammatory bowel disease with no known cause or cure that disproportionately affects Jews.

The 36-year-old Brewda was diagnosed with the disease at age nine, and its unpredictability has prevented him from holding down a full-time job or getting a post-secondary education.

It has also left him with a colostomy bag since 1980 and has stunted his growth by hampering his small intestine's ability to absorb nutrients.

His brother Bill estimates Charlie has spent the equivalent of "two to three years in hospitals" for more than 20 Crohn's-related surgeries to remove sections of his digestive tract. Brewda's last surgery was in 1996, before his father's death, and he hasn't had a major flare-up since.

Charlie Brewda

In addition to getting Brewda involved with Meals on Wheels, Rogow also recommended Brewda to the local branch of the Red Cross on Finch Avenue between Dufferin and Keele.

He volunteered three mornings a week at the Red Cross, doing computer work, filing and typing, as well as helping clients of the agency's food bank.

Brewda, who lives with his mother Ida in Bathurst Manor and doesn't drive, stopped volunteering at the Red Cross in September when the office moved to Keele and Eglinton, because he felt the distance was too far for him to travel by public transit.

Margaret Goodwin, coordinator of the Red Cross office, says he was "very conscientious" and provided "excellent customer service."

"We had an emergency food program, so we dealt with a lot of vulnerable clientele. A lot of people who came through were very uncomfortable, and Charles was very good at putting people at ease," Goodwin says. "They were treated with respect as they came through."

Brewda currently volunteers one morning a week at Branson hospital's information desk – also on Rogow's referral – and participates in monthly bingo at Baycrest Centre with Adath Shalom and with the Knights of Pythias, a men's club which raises money for charity. Brewda is on the club's executive.

"It's changed me a lot, the volunteering. I'm more positive about myself than I used to be. It gets me out of the house a lot and I meet people. It shows that I'm a man," he says. "It's better than before, when I used to be in the house all the time."

In September, Brewda and Rogow won a Circle of Care award for their Meals on Wheels service.

"He's had so many operations in his short years, and still he hasn't lost his drive, his sense of humor," Rogow says. "He never shirks any volunteer work. He's always looking to do more."

Recently, Brewda sold Christmas cakes and cookies at Mount Sinai Hospital to raise money for Crohn's and colitis research, and this month he starts volunteering two days a week at Mount Sinai.

At 5 foot 3, Charlie now weighs 183 pounds – "a bit on the chubby side," he admits – but his brother recalls a time when Charlie was a teenager in the late 1970s and was much thinner.

"At one time, he looked like a Holocaust survivor. He was just skin and bones. He could barely walk, and we thought he would die," Bill says.

Charlie says life before his surgery in 1996 was difficult. "It was not good. I was in pain 24 hours a day. I was mostly home a lot. I didn't do very much."

Bill says Charlie "has gained a lot of strength from [volunteering]. It became a full-time job almost, and I think that's pretty admirable for someone who at one time didn't know if he was going to be alive or not."

Charlie says he's inspired by the memory of his father, who like his mother, survived the Holocaust.

"If my father was alive right now, he would be proud of me," he says. "He's probably very proud of me right now, even when he's not here."

What's New

Continued from page 18

dation for Middle East Studies, 7:30 p.m., Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue. 633-5500 or Canadian Zionist Federation 633-3988.

And What Else Is New

AT BETH TZEDEC

The weekend of Jan. 9 and 10, the Anne Belle and Manuel E. Pusitz annual memorial lectures at Beth Tzedec Congregation will be delivered by **Prof. Morton Weinfeld** of McGill University.

Saturday, Jan. 9: Shabbat services, Calming the Gevalt Reflex: A Positive View of the Canadian Jewish Future; Shabbat study luncheon, Anti-Semitism, Free Speech, Hate Speech.

Sunday, Jan. 10: Men's Club breakfast, Perspectives on Jewish Diversity. Service 9 a.m., breakfast 9:30, lecture at 10.

JEWISH HEALING PROJECT

The Toronto Jewish Healing Project is for people who are physically ill and in need of comfort and support. Finding spiritual resources within Jewish tradition to help you cope is provided by an eight-week group to be held at Holy Blossom Temple, Wednesdays Feb. 3-March 24, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Leaders **Rabbi Yael Splansky** and social worker **Jack Kugelmass**. Information/registration **Etta Ginsberg McEwan**, coordinator 944-3359.

PLAYING WITH FIRE

After becoming an ordained minister **Tonica Marlow**, daughter of a Protestant minister and an Egyptian Jewish mother, began a quest for her true heritage. She is now **Tova Mordechai,** residing in Safed, Israel, with her husband and three sons. Mordechai has authored an autobiography titled *Playing with Fire* and retells her story Wednesday, Jan. 20, 8 p.m., at Chabad Lubavitch of Markham, 83 Green Lane Dr., Thornhill. $7 per person, $5 seniors and students. 905-886-0420.

LECTURE SERIES

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue continuing education and sisterhood lectures with **Rachael Turkienicz,** Wednesdays, Jan. 13, 20, 27, 8 p.m. Topics: The Ancestral Family: Playing Favorites; Dreams and Dream Interpretation; Joseph and Deena: Brother and Sister or Mirror Images? 633-3838.

KABBALAH CENTRE

Kabbalah Centre, 678 Sheppard Ave. W. 631-9395.

Advanced Kabbalah – Level 4, begins Jan. 11 for 10 weeks, 7 p.m., $182; Beginner's Crash Course, Jan. 10, 17, 24 (4-7 p.m.) $226; free screening of *The Power of Kabbalah* Thursday, Jan. 7 or Jan. 14, 8:30 p.m.

SEPHARDIC CENTRE

Sephardic Kehila Centre (SKC), 7026 Bathurst St., promotes the continuity of the Sephardi community through education, programming, community building. It provides an educational, religious, cultural, recreational and social centre, organizing programs, activities and services on an ongoing basis, for all age groups. Youth director **Salomon Beldeb** 905-669-7654, ext. 223.

WINTER CLASSES

Koffler Centre of the Arts winter classes: To register, call 636-1880, ext. 269/270 for Visual Arts (ceramics, drawing and painting, stone sculpture); ext. 273/359 for Dance (ballet, jazz, tap, modern, Celtic, ballroom, folk); ext. 228 for Music (piano, violin, cello, guitar, flute); ext. 464/231 for Drama (children, teens, adults).

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups. **Pat Lieberman** 638-7800, ext. 215.

Parenting: Hard Work But Worth It!, daytime and evening, begins Jan. 28; Social Skills Groups for Children 7-adolescents (adolescents begins Jan. 11 and 7-12 years begins Feb. 1); Today's Woman: Making It Happen, begins Jan. 14.

FOR SENIORS

Wagman Terrace Creative Writing course with **Sylvia Warsh** starts Monday, Jan. 11, 10 a.m. to noon for 10 sessions. Members $30, non-members $35. **Bobbie** 785-2500, ext. 2273.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club trips to Casino Rama, Jan. 13 and 27, Feb. 10 and 24, March 10 and 24. Membership open $12. 395-7881.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club Israel trip postponed to Purim. **Lena** 785-5773. Golden Book donations go to Laniado Hospital in Israel. **Dorothy Bloomfield** 787-1526.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Jan. 7, bingo; Jan. 14, lecture, **Noam Raz,** envoy for Hashomer Hatzair; Jan. 21, video; Jan. 28, evening of song. **Jerry Bengall** 905-707-7334.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

History and Development of the Yiddish Language, Part II, **Richard Bassett**, Tuesdays 10 a.m. through to Feb. 23. **Bookie** ext. 116.

Introducing the Store with Solutions, mobile Ability Store featuring self-help devices, Tuesday, Jan. 12, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hearing Aid Checkup, **Barry Katz** Tuesday, Jan. 12, 12:15 p.m.

Parkinson's Support Group, Tuesday, Jan. 12, 1:15-2:15 p.m. **Eytan Cowan**, doctor of naturopathic medicine, speaks on Complimenting Traditional Parkinson's Treatments with Naturopathic Approaches.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20

Osteofit a program including weight bearing and muscle strengthening exercises, introduces a higher level class Thursdays, Jan. 14-March 25, noon to 1 p.m. Members $12.50 per 10 classes, non-members $25. **Joan** ext. 126.

Introduction to Canadian Literature Wednesdays, Jan. 13-March 24, 1:30-3:30 p.m. - major novels, short stories, poems. Facilitator **Maria Bonnano.** $35 per 10-week session or Learner's Card. $5 Agency Fee for non-members.

Creative Writing, **Sylvia Warsh**, Fridays, 10 a.m. to noon. Co-sponsored by Toronto Board of Education. **Bookie** ext. 116.

Israeli Club Etrog meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays for movies, sing-alongs, lectures, bingo, dances. Jan. 12 is a movie. **Anna**.

Movie *West Side Story* Sunday, Jan. 10, 2:30 p.m.

BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

Toronto Jewish Film Society presentation of *Don't Touch My Holocaust* , Sunday, Jan. 10, 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. For details check item under date.

Seniors calendar: Thursday, Jan. 7, 2 p.m., afternoon tea in honor of the New Year. Thursday, Jan. 14, 2 p.m., **Lorraine Wilson**, massage therapist, speaks about Massage Therapy for Seniors. **Judy**.

BATHURST JC

Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 636-1880.

Evening recreation and social programs for young adults and adults with disabilities winter session starts Jan. 11. For information and to register, ext. 229 or 378.

Toddler day care spaces available starting February 1999. Programs include music, swimming, Judaic themes, lots of fun. ext. 248.

NCJW SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), Toronto Section, recently presented the annual Helen Weisbrod Memorial Scholarship to this year's recipient, Randi Becker. From left are Sarah Schneider, Endowment chair; Murray Weisbrod, husband of the late Helen Weisbrod; Randi Becker, award recipient; and Roz Fine, president, NCJW, Toronto Section .

ORT CELEBRITY DINNER

Toronto ORT recently held a celebrity dinner to raise funds for a special pre-college preparatory program for Ethiopian immigrant youngsters at ORT Braude in Israel. Hosts Irene Szylinger and Peter Kellner welcomed filmmaker Simcha Jacobovici and artist Charlie Pachter to mingle with guests. Almost $25,000 was raised. Pictured above are Toronto ORT president Gord Berger (right) with Simcha and Nicole Jacobovici.

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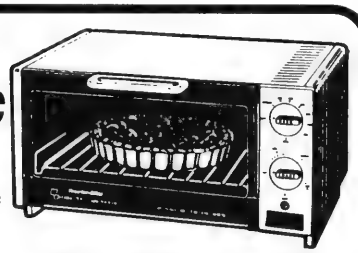

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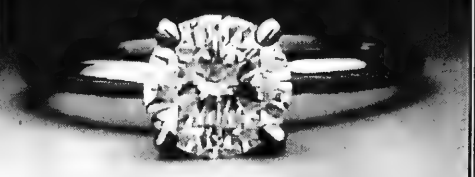

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BGU professor focuses on Nazi perpetrators' children

By KITTY HOFFMAN
Special to The CJN

VICTORIA — Until recently, virtually no attention has been paid to those whose parents were Nazi perpetrators, says Prof. Daniel Bar-On of Ben- Gurion University.

Speaking at a lecture sponsored by the Victoria Holocaust Remembrance and Education Society, Bar-On, a psychologist, said that most studies on the impact of the Holocaust has focused on survivors and their children and grandchildren.

He said that he has been working with a group called To Reflect and Trust (TLT), which is comprised of members whose parents were either Holocaust survivors or Nazi perpetrators.

This has led him, he said, to work with other people who live in areas of conflict, such as South Africa and Northern Ireland, as well as with Israeli Jews and Palestinians.

Bar-On, an Israeli native whose parents left Germany in 1925, says his family's early departure from Europe made him one of the few of his generation of Israelis to "grow up with grandparents."

He spoke German with his grandparents, and viewed German culture as part of his personal cultural heritage.

Bar-On said that when studying the impact of Holocaust trauma on survivors and their children, he found that one of the major issues was a "conspiracy of silence" between Germans who claimed that survivors conveyed a message not to speak of their experiences, and the survivors who had no words to speak of their experiences.

He became interested, he said, in the psychological impact of the Holocaust on descendants of the Nazi perpetrators. His initial search for children of perpetrators was difficult, because it was not easy to break through the general silence. Germans did not talk of that period in their history, he said, not even with their immediate family.

From that study, published as *Legacy of Silence*, he learned of the loneliness that those descendants felt.

Some of the participants in the study went on to form a self-help group that met for four years, and in 1992, Bar-On asked them if they would be interested in meeting with some Jewish child survivors and children of survivors.

The new group, which became TLT, first met in 1992; of the 18 participants, nine were German, and nine were Jews from Israel and the United States.

Bar-On screened excerpts from the BBC-TV film *Children of the Third Reich*, which is an account of the initial meeting of that group. At one point in the film, when the group members discussed their individual stories, a German woman told of her pain in learning that her father was a mass murderer. The camera then moved to the face of one of the Jewish women whose eyes were filled with tears of sympathy. Later, the Jewish woman, whose parents survived but whose extended family members were all killed, said she was amazed that she was able feel empathy for the German woman.

Another Jewish participant said, "When I and others write of the impact of the Holocaust, we write about the lost love of all our relatives who perished; but isn't it the same for these Germans, who have also lost love?"

SINGLES EVENTS
is an advertising feature of *The Canadian Jewish News*
Deadline is Wednesday, 4pm, 8 days preceding issue date.
For rates or to place an ad, call:
Tanya at (416) 391-1836
The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries they may have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.

Beth Tikvah Progressive Singles 35-55. Movie night - "Good Will Hunting." Refreshments, "Mix & Mingle" Thurs., Jan. 14, 8:00p.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. $10.00. R.S.V.P. 416-221-3433.

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Halifax opera captures artistic life at Terezin

By JOEL JACOBSON
Atlantic Correspondent

HALIFAX – Jo Stern wasn't going to let her project be hindered by the perceived small size of Halifax.

"When I heard about the opera *The Emperor of Atlantis*, and how Viktor Ullman composed it while incarcerated in a concentration camp, and then how it was smuggled out, I wanted to present it here," she told a small gathering at Beth Israel Synagogue's Breakfast Club.

The opera played at Dalhousie University Nov. 11, 12 and 14, with Symphony Nova Scotia conductor emeritus Georg Tintner conducting and former University of Ottawa theatre program head Tibor Egervari directing.

But Stern and her committee of half a dozen enthusiasts did not stop there.

They also assembled an extended art, lecture, cinema and video series, tying in the cultural life of Terezin and other parts of eastern Europe to the opera.

"Terezin had a flourishing artist and music community," said Stern.

"The artists in the group worked on German mapping and planning by day, but at night, they scrounged whatever materials they could and depicted life in the camp. These works, by children and adults, were smuggled out and will be shown here."

Art exhibits have been held since Sept. 12 while film screenings began in mid-October.

At the synagogue breakfast, Egervari said the Halifax production of *The Emperor* was a new one, done from scratch.

The six cast members were from Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, Boston, and Germany. Blaine Hendsbee and Heidi Maegerlein, were trained at Dalhousie and Acadia universities, respectively.

Egervari saw *The Emperor of Atlantis* when it was presented in Ottawa two years ago. After attending a conference in Munich on Art and The Shoah he was determined to direct the opera.

"I want to remind people, harshly, of the surrounding conditions, barbed wire, explosions. But we want to make sure this work is presented as a work of art."

He praised the efforts of Ullman and the other artists and musicians at Terezin, calling their performances acts of courage.

The Emperor of Atlantis was also performed in Wolfville and Antigonish, N.S., Fredericton, N.B., and Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Stern said the project took nine months to assemble "but it should have taken two years. It was hard work but we had lots of help. And the community response so far has been great."

From Coast to Coast

Dueck applied to immigrate to Canada in 1948

Continued from page 3

was never a member of it or of the local auxiliary police.

Noel said the government's Notice of Revocation did not include an allegation that Dueck was a collaborator, but rather specifically referred to his service as a policeman.

Noel also found that at the time Dueck applied to immigrate to Canada in July 1948, he likely was never personally screened by an RCMP security officer.

"The evidence does not establish the type of uniform practice which would allow one to conclude that [Dueck] was requested to complete a Canadian form elucidating his occupation over the prior 10 years," Noel wrote.

"Given the known influx of immigrants to Canada from Europe in 1948 and the pressures placed on the RCMP not to impede the flow of immigrants, it is likely that the rigorous screening procedure in place was not always followed. This is particularly the case where 'filling the boats' was a known priority," Noel wrote.

At the time, agricultural workers were in high demand and some underwent a paper screening in which they were simply required to fill out form documents. Prior to 1953, those documents did not request particulars of wartime military service, Noel pointed out.

In addition, Noel found that in mid-1948 there was no "blanket prohibition" against the immigration to Canada of Nazi collaborators, though members of the Nazi party and the SS were excluded.

Little attention paid to his character

Jack Silverstone, legal counsel for Canadian Jewish Congress, said Noel seemed to "extend in a very generous way the benefit of the doubt to Dueck, in terms of interpreting the evidence against him... He could easily have found that Dueck was a member of the police, not just a translator...The judge reached conclusions that were highly favorable to Dueck."

Silverstone said much of the case "turned on the credibility of the witnesses and so can't be seen as binding beyond that fact situation."

Once Noel had found that Dueck was not a policeman in Selidovka, his other findings about security screening became extraneous to the decision, in legal terms, obiter dicta, Silverstone said.

The judge also seemed to pay little attention to Dueck's character, which was supposed to be a factor in determining admissibility to Canada, Silverstone said.

"Does being a translator for a police force that's conducting atrocities make you a person of good character?" he asked.

מזל טוב Mazel Tov

We cannot guarantee the date a picture will appear. Please limit all greetings to 25 typewritten words. We reserve the right to edit all items and condense any that are longer than that.

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to *The CJN*, Mazel Tov, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, Ont., M3B 3K4.

Mazel tov to Max & Ella Greenholtz, who recently celebrated their 50th anniversary and Max's 86th birthday.

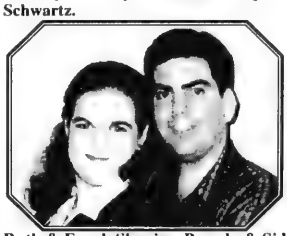
Esther & Joshua Sarid and Arlene & Sigmund Ein announce the marriage of their children Karen & Jonathan on June 30 at Adath Israel Congregation.

Happy fourth birthday to Ryan and first birthday to Kyle. We love you always, Mommy & Daddy, Samantha & Stephen Schwartz.

Congratulations Nelli & Zoltan Izsak on your 50th anniversary, Dec. 26. With love from your son Jozsef and the family in Montreal and Israel.

Mazel tov to Allan Ungar on your 10th birthday. Much love from Mommy and Daddy, Stephen & Melanie.

Bailee Kleinhandler was born on May 27 to Andrea & Michael. Sister Eden is ecstatic.



Ruth & Frank Shapiro, Brenda & Sid Chelsky announce the engagement of their children Steven Chelsky & Rebecca Shapiro. Grandmother Anita Mayer is delighted.

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From Coast to Coast

A visit with the Jews of Kingston

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

Kingston is a city full of surprises for a Jewish reporter from the big city of Toronto.

For one thing, the Kingston Jewish Community Council spreads an umbrella over the unaffiliated Jews, as well as those of the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform persuasions. The unaffiliated 50 members pay $10 a year to belong. And some belong to both the Orthodox and Reform congregations

For another, it is a small city where the Jewish population, about 1,200 including 400 Queen's University students, is as large, or larger, than it ever was. For this to be appreciated, think of all the small cities and towns in Canada that once had a thriving Jewish community and now have trouble assembling a minyan.

And then there is Orthodox Rabbi Daniel Elkin, 54, a native of Montreal and the first Canadian-born rabbi the community has ever had. He rides a bicycle to his office at the Beth Israel Synagogue. His wife Gittel, who hails from New York, is a holistic healer.

If you want to talk to a real pioneer, then drop in on Faygel Cohen, a 91-year-old straight-backed connoisseur of fine arts, and lifetime volunteer extraordinaire. As the daughter of the well-loved Rabbi Jacob Gordon of Toronto, she first came to Kingston 65 years ago in a roadster (a Hupmobile), driven by her late husband, Sheldon Cohen.

Moussa Cohanim

Elaine and Walter Viner

And there is the surprising news that Kingston is just behind Victoria as the retirement capital of Canada. Retired Jews, as well as others, are drawn to this Lake Ontario community which is so well located, being handy to sons, daughters and grandchildren not only in Kingston, but in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa.

But lest you think Kingston is a veritable garden of paradise, a walk along Princess Street on a cold, crisp autumn evening will reveal a number of drifters, unemployed and young people hanging around the usual places, like they do in the big city.

And there are poor Jews in Kingston, because one of the problems the Jewish Community Council is wrestling with, is how to help those who need economic assistance.

To the outsider, the Kingston Jewish community presents a united front, because its members work at it.

Twice, motions to change the affiliation of Beth Israel from Orthodox to Conservative have been defeated, the rationale being that the steadfast Orthodox would not have anyplace to pray. The beautiful sanctuary at Beth Israel has separate seating for women and men.

The Iyr HaMelech Reform Synagogue, founded 10 years ago with 68 families (compared with 125 families at Beth Israel), holds its services in a hall at Queen's University.

According to Iran-born Moussa Cohanim, 70, a past president of Iyr HaMelech, the congregation has an equal number of old-time Kingston families and newcomers. "They come and go," said the retired physician, who practised medicine in Toronto for six years before coming to Kingston 30 years ago.

"I enjoy sailing, I like the summer and fall here, and as for the winter, you have to live with it. It's an easy place to get out of, to go to Montreal or Toronto, or south to Syracuse. It is so popular a retirement community, that we probably have too many seniors now."

Like Cohanim, Frank Lewis, an economics professor at Queen's, and president of Iyr HaMelech, said he likes life in Kingston because it is more laid back than a big city, its ecological record is good, and it has excellent health services. He has lived in Kingston for 25 years.

The intermarriage rate among members of the Reform synagogue is "fairly high," he said, but it applies to less than half of its members.

The decline in discrimination against Jews in and following World War II, opened up academic posts at Queen's, and about 75 Jews are on its faculty.

Rabbi Barbara Bortz of Montreal, is in her second year as Iyr HaMelech's part-time rabbi, and when she is not on hand, the services are conducted by lay members. Its Talmud Torah has 35 children, the highest in its history.

Some people have dual membership in Orthodox Beth Israel and Reform Iyr HaMelech because they want to pray and be comfortable in one surrounding, while supporting, in principle, the other synagogue. What a disclaimer for that joke about the Jew, all alone on a desert island, who builds two synagogues, and wouldn't be caught dead in one of them.

When Wally Viner, Jewish Community Council president, explains it to the bug-eyed Toronto reporter, he has the nonchalant air of a man who can't understand why it causes such a fuss.

A successful Ottawa-born lawyer, he has lived in Kingston for 35 years. His wife Elaine has just become president of the Kingston Chamber of Commerce, a post previously held by him. They are the chamber's first husband and wife team to be presidents.

Kingston's biggest problem, Viner said, is that it needs another 200 Jewish families so they can support their own butcher and baker.

The way in which Jews and non-Jews in Kingston get along is shown by the campaign headed by businessman Irving Rosen to plant 100 full-grown trees in the area ravaged by last winter's ice storm in eastern Ontario.

Sheldon and Faygel Cohen

Some trees have already been planted in a Kingston park. So far, $60,000 has been raised, and Wally Viner, Jewish Community Council president and a past president of the Orthodox synagogue Beth Israel, is confident the goal of $70,000 will be reached. "It has been well supported by the general community."

Tracing his ancestry back to the first Jews who landed in Quebec in the 18th century, Orthodox Rabbi Daniel Elkin, who has called Kingston his home for more than a year, does his part to promote unity. For instance, he invited students of Iyr HaMelech's Talmud Torah to help decorate the sukkah at Beth Israel, this year.

He obtained his undergraduate degree at Yeshiva University in New York, his rabbinic training at Mesivta of Staten Island, and his smichah from Rabbi Leib Baron in Montreal.

He has another connection with Kingston. His grandfather, Mark Wolf of Montreal, adopted Dr. Alfred Bader, a young survivor from Vienna, when the latter came to Canada, subsequently graduating in chemical

Continued on page 23

From Coast to Coast

Kingston JCC welcomes all Jews

Continued from page 22

engineering from Queen's. Bader, now an industrial tycoon, donated a castle to Queen Elizabeth, and has backed several charitable events.

"My wife and I liked the idea of coming to a small community with a good ecological track record," said Rabbi Elkin. "The quality of life here is exceptional, and the community celebrates together."

For *The CJN* interview, he is dressed informally, wearing a sweater over his tzitzit, as he does when he conducts business in the shul office, five minutes away from his home by bicycle. He is the principal of Beth Israel's Talmud Torah with its 30 students, ranging in age from three to 13.

He also teaches a high school class in the Talmud Torah, and is a consultant to Hillel for Queen's students, whose headquarters is on the property owned by the synagogue next door. He has also been invited to teach at the Jewish Studies Institute of Queen's.

He taught at the Hebrew Academy and the Akiva school in Montreal, and for nine years, was education and youth director at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim Westmount, with 1,640 members, where he conducted many weddings and funerals.

He and his wife visit Montreal and Toronto often to see the rabbi's parents, two brothers and a sister in Montreal, and the family of son Shalom-Zion (Sam), a Thornhill businessman. A daughter, Abbie Krupnik and her husband Alex, live in Brooklyn, N.Y.

"I don't care if the Jewish community in Kingston is bigger than the one in Moose Jaw, or anywhere else, all I know is that we live in a great place here," said Mort Abramsky, 71, a businessman whose forbearers came to Kingston 106 years ago and operated the famous Joseph Abramsky store. "I know everyone and they know me," he said.

His wife, the former Shirley Borden, comes from Glace Bay, N.S. One of their sons, Jay, is an executive of Mort Enterprises in Kingston. Another son, Leon, is in real estate in Toronto, while daughter Karen is married to Dr. Howard Conter, a Halifax physician.

In her cosy apartment, overlooking Lake Ontario, pioneer Faygel Cohen recalls the time her late husband took her out sailing shortly after their marriage in 1934. "I was terrified by the high waves and vowed never to go again."

But Cohen did like fishing and spent many a happy hour on the St. Lawrence River. They had a cottage on Deadman's Bay, the only one in the area that had lights, a fringe benefit of her husband's battery business.

Using a walker because of arthritis, but otherwise in relatively good health, this bright-eyed woman confessed that her favorite piece of art in the apartment is an abstract painting on the walls that she did herself.

Cohen has known discrimination, being turned down because of her Jewish faith when she applied to the University of Toronto library school in 1929, after graduating from the university as a social worker.

She speaks fondly of the persistence her late husband showed in courting her, even after she told him there was no way she would leave Toronto for the wilds of Kingston. "The moon will turn green but some day I'll get you to marry me," he teased her. They had a four-month part honeymoon, part business trip in Europe.

The daughter of a rabbi, she was raised in a house where her father's word was the law. "We were impressed that Sheldon's family had two cars, because we couldn't even afford one."

Why did Kingston's Jewish community thrive while so many others went down hill?

To this question, Cohen's reply came quickly: "Because the community had good leaders, like my late husband."

The voluntary work Cohen did, and still does on behalf of organizations in Kingston, reveals a deep commitment to the ideals of a unified community.

Frank Lewis

Rabbi Daniel Elkin

Grade 6 Talmud Torah students decorate the sukkah with Mayor Gary Bennet and Rabbi Daniel Elkin.

On Campus

Canadian Friends of Ezrath Nashim Herzog Hospital
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For its part, the City of Vaughan Public Works Department will make every effort to ensure that sidewalks on main streets, transit routes and school zones are kept clear of snow and ice.

Owners and tenants of property in the City of Vaughan are also hereby notified that By-law #358-86 prohibits the building, placement or maintaining of posts, fences, trees, hedges, and wooden or cement curbing on all public road allowance on any road or sidewalk in the municipality. The City cautions that all such objects must be removed from City property prior to the winter season in order to expedite the safe and efficient clearing of snow from sidewalks in the municipality.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Public Works Department at (905) 832-8577.

DEPOSITING SNOW ON ROADWAY

Owners and tenants of property in the City of Vaughan are hereby notified that Ontario Highway Traffic Act, Section 181 prohibits the placing of snow or ice on a roadway.

Please ensure that any snow removed from your property is not placed on the roadway.

VEHICLE PARKING DURING WINTER SNOW CLEARING OPERATIONS

To allow for a more efficient flow of traffic during winter storm conditions, the City of Vaughan will be actively enforcing its "No Parking" restrictions, as permitted under the authority of By-Law #1-96.

In addition to other general parking restrictions, Section 4, subsection (7) 1. of By-law #1-96 states: ***"No person shall park a vehicle on a highway so as to interfere with the clearing of snow."***

Please do not park your vehicle on City streets during or after, a winter storm. Vehicles found in contravention of the By-law may be subject to ticketing and/or towing.

For complete information on parking restrictions within the City of Vaughan, please call the City's By-law Enforcement Division at 832-8505, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive.

Your cooperation in complying with these by-laws will help keep your neighbourhood safe and accessible this winter for you, your family and neighbours.

Dated: December 1, 1998 John D. Leach, City Clerk

CANADIAN STUDENTS AT TAU
During a recent visit to Israel, Pearl Grundland, standing centre back row, Toronto executive director of the Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University, dined and shmoozed with Canadian students currently attending Tel Aviv University. Also part of the group was Rachel Bar-El, standing to the right of Grundland, the university's director of the Overseas Student Program.

Fraternity chapter loses charter

By MARA DRESNER
The Connecticut Jewish Ledger

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — The men of the Eta Upsilon chapter of Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi) no longer have a frat to call their own. The University of Hartford chapter of the national Jewish fraternity lost its charter in October after an investigation by the national AEPi organization.

Chapter advisor and Hartford Hillel Foundation executive director David Terdiman acknowledged that the violation concerned hazing.

However, he said he was not at liberty to discuss the details because there is an ongoing investigation by the family of one of the students involved in the incident.

Jacqueline Weiner, coordinator of Greek activities for University of Hartford, said the investigation by AEPi was conducted in the fall.

"The national organization was informed. They came in, did their interviews and thought they needed to close the chapter," she explained.

Weiner considers the revoke of the charter to be a stiff penalty. "I feel there is a group of men who know they made some bad choices, who are basically good guys. I think the national organization should have worked with them to help them turn their chapter around.

"The national organization usually doesn't have much contact with their members," she continued.

"They're not here day-to-day. It's very easy for them to come in and see the bad and not see all the good."

According to Terdiman, however, the allegations were serious. "Hazing in any form is inappropriate; it's against the law and it's wrong," he said. "Whatever form that may have taken place, this chapter had to face the consequences. And this is the consequence.

"I was satisfied that when the issue of hazing came up, national took it seriously and they should be commended for that," he added.

Terdiman said that some of the chapter members were recommended for expulsion from the AEPi fraternity while those who were more cooperative with the investigation, will be considered alumni of the fraternity.

Overall, he praised the students' behavior during the investigation. "The brothers in AEPi handled themselves very well. These were serious allegations and they handled themselves admirably," Terdiman noted. "There was a lot of ambiguity. There was tremendous disappointment in the chapter."

In Canada there are AEPi chapters at York University, the University of Toronto, the University of Western Ontario, McMaster University and McGill University.

Ilan Barda, president of the Jewish Students' Union at U of T and a founding father of Tau Omega, the AEPi colony on his campus, found the news from Connecticut "appalling," he said. "AEPi doesn't condone hazing, alcohol or drugs."

"It hasn't really been an issue for us," Harley Gold, president of Tau Omega, told *The CJN*. "There's a written anti-hazing policy in [the AEPi] constitution. The consequences are being kicked out of the chapter."

With files from Frances Kraft

Rhodes scholar named

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — For the second year in a row, a Jewish university student from Winnipeg has become the recipient of a Rhodes Scholarship.

Sara Kreindler, who is preparing to attend Oxford University in the fall, is a fourth year University of Manitoba psychology student. She is a committed supporter of the New Democratic Party and president of the University of Manitoba New Democrats.

Kreindler, 19, was born in Israel and grew up in north Winnipeg. She graduated from high school at 15 and has won several other scholarships.

She has also won awards as a vocalist at several music festivals, performed piano recitals, written a play and has been a member of the editorial collective of the magazine, *Canadian Dimension*.

At Oxford, she will be studying history and English. Her long- term plans, she says, are to study either labor or international law. She may also go into politics one day, she says.

Since 1966, the University of Manitoba has been among the top five universities in Canada for the number of Rhodes Scholarships awarded. Last year's recipient was David Selchen.

Features

Case of mystery chandelier involves intrigue, murder

By MIRIAM CHINSKY
Special to The CJN

TORONTO – The puzzling story of the mystery chandelier first surfaced in *The Canadian Jewish News* three years ago.

This extraordinary pentagonal light fixture with a Hebrew inscription on all five sides, was unexpectedly discovered in a cafe on the main street of the southwestern Ontario village of Sparta, not far from London. The lettering translated, read, "This is the donation of Nachum Katz in memory of his son, Abraham David, may he rest in peace."

Cafe owner Murray Westbrook conjectured that the chandelier dated from the 1920s, and that David Abraham may have died in combat during World War I.

Westbrook had bought the chandelier from an antique lamp dealer who had previously purchased it from another dealer in Cobourg. Nothing more was known.

After the article appeared, *CJN* reader Mary Teich contacted us to say that Nachum and Fanny Katz had been friends of her parents and she knew the history of the chandelier.

It was a revelation involving intrigue and murder!

The Katz family, originally from Russia, had settled in Picton, Ont., around the turn of the century.

Katz prospered in business and was active in the shul which he co-founded in Belleville, a town near Picton.

Through Teich, we located Katz's granddaughter Lillian, of Katz's Delicatessen in Toronto. Her information plus details from Eastern Ontario Jewish community sources and Royal Canadian Mounted Police files, brought to light a poignant and bizarre story.

At 20, (Abraham) David became a travelling salesman, taking orders for men's suits as he crossed the prairies by car with an assistant who we will identify as B (to protect any remaining family). David knew that B had been in trouble with the law, but agreed to give him a second chance.

In June of 1928, on a lonely road between Swift Current and Medicine Hat, B apparently persuaded David to get out of the car to check a "flat" rear tire. Slipping behind him, B hit David with a shovel, buried him in a sand dune and continued west by car to Vancouver. (This is not what B later told police, but it is what they deduced).

Back in Picton, a worried Katz, who had not heard from David for some time, received a strange telegram, supposedly from his son, saying that he had become involved with a gentile girl and could never see his parents again.

Instantly suspicious, Katz went directly to Vancouver, where by pure coincidence, he spotted B on the street. Following him until he encountered a policeman, Katz demanded B's arrest.

B, who was found to be in possession of David's car, a considerable amount of cash and engraved personal jewelry, admitted that David had been killed but insisted that a companion, "Jimmy Brown," had committed the murder. Claiming that he only helped bury the body, B led police to the grave. Katz collapsed at the site.

"Jimmy Brown" was a no-show and B was charged with murder.

Two trials were held at Maple Creek, Sask. The first was adjourned because of improper threats against B during questioning. At the second trial he was found guilty and sentenced to hang in Regina on Feb. 19, 1930.

But there was a reprieve. B's sweetheart had come across a dispatch in a local paper about one Emmett Sloan, alias Brown, who was charged with murder in a case in Sydney, N.S. She insisted that the description of Sloan matched that which B had given her of "Jimmy Brown."

B's execution was postponed while police investigated, but it was confirmed that Sloan had not been in the West when David was murdered.

B was hanged on March 11, his execution witnessed by a rabbi.

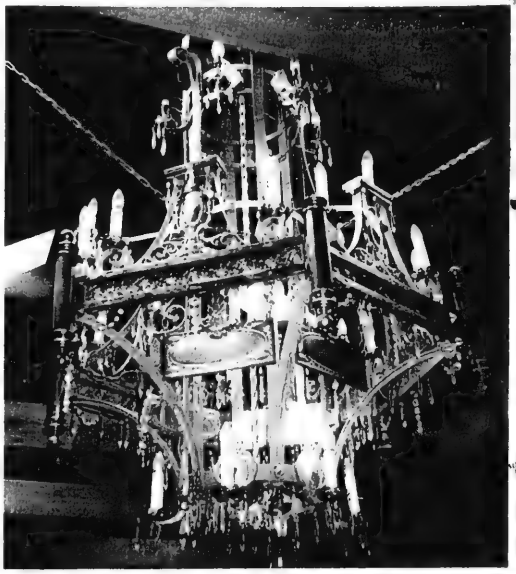
The chandelier which Katz had commissioned in memory of his son, adorned the shul in Belleville until the congregation relocated. The chandelier was then given to elderly relatives for safekeeping because Katz had died. It disappeared after the relatives themselves died, eventually reappearing in Sparta.

However, like the wandering Jew, its journey has not yet ended.

Various members of the London Jewish community were aware of the chandelier. Ellen Brownstone, fascinated by the original *CJN* story and its sequel explaining the mystery, had clipped and saved both items.

On a visit to Sparta, Temple Israel Rabbi Joel Wittstein and his wife, who like to check out rural Ontario tea rooms and cafes, noticed the chandelier and enquired about it. But the owner was absent at the time and the staff were not aware of its history.

The property recently changed hands and the new proprietors of the renamed Sparta Tea House, Ken and Norma Roberts, afraid that the chandelier was too heavy, dismantled it and took it down.



This striking chandelier, with its touching Hebrew inscription, was commissioned by Nachum Katz in memory of his son Abrahm David, who was murdered in 1928.

Noting the Hebrew inscription, the Roberts thought the artifact belonged in a Jewish setting. They told Shelly Siskind of London's Jewish community, about it.

Siskind brought this to the attention of Temple Israel, a Reform congregation which to date does not have its own permanent building, but is actively planning one for the near future.

The Roberts generously offered Temple Israel the handsome chandelier, which was brought to London by temple member Naomi Stambler and her son David. It now reposes in the basement of a house occupied by the congregation.

Stambler is in charge of Temple Israel's ritual committee and has been a moving force in the acquisition of Katz's unique gift to his shul.

She says that she, along with Rabbi Wittstein and the congregation, looks forward to the time when "this treasure" will rise at last, restored and shimmering, in a permanent Jewish home.

PLANTING FOR THE GENERATIONS

In celebration of the Year of the Elderly, Bialik students Hailey Banack, Leah Kugelmass and Melanie Goren participated in a tree planting ceremony at Queen's Park, along with other Toronto-area students and Lincoln Alexander, Ontario's former lieutenant-governor.

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'Greater Than Angels'

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Sometimes we forget – or likely never knew – that there were people who helped Jews during the awful days of the Holocaust.

In a little town in France, called Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, the entire population, led by Pastors Trocme and Thies, were involved in rescuing, hiding and sending to safety many Jewish individuals and families.

Their actions put them in very great danger, but they carried on anyway, according to reports, simply because it was the right thing to do.

Carol Matas, who has written many books for young people on the Holocaust, including *Lisa, Daniel's Story* and *The Garden*, has turned the story of Le Chambon into a wonderful book, *Greater Than Angels* (Scholastic Press, 1998).

Anna Hirsch, her family, her friends Rudi and Klara, and indeed all the Jews of Mannheim, Germany, were deported to Vichy France, a place that actively cooperated with the Nazis. They were all interned in a refugee camp in Gurs.

After a short while, Anna and some of the other young people, through the help of the Swiss Red Cross, were taken to Le Chambon.

In Le Chambon, they were able to lead a close-to-normal life, going to school, working on the land and having long talks about their belief (or lack of belief) in God, the nature of good and evil, and life in general.

Some of them also worked with the resistance.

They were all coming to believe that things would turn out all right, until Anna discovered that the families left behind in Gurs were forced into cattle cars and taken to concentration camps. Shortly afterwards, the Germans took direct control of Vichy France, putting the Jews in even graver danger.

Anna, who had dreamed of being on the stage, often cheered the spirits of her friends with songs and jokes.

One might wonder why the people of Le Chambon were so very brave. Part of it, Anna and her friends decide, is because they were descendants of French Protestants, the Huguenots, who had been viciously persecuted and felt no one else should go through the same thing.

Pastor Trocme tells a Nazi official, "We do not know what a Jew is. We only know men." And that is probably exactly why no one was ever turned away from Le Chambon. "Everyone in the town seemed to find a quiet way to help."

Rudi tells the others a story he had heard from his father, that the soul of man was created by God on the first day of Creation, while angels were created on the second day. "If people keep the spirit of God dominant within them they are told, 'You are greater than the angels.'"

The population of Le Chambon is without question greater than the angels.

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Six Lebanese civilians wounded in IDF air strike

By DANIEL SOBELMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Six Lebanese civilians, including a woman and her four daughters, and a Syrian soldier were wounded Sunday when Israel Air Force (IAF) planes attacked Hezbollah positions in the Lebanese Beka'a.

But the IDF does not expect Hezbollah to react to the raid by firing Katyusha rockets into northern Israel, even though leaders of the organization said they "reserve the right to react."

In the raid, F-16 fighters struck at two targets, situated close to positions held by the Syrian army, which fired anti-aircraft guns at the IAF planes.

One of the targets attacked by Israel was Hezbollah's Voice of the Oppressed radio station north of Ba'albek. The transmitter was damaged and the station went off the air.

The second target was a Hezbollah training facility near the village of Junta where an Israeli air raid on Dec. 22, missed its target and accidentally killed a mother and her six children.

In contrast to Hezbollah's militant declarations that it would react to civilian casualties by sending katyushas into Israel, the organization was more muted. "We reserve our right to retaliate in the appropriate way, time and place," Hezbollah's deputy leader, Sheikh Naim Kassem, declared.

Senior Israeli military sources said the IDF has recently stepped up its activity in the Lebanese Beka'a where Hezbollah maintains most of its infrastructure and training facilities. They are situated close to Syrian positions as a means of protection against Israeli attacks.

The IDF sources said Sunday's attack, like the recent assassination of a top Hezbollah explosives expert, was intended to get across a dual message: to show Hezbollah that it will not enjoy protection anywhere in Lebanon and to make it clear to Syria that Israel will not hesitate to operate even in areas under Damascus' control.

Israel's cabinet draws 'red line'

By ZE'EV SCHIFF
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

In its meeting last week, the security cabinet drew a "red line" in Lebanon, deciding that Israel would respond aggressively against Lebanese targets whenever communities in northern Israel are shelled with Katyusha rockets.

This "red line" commits Israel to escalating its retaliation whenever the Hezbollah violates "Grapes of Wrath" understandings by harming Israeli civilians.

The "red line" – especially when declared publicly – reduces the flexibility of the Israeli government and its range of options. Israel would either raise the chances of escalation by an aggressive response, or lose its credibility and damage its deterrent capability by showing restraint.

The fact that Israel is entering an election period surely influenced the cabinet decision. Most of the ministers, including the prime minister, now want to appear tougher against those who attack Israel.

The defence establishment is pleased that the cabinet accepted its position against a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon, including the gradual plan proposed by Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon. But, after the security cabinet publicly announced how Israel would respond to attacks against Israeli communities, defence officials are aware of the danger of the situation, that it could deteriorate and go out of control.

This fear was expressed during a recent meeting at Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's office, where voices were raised against unnecessarily expanding the fighting in Lebanon. The defence establishment has no interest in initiating a breach in the understandings reached with Syria and Lebanon – and by extension, with the Hezbollah.

The cabinet announcement did not indicate which targets the IDF would hit, except that they would be in Lebanon if the shelling of Israel originated from Lebanese territory.

This means that Syrian targets located in Lebanon would not be immune from Israeli attack.

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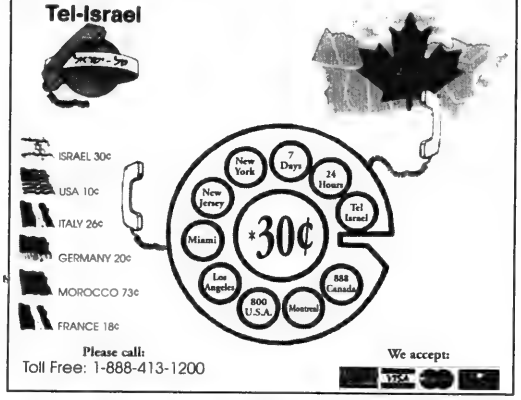

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Israel Election Notebook

May 17

• Likud Knesset member Dan Meridor announced that he would run for prime minister as the head of a new centrist party.

• Ze'ev "Benny" Begin, a former member of the Netanyahu cabinet, announced plans to quit the Likud party and run in the upcoming elections on a new right-wing ticket against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

• Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert said he would not run against Netanyahu for the leadership of the Likud party.

• Former fashion model Pnina Rosenblum formed a new centrist political party to run in the upcoming elections.

• Netanyahu denied reports that he and opposition leader Ehud Barak had reached an agreement regarding an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

• Sources reported that former foreign minister David Levy is planning to join forces with opposition leader Ehud Barak.

• Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon is reportedly considering a run for the prime minister's post. Sharon had earlier said he did not want to run. He has altered his view somewhat. "There is a difference between 'I don't want to be prime minister' and running under special circumstances," he told the press.

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Chief Rabbi sounds off

By SHARON SADEH
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

LONDON — In a recent interview with the *Daily Telegraph*, Chief Rabbi of Britain, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, had several somewhat unpleasant things to say about the Jewish people.

"We are a difficult people and always have been...It's still true and I wish it wasn't," he said.

Explaining how Jews were difficult, Rabbi Sacks said, "the English have enjoyed unbroken sovereignity for almost 1,000 years and because of that, they've discovered one thing above all others – to be polite...The Hebrew language has been around for 4,000 years, but it still does not have a word which means tact. Jews have spent most of their history without power, so they are good at study and quite good at prayer, but they haven't learned the arts of governance – above all, the arts of tolerance and living peacefully with your opponents.

"The characteristic English way of speaking is understatement. The characteristic Jewish way is overstatement, and that is a sign of a powerless, insecure and often persecuted people."

Rabbi Sacks also expressed regret over the level of acrimony among Jews. "If I had one wish for the millennium, it would be that I could soften some of the more abrasive edges in the relationship between Jew and Jew," he said. "I've tried hard but I've not always succeeded. We have suffered too much at the hands of others for it to make sense to inflict suffering on ourselves."

Leading members of the Jewish community in Britain told *Ha'aretz* that Rabbi Sacks' statements received little attention in the local Jewish press, likely because they were published amid a political crisis following the resignation of several ministers.

"This is not the first time that Rabbi Sacks has made indiscreet and harsh remarks, which to a large extent are not even consistent," a source in the community told *Ha'aretz*. "He has shoved himself into a marginal role in the community following the rift he created two years ago between the Orthodox and Reform movements, when he [accused] the late Reform leader Rabbi Hugo Gryn [of] ruining the faith. Rabbi Sacks even refused to attend Rabbi Gryn's funeral."

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Israel & the Jewish World

Palestinians moving, in stages, to statehood

By JULIA GOLDMAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — The Palestinian Authority is working to get the weight of the world behind the idea of a Palestinian state, and the effort is causing mounting concern among Israeli officials.

The push over the last year has occurred in what Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Dore Gold, sees as a "strategy of stages, [moving] from the phase of talking about the principles of Palestinian statehood, to a stage where they're talking about a date for Palestinian statehood, May 4."

Indeed, the Palestinian Authority has an elected government and diplomatic presence recognized throughout the world, a new airport that was visited by President Bill Clinton, and enhanced status at the United Nations, with the right to participate in General Assembly debates.

"Our people are still acquiring, piece by piece, these things we need ultimately to satisfy our dream and the people's dream of an independent state in the land of Palestine, with Jerusalem as its capital," Ahmed Karia, speaker of the Palestine legislative council and one of the architects of the Oslo peace accords, wrote in a Dec. 21 newspaper article.

In the same article, the Palestinian official may have also begun to outline the geography of that state, according to Gold.

Gold's suggestion is based on a comment made by Karia, a Palestinian moderate, in the London-based, Arab-language newspaper *Al-Hayyat al-Jadida*, where Karia referred to the 1947 UN Partition Plan as the basis for the legitimacy and the borders of a Palestinian state.

English excerpts of the article were disseminated by the Middle East Media and Research Institute, an organization that monitors the Arab-language press and is run by Yigal Carmon, a former Israeli intelligence officer.

In the Dec. 21 article, Karia, who is also known as Abu Alaa, spoke of "a Palestinian state, with all the rights and duties that other states possess." He wrote that the state should have internationally recognized borders, "which are the borders set in the partition resolution."

Want borders from Nov. '47 partition

UN Resolution 181, adopted Nov. 29, 1947, divided mandatory Palestine into an Arab state, a Jewish state and an international zone that included Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

The 1947 borders would have allotted nearly 60 percent of the territory to the Jewish state, more than half of which was the Negev Desert; and 40 percent to the Arab state, including the entire contemporary West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the northern towns of Acre and Nahariya.

Israel accepted the plan and then declared independence in May 1948. The Arab League forcefully rejected it, precipitating the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. The ceasefire lines after the war pretty much served as Israel's borders until the Six Day War of 1967, when the Jewish state gained control of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights and Sinai Desert.

Past Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations – including the 1991 Madrid Conference and the 1993 Oslo accords – have been based on UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, which called on Israel to return territories occupied during the Six Day War.

Gold stressed in a recent telephone interview that "Israel itself has stated emphatically that it won't be pushed back to the '67 borders, and certainly not the '47 borders."

The 1988 Palestinian Declaration of Independence does rely on UN Resolution 181 as a source of international legitimacy for a Palestinian state. But Gold believes Karia's comments are the first published direct reference to the 1947 borders as a basis for the Palestinian state.

The Palestinian leadership has repeatedly articulated its intention to declare statehood on or after May 4, 1999 – the end of the five-year interim period of the Oslo accords.

Israel insists that any plans for Palestinian autonomy must be decided in mutual negotiations.

The Palestinian observer to the United Nations, Nasser al-Kidwa, said through a spokesperson that Karia's comments do not represent a change in Palestinian policy with regard to borders.

The spokesperson said references to Resolution 181 serve only to reaffirm the Palestinian right to statehood.

"The international community recognized the creation of the Palestinian state next to the Israeli state at the time of partition based on the partition resolution," Karia wrote.

"That means the legitimacy of the Israeli state stands alongside and as a condition of the creation of a Palestinian state," he continued, citing several UN resolutions that, he said, are based on the resolution.

Palestinian leaders, including Arafat, Karia and al-Kidwa, have stated their desire to reach an agreement with the Israelis by the end of the interim agreement, but are firm in their ambitions to statehood.

Israel has consistently said it would view any declaration of Palestinian statehood as a "unilateral action" outside the peace negotiations, Gold said, and that it would react with "all necessary steps, including the application of Israeli rule, law and administration" to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Israel has talked about secure, defensible borders," Gold said. "We're willing to compromise," but the borders must be negotiated, "not thrown out ahead of time.

"This doesn't look like compromise," he said. "It looks like moving the goal posts."

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U.S. policy is evolving

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Mideast Analysis

The photograph signalled a seismic shift in the United States' evolving relationship with the Palestinians. It showed a grateful, beaming Yasser Arafat clasping President Bill Clinton's right hand in fulsome appreciation.

Published last month, the picture was taken immediately after Clinton addressed the Palestine National Council in the Gaza Strip, an idea originally proposed but now rued by Israel.

In his speech, Clinton, the first American president to visit the Palestinian autonomous areas, endorsed the "legitimate rights" of the Palestinians and declared that they "now have a chance to determine their own destiny on their own land."

With these carefully chosen words, delivered after the Palestinians completed the process of annulling the clauses in their national covenant calling for Israel's destruction, Clinton moved one step closer to endorsing Palestinian statehood. The timing was significant, coming just days after politically beleaguered Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Arafat to drop plans to unilaterally declare a state on May 4, the expiry date of the Oslo accords.

It was a far cry from the days when the United States, in deference to Israel's wishes, had no official ties with Arafat and considered the PLO a terrorist organization.

And for those with long memories, Clinton's very presence in Gaza stood out in sharp juxtaposition to two milestones which once defined Washington's attitude toward the Palestinians. In 1979, Andrew Young, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations (UN), was forced to resign because of unauthorized contacts with a PLO representative. Some years later, a UN session on the Palestinian question was moved from New York City to Geneva because the United States refused to grant Arafat the simple courtesy of a visa.

For all the symbolism associated with Clinton's meeting with Arafat in Gaza, Washington is still lukewarm about the concept of Palestinian sovereignty. Last June, the United States sided with Israel in the PLO's successful bid to upgrade its status at the UN. And in July, Clinton said that statehood should not be declared unilaterally by the Palestinians but should be an outcome of final status talks with Israel.

Looked at in perspective, American policy toward the Palestinians has evolved in stages.

During the early 1970s, before the PLO shed its radical image, the Central Intelligence Agency maintained a secret channel to the PLO. In 1975, Henry Kissinger, the American secretary of state, promised Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, that Washington would not recognize or negotiate with the PLO until it embraced UN Resolution 242, accepted Israel's right to exist and renounced terrorism. The pledge was contained in a memorandum of understanding linked to an Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula.

On Dec. 14, 1988, following Arafat's acceptance of these conditions, the United States opened a dialogue with the PLO. On the instructions of Secretary of State George Shultz, the U.S. ambassador in Tunisia, Robert Pelletreu Jr., launched a series of discussions with senior PLO representatives. Its ostensible purpose was to promote a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli dispute. Israel opposed the dialogue.

On June 20, 1990, President George Bush suspended it after the PLO failed to condemn a foiled May 30 raid mounted by Palestinian hardliners on the Israeli coast.

In March 1991, in Jerusalem, Secretary of State James Baker met with 10 Palestinian leaders who had close ties to the PLO.

In September 1993, after Israel and the PLO recognized each other, the United States resumed its dialogue with the PLO. In May 1996, several months after Palestinian suicide bombers killed 59 Israeli civilians, Clinton hosted Arafat at the White House.

Since then, Washington has funnelled $500 million worth of aid to the Palestine Authority and promised a further $400 million for development projects, thereby deepening its ties with the Palestinians.

Yasser Arafat (left) and Bill Clinton in Gaza. [RNS/Reuters photo]

The Week in Israel

Dec. 28

• Israel accused the Palestinian Authority (PA) of acting in bad faith when it freed Hamas leader Sheik Ahmad Yassin from house arrest. "The release of Yassin proves that the PA is quietly acquiescing to Hamas activities," a government spokesperson said.

Dec. 29

• Israel threatened to block incoming flights into the new Palestinian airport in the Gaza Strip if its officials are prevented from inspecting the planes. The threat came after Israeli officials were not allowed to inspect an Egyptian plane carrying Yasser Arafat.

• Members of the Third Way party said they would push for a bill that would make it more difficult for Israel to withdraw from the Golan Heights.

Dec. 30

• An Israeli soldier, Staff Sgt. Ohad Zach, 19, was killed and two others were wounded by "friendly fire" in south Lebanon. In related events, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told protesting parents of soldiers killed in Lebanon that the Inner Security Cabinet will soon make a decision regarding Israel's presence in south Lebanon.

• President Ezer Weizman urged opposition leader Ehud Barak and former army chief of staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak to join forces to unseat Netanyahu in the upcoming May elections.

Dec. 31

• The Knesset passed a law barring human cloning. The law carries a penalty of two years in prison for anyone violating the ban.

• Israel has the highest birthrate, 21.2 per 1,000 people, among developed countries, according to *Children in Israel*, a newly-released statistical book. The review also found that Israeli children spend an average of four hours per day watching TV.

Jan. 1

• Israeli and U.S. legislators are forming a committee to monitor international efforts to return property taken from Holocaust victims. MK Avraham Hershson of the Likud and U.S. Rep. Ben Gilman will head the committee.

Files from the JTA

Israel & the Jewish World

Vichy officials profited from Jewish assets

By LEE YANOWITCH
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

PARIS — Members of France's pro-Nazi Vichy regime, who profited from the sale of looted Jewish assets, were protected from prosecution after World War II, according to documents from the French Finance Ministry's archives.

The daily newspaper *Le Parisien*, which obtained the files, reported that some Vichy administrators received a 10 percent commission from the sale of buildings and businesses confiscated as part of an effort to rid the French economy of Jewish influence.

The documents belonged to a man named as Prof. Terroine, a former member of the Resistance appointed to run an office established after the liberation of France, to deal with restitution.

The revelations came just after France was bitterly criticized at the conference on Holocaust-era assets, held recently in Washington, for moving too slowly on returning paintings and other artworks seized from Jewish families during the war.

Nearly 2,000 paintings sent back to France from Germany at the end of the war are still in the possession of state-run museums, and President Jacques Chirac said recently that the paintings must remain in France.

At the same time, a body appointed in 1996 by former Prime Minister Alain Juppe to investigate the whereabouts of seized Jewish assets, is facing resistance from banks, insurance companies and other state agencies in handing over their archives from the period, sources said.

Jewish community leaders have voiced criticism that insufficient resources and the lack of cooperation by financial institutions are hindering the Matteoli commission from conducting its inquiry effectively.

The documents found by *Le Parisien* tell of Terroine's anger at pressure by local politicians to turn a blind eye to the wartime activities of property administrators.

"Everyone knows that the [commission] they received increased their wealth, which was often very modest at the beginning, by a considerable amount," *Le Parisien* quoted a note from Terroine as saying.

"Most of them accepted their responsibilities to make a profit and help the enemy," he went on.

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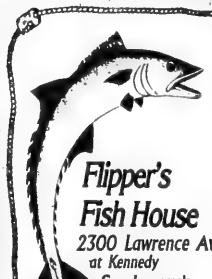
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Musician's debut CD is surprisingly refreshing

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

TORONTO — Like any aspiring musician, Mike Freedman would like to turn pro and make it big someday. However, he doesn't intend to sell his soul to do that.

"I don't write songs with the intention of writing a hit, or become an overnight success," Freedman, 30, says.

Freedman has just independently released an eight-song CD *Mother Earth*.

"(On *Mother Earth*) I was trying to write a concept that reflected who I was. I wasn't writing with the intention that this or that song will be a hit."

Mother Earth is a surprisingly powerful debut. Refreshingly void of pop cliches and annoying dance rhythms, *Mother Earth* takes the listener on an uplifting journey through the trials of everyday life.

The songs deal with the environment, emotional pain, personal happiness and struggling with different emotions. With each song, he manages to find a positive side.

Freedman describes his electric folk-rock songs as "honest, heartfelt and soulful. My songs are inspired by a particular emotion or event." On *Mother Earth*, his guitar playing is complimented by a team of musicians and back-up singers, giving his songs a strong, radio-friendly sound.

Listening to his bluesy nightclub voice and Eric Clapton-like guitar licks, I found his songs bear an uncanny resemblance to Canadian singer-songwriter Robbie Robertson.

I only found out later that Freedman lists Robertson – along with Bruce Cockburn, Joni Mitchell, and Peter Gabriel to name a few – as major influences in his music.

Mike Freedman recently released his eight-song CD *Mother Earth*.

Freedman said he's also influenced by jazz, blues and roots music. When I interviewed him he was listening to a Cuban CD. "My musical influences are very eclectic," he admits.

He attributes sounding like Robertson to a combination of his vocal range and his inspiration.

"I've got a similar vocal tone to Robbie Robertson and Peter Gabriel, so I tend to sing like them. Because I listen to and sing along with their CDs, I do tend to emulate them, but in the end I was looking for my own sound, not trying to sound like anyone else.

Freedman, a music instructor by day, is currently trying to promote his CD by playing live and sending out tapes in search of that deserved major-label deal.

"In Canada that's very difficult, so I'm going to spend the first year promoting the CD on my own and build a track record. I plan on pursuing festivals this summer and try to promote my CD to radio stations."

Freedman can be seen playing at downtown clubs either as a solo act or with a full band.

Freedman is also very versatile. He studied classical and jazz, finishing third in a jazz competition. He composed the score for a CBC documentary, *Kuwait in Flames*, and composed theme music for the YTV production *Friday's Child* and commercial jingles.

To order his CD, call 416-923-0885, or e-mail [freedman@sympatico.ca].

A woman of many talents

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Life is a cabaret – and a ballet, a play, a television special, a movie soundtrack and a family affair for Judith Lander, critically acclaimed singer, composer and actress.

Born and raised in Winnipeg, Lander says, "I was painfully shy as a teenager, until Sara Udow, a well known Jewish teacher and choir mistress at the Rosh Pina Synagogue encouraged me to sing."

In 1966, Lander moved to Toronto to study radio and television arts at what is now Ryerson Polytechnic University. Within a year of her big move, the French radio department of CBC hired Lander to sing in French on a number of broadcasts for Montreal audiences.

Soon producers for CBC's English radio and television shows jumped on the bandwagon.

By the time she was 20, Lander's sensuous voice was filling both the English and French air waves.

In no time, she shared the stage with such great Canada musicians as Moe Koffman, Guido Basso and the late Hagood Hardy.

At 21, Lander joined the company of *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*. By 1970, the critically acclaimed Canadian production and cast moved to Boston. Lander later performed *Jacques Brel* with the original American cast at Carnegie Hall in New York.

Lander spent the next four years commuting between the three cities. She took a sabbatical from *Jacques Brel* to perform with Lotte Lenya, in a tribute to Lenya's late husband, German Jewish composer Kurt Weill.

In New York, Lander met and collaborated with choreographer Lynne Taylor-Corbett. While Lander sang her lyrical compositions, ballets choreographed by Taylor-Corbett were performed simultaneously on stage.

Their projects included *Where We Are Now*, and *Diary* as well as *Spy*, which was based on the Anais Nin novel, *A Spy in the House of Love*. It is the only work to which Nin granted performance rights during her lifetime. *Spy* will be remounted with the Ballet Pacifica in California this spring.

In 1979, *Diary* won the silver medallion at the Jacksonville International Dance Festival. Lander has accompanied the dancers performing *Diary* throughout the world.

American Ballet II, the Hubbard St. Co., the Atlanta Ballet, and the National Ballet of Canada are among the dance companies that have included *Diary* in their repertoires.

After returning to Toronto in

Continued on page 34

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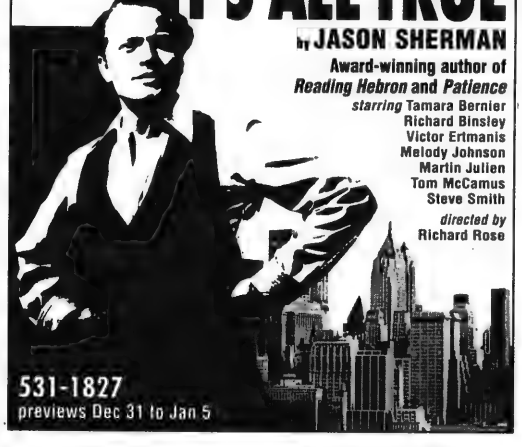

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Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

EVERYTHING'S COMING UP MOSES

The life of Moses, the central prophet of Judaism, contains mysteries wrapped within enigmas. But whereas the current Dreamworks movie *Prince of Egypt* tries to smooth over all the problematic aspects of Moses' life, a new book by **Jonathan Kirsch** blessedly makes no such attempts at reductionism.

Instead, *Moses: A Life* focuses on all the conundrums and contradictions surrounding the time-honored tale of the Jewish exodus from Egypt, as led by the only figure in biblical literature known to have confronted the Almighty face to face.

Why did God send an angel to slay Moses? Why did Michelangelo and other artists portray him with horns coming from his head? Why was Moses forbidden to enter the Promised Land, and where was he buried?

Using midrashic as well as many secular sources, Kirsch presents a multi-faceted exegetical study of Moses for popular consumption. Author of the previous biblical literary work, *The Harlot by the Side of the Road*, Kirsch, no **Harold Bloom** or **Northrup Frye**, offers no truly piercing insights.

He's more of a popularizer, who has integrated information from many sources in order to present an articulate, reasoned, yet at times unsettling view of the reluctant, all-too-human hero of the Exodus. Although fragmented and repetitious, Kirsch's portrait is also frequently intriguing. (Ballantyne Books, $38.50).

* * *

Israeli Films on TV: This week and next, Vision TV is showing two acclaimed Israeli films, both directed by **Eli Cohen** and based on autobiographical novels by actor **Gila Almagor**, who stars in both films.

The Summer of Aviya airs Jan. 7 at 8 p.m. and *Under the Domim Tree* airs Jan. 14 at 8 p.m. Both films have won international awards and previously enjoyed successful commercial runs in North America.

* * *

Book of Job Explored: The theme of suffering, and our efforts to make sense of it, are explored in *The Book of Job*, a two-part special edition of *Man Alive*, airing Jan. 17 and Jan 24 at noon on CBC-TV.

Among those who comment on the Biblical text are **Raymond Scheindlin**, a professor of medieval Hebrew literature at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York; York University scholar **Rachael Turkienicz**, who holds a doctorate in Talmud and midrash literature; and **Schuyler Brown**, an Anglican minister at St. Michael's College, Toronto.

Host **R.H. Thomson** moderates the discussion which is interspersed with readings by actor **Douglas Campbell**. The program also makes use of engravings by **William Blake**.

Gila Almagor [left] stars in *The Summer of Aviya*.

* * *

Art Competition: Chicago's Spertus Museum is sponsoring a juried competition in which artists are asked to create a Torah covering. The winner will receive a $10,000 prize. Deadline is Dec. 31, 1999. For details, contact Spertus Prize Competition, 618 South Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60605. Fax 312-922-3934; e-mail: musm@spertus.edu.

* * *

The Song: Between Stages at the Bloor JCC presents a reading of *The Song*, a new play by **Adam Nashman**. Featuring actors **Alon Nashman** and **Deborah Hay**, *The Song* is inspired by the biblical Song of Songs and is an exploration of love and spirituality.

Jan. 18 at 8 p.m. at 750 Spadina Ave. Toronto. Discussion follows. *The Song* is being prepared for a full production which will run next month at Theatre Passe Muraille's Backspace.

***

Books and Bagels: Also at the Bloor JCC is Books and Bagels, a reading series offering a diversity of current Jewish writing.

Nomi Berger will read from her most recent book *My Brother Peter* in which she chronicles the search for the truth behind her brother's mysterious death. Jan. 10, 11 a.m. Free to members, $8 for non-members. 924-6211.

***

The Jewish Collective: The first ever collective of Jewish students at the Ontario College of Art and Design is presenting its first show of student work.

A broad range of disciplines will be showcased, featuring the work of **Reena Katz**, **Beth Kingston**, **Eliza Kukla**, **Jessica Levman**, **Christian Singer**, **Tobaron Waxman** and **Erin Zimmerman**.

Ontario College of Art and Design, 100 McCaul St., OCAD Atrium. Jan 12 to 16. 9 a.m. to midnight. Admittance free. For more info. call 977-6000 ext. 241.

***

In the Spotlight: Ruth Mather was a young woman of 20 when she answered this classified advertisement in a Toronto newspaper: "Doctor's receptionist, typing experience and references essential. Call Dr. Carlen – RA 6245 for interview."

Wanting a position in the medical field, she applied for the job and was hired in November 1947. She spent the next 44 years working for **Dr. Sidney Arthur Carlen**, the first Jewish physician to practice cardiology in Toronto.

Now retired, Mather recently published *The Doctor's Office*, a fine, warm-hearted memoir of life as a medical receptionist. The book contains many interesting vignettes and highlights the progress of both cardiac and medical care in general in Toronto.

The little hospital

At first, Carlen would refer patients needing hospitalization to Mount Sinai, the "little hospital" at 100 Yorkville Ave. From August 1953 on, his patients went to the "new" Mount Sinai on University Avenue. Mather relates episodes involving both institutions, as well as the former Jewish Old Folks Home on Cecil Street. In the process she mentions numerous Jewish doctors of note.

Mather paints a loving portrait of her employer as a stern and highly ethical practitioner who always gave the best possible treatment to both rich and poor. She writes with understanding and compassion of the doctor's numerous Jewish patients, especially Holocaust survivors.

In the days before OHIP, many patients were delinquent in their accounts, and Mather's tales of several unexpected visits she made to collect overdue payments are well-told and humorous.

Published by Abbeyfield Publishers, *The Doctor's Office: A Secretary's Memoir* is available for $17.95.

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Authors & Poets

The CJN is pleased to announce the third annual Passover Literary Supplement. We therefore invite the authors and poets among our readers to submit their works to us. We are looking only for works of fiction or poetry that explore Jewish themes.

The works must be original and previously unpublished. The fiction cannot be longer than 1,500 words. We must receive your works ***no later than February 26, 1999*** at *The CJN*, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, Ontario M3B 3K4. If you want us to return the submissions, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Otherwise, we will be unable to do so.

The editor.

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Several Israeli classic movies now available on home video

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Israeli videos have always been difficult to obtain in Canada, possibly because of our relatively small market and possibly because of the difficulty in negotiating distribution agreements with Israeli sources.

Whatever the reasons, a new source has opened up recently. Sisu Home Entertainment Inc. in the United States and CHV Communications Inc. in Canada have recently released several Israeli videos. Most are feature films and several are "classics" of Israeli cinema.

Kazablan was a hit stage musical that was made into a film in the early 1970s. Featuring Yehoram Gaon, Israel's leading singer/actor, the movie quickly became a landmark in Israeli film history.

Often described as the Israeli *West Side Story*, *Kazablan's* story is just an excuse for its superb musical score. The film focuses on Kaza, a Moroccan Jew who leads a gang of ruffians through the streets of Jaffa. A war hero, Kaza is a tough guy with a soft heart who just wants a little respect.

Kaza falls in love with a young blond girl whose family comes from Poland. Her parents oppose the match and this sets off the film's main conflict. Kaza gets to sing several beautiful songs, beat up the villain and win the hand of the young lady.

Kazablan is a lovely film, although its clothing and dancing styles are somewhat dated. But it marked an important landmark in Israeli cinema as the first Israeli film to be shot with the American market in mind.

Each scene was shot twice, once in English and once in Hebrew. And one of the songs was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for best song. The video is now available in the Hebrew with English subtitles.

Another excellent film being released on video is *Operation Jonathan*, also starring Yehoram Gaon and also filmed in separate English and Hebrew versions.

Operation Jonathan is considered the best film about the Entebbe rescue. Gaon plays Jonathan (Yonatan) Netanyahu (whose younger brother is now Israel's Prime Minister).

Yoni, as Jonathan was known, was living with his family in the United States when he turned 18, and he returned to Israel to satisfy his military obligation.

He served as a paratrooper and was discharged in early 1967. While waiting to enter Harvard University, the buildup to the Six Day War began. He returned to his unit and was wounded in the battle for the Golan Heights.

After a few years at Harvard, Yoni returned to Israel and enrolled in Hebrew University, but the ongoing conflict during the War of Attrition led him back to full-time military service.

By 1976, he headed one of the IDF's top commando units and when the government decided to attempt a rescue of the Jewish hostages at Entebbe, Uganda, Yoni led the strike force which attacked the terminal building where the hostages were being held.

Almost all the hostages were rescued unharmed, but a Ugandan sniper in the airport control tower managed to shoot Yoni in the back and Yoni died shortly thereafter.

Operation Jonathan is an exciting action film made in cooperation with the Israeli military and government, with some of the real hostages playing themselves.

Four newer features are also being released on video:

Newland is the story of a young girl who survived the Holocaust and arrived in Israel hoping to find the family she lost. She is placed in a temporary refugee camp, and the film depicts the struggles she and her fellow refugees endured during the early years of Israeli statehood.

Over The Ocean is a delightful comedy about an Israeli family in the early 1960's. The father believes he can improve his financial future by moving to Toronto, but the rest of the family opposes the move. Milly Avital, from *Stargate* and *Kissing A Fool*, is cast as the troublesome teenage daughter.

Another film now available is the Israeli comedy *The Battle of the Chairmanship*.

All the films are in Hebrew with English subtitles and can be obtained from local video stores or directly from CHV Communications Inc. at (416) 633-9079.

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE.

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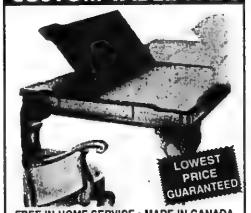

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Lander a multi-talented star

Continued from page 32

1980, Lander starred for two years in the cabaret *I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking It on the Road*.

She later returned to acting and singing in New York, co-starring in the off-Broadway production of *The Baker's Wife* in 1985.

Married to Jovan Vuksanovich, an internationally known billiards instructor, Lander took time off in 1986 after the birth of their son Kalan.

From her home base in Toronto, she continued to collaborate with such Canadian artists as Karen Kain, Bruce Harvey and Toller Cranston.

Later credits include the theme song for the CBS Tom Hanks movie, *Mazes and Monsters*, which she co-wrote with Hardy, as well as songs she created for children's singer Fred Penner.

Her latest ballet composition, *Journey*, which starred Evelyn Hart, prima ballerina of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, was broadcast on Bravo! last fall. The television program has been sold internationally, Lander says.

She is looking forward to her seventh appearance at the Chicago Opera House where she will perform *Diary* with the Hubbard St. Co. in March, she says.

"The first of a quartet of songs in *Diary*, called *To Sarah* is dedicated to my mentor, Sara Udow," Lander notes.

According to the American magazine *After Dark*, "Lander possesses not only the rare quality of singing the very heart of the song, but better yet, the rare talent of singing into the heart of the listener."

RCMP museum, park grounds highlights of Regina

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

REGINA — In their haste to see prime Canadian destinations like Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, tourists, native and foreign, usually overlook Regina, Sask.

I don't blame them. Until a family reunion brought me here in the autumn, I, too, ignored Regina.

Having visited this snug prairie city hemmed in by a virtually endless expanse of monotonously flat wheat fields, I wouldn't exactly describe Regina as a scintillating place.

It clearly lacks Montreal's joie de vivre, Toronto's cosmopolitanism and Vancouver's physical beauty.

So what's left, you may ask?

Two attractions which rightfully deserve the appellation unique – the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) museum, which extols the development of our national police force, and the Wascana Centre, the world's largest urban park.

Found on the sprawling grounds of the RCMP's training academy, the Centennial Museum is one of Saskatchewan's foremost tourist attractions, and admission is free.

Apart from the maple leaf and the loon, the enduring symbol of Canadian nationhood is probably the steadfast, ramrod-stiff Mountie, with his peaked tan cap, scarlet tunic, gold-striped black trousers and high brown boots.

But when the RCMP was created by Parliament in 1873 under the name of the North-West Mounted Police, the Mounties, as I discovered, originally wore a rather prim black and white pillbox hat.

And today, in deference to ethnic sensibilities, Sikh members are permitted to don blue regimental turbans.

I also learned that the original mandate of the force was to eliminate the whiskey trade and establish peace and security on the Western frontier. Among its duties since then has been the battle against organized crime.

The museum, which requires at least 30 minutes of your time, highlights the glamorous and the mundane.

Finding the Mounties dashing, Hollywood studios churned out a skien of films romanticizing their exploits. The movie posters, advertising B-grade films like *Call of the Klondike* and *North-West Trail*, greet you at the entrance. They tend to be on the lurid side.

A medley of visually arresting and melodramatic posters touting the RCMP's lore are located further inside the bowels of the building. *Courage of the North* and *Trail of the Yukon*, among others, are within a hair's breath of a 1935 letter from movie mogul Louis B. Mayer thankful for the force's assistance and advice in the making of *Rose Marie*.

And around a bend from Mayer's missive is a replica under glass of the RCMP's last dog patrol in April 1969.

On a more prosaic level, visitors will bump into a collection of ceremonial uniforms and of firearms and cannons; the handcuffs worn by Metis rebel Louis Riel after his capture and arrest; the dour portraits of RCMP commissioners; the war medals amassed by its men in various overseas wars; and the names of the original members of the North-West Mounted Police.

The Wascana Centre, a green 930-hectare oasis set around an artificial lake, is not only a park, but the seat of the provincial government and a repository of local culture.

Completed in 1912, the legislative building is an architectural masterpiece combining the stylistic touches of English Renaissance with elements of Louis XVI.

The architect was obviously fond of marble. The imposing rotunda, beneath the dome, is constructed of Swedish marble, while the main stairway is fashioned of Canadian marble. Marble from Italy, Vermont, Ireland and Cyprus was used on the walls, the floors and the stately pillars.

In terms of progressive social welfare reform, Saskatchewan's legislature ranks up there with the best of them. Tommy Douglas, the premier from 1944 to 1961, was the first in Canada, and indeed in North America, to introduce medicare, a pension plan and bargaining rights for civil servants.

After you've seen Parliament, you should head for the Diefenbaker homestead, named after Canada's 13th prime minister, John Diefenbaker.

Filled with memorabilia of his life, the homestead is a simple house Diefenbaker helped his father build near Borden, Sask. in 1905. Moved to Regina, it was restored and dedicated in 1967 by Diefenbaker himself.

Also worth visiting is the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, which traces the history and culture of the province's native peoples through 12,000 years.

Film launches season

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

TORONTO — The Toronto Jewish Film Society launches its 21st season Jan. 10 with the local premiere of the controversial docudrama *Don't Touch My Holocaust* by director Asher Tlalim.

This frank discussion of the Holocaust won the 1994 Israeli Best Documentary prize.

"It's a profoundly interesting film," said Jewish Film Society chair Ethel Teitelbaum. "Certain things will displease and excite our audience. It forces people to think."

The film documents different interpretations of the Holocaust that have been presented in plays by the Akko Theatre Company, an Israeli group known for producing works about politics and the Holocaust.

"We [the committee] thought long and hard about showing it," Teitelbaum said.

Dr. Alain Goldschlager of the Holocaust Library at the University of Western Ontario will introduce the film, which will be screened at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Jackman Hall at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

Other films to be presented this year include Lee Grant's *Tell Me A Riddle* (Feb. 14); David Vaisbord's *Mischa* and Joyce Borenstein's *The Colors of My Father* (March 14) and others. To obtain a complete list of screenings call the Bloor Jewish Community Centre at 924-6211.

Teitelbaum said the members of the selection committee are "all film nuts. We all have in our heads a huge storeroom of films we've all seen."

She said films are selected based on different criteria, including whether the audience will be interested in the subject matter and whether the film has any historical value.

Except for the Jan. 10 opening, all screenings take place at 5:15 p.m and 7:45, although the later shows are sold out. Membership tickets cost $45 (for eight screenings) and individual screenings cost $7.50.

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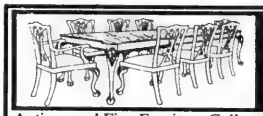
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CJN Purim Art Contest

It's time again for our fifth annual **Purim Art Contest** .

Who can enter: Children in grades 1 to 6 inclusive are eligible. The children of *CJN* employees are not eligible.

Prizes: The judges will choose one drawing from two different students in each grade. These "winning" drawings will be published in *The CJN* on February 25. In addition, each of the 12 children whose drawings have been selected will receive a cheque for $25.

How to enter: You may submit as many drawings as you want. However they should not be too small nor too large. Please paint or draw bright, bold, colorful pictures. You may use markers, crayons, paint or pencils. Please send us your name, address, phone number, age and grade along with your drawings.

You may mail or deliver your drawings to: CJN Community Contests, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ontario M3B 3K4. If you want us to return the pictures to you, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Otherwise, we will be unable to do so.

The contest closes at 5 p.m. on Friday, February 11, 1999. We will undoubtedly receive many wonderful submissions from children all across the country. But only 12 of the drawings will be chosen as the "winners." The judges will base their decisions on a number of factors such as: the use of color, the imaginative quality of the drawing and the way it tells an aspect of the story of Purim. The judges' decisions will be final. The chances of winning depend upon the number and quality of submissions received.

How the Winner will be announced: The children whose pictures are chosen will be notified by telephone before the start of Shabbat on Friday, February 18, 1999.

When the prizes will be awarded: The "winning" pictures will be published in *The CJN* of February 25, 1999. Have fun and good luck.

Any litigation respecting the conduct and awarding of a prize in this contest may be submitted to the Régie des Loteries et courses du Québec.

Business Profile

Cineplex Odeon CEO oversees theatre expansion

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

When Allen Karp sits down to watch a movie in his corporate screening room, he mixes business with pleasure, a luxury few can indulge.

"I enjoy my products," he said, a serene smile creasing his face.

Karp, who usually screens three to four movies a week, is chairman and chief executive officer of the Toronto-based Cineplex Odeon Corporation, Canada's largest film exhibitor.

With Karp at its helm, Cineplex has been in a gung-ho expansionist mode of late.

In a strategic initiative designed to enlarge its franchise and keep the competition trembling, Cineplex is building state-of-the-art multiplexes (theatres with 12 or more screens) and megaplexes (a dozen or less) and expanding and renovating existing theatres.

In the interest of shedding unprofitable properties, Cineplex is also closing a clutch of theatres.

Within five years, he estimates, Cineplex will have about 1,000 screens in six provinces, compared to 800 in 133 locations today.

"It's a growth industry," allowed Karp, a 57-year-old lawyer who joined the company in 1986 and who rose to his present position in May 1998, following a merger with Sony's Loews Theatres Exhibition Group.

The amalgamation created Loews Cineplex Entertainment Corporation, which operates 2,900 screens in more than 450 locations in major North American cities and in Spain, Hungary and Turkey.

As a result of the merger, Cineplex Odeon Corporation became a Canadian subsidiary of the new entity, about one-third of which is controlled by the Bronfman family.

For now, Karp has no plans to expand the chain to Israel. "I'm friends with the two main exhibitors in Israel, and they're extraordinarily aggressive and successful," he explained. "So we have not made a move into Israel, and don't see it happening in the near future."

He paused, adding wistfully, " I have to admit it's a wonderful market."

In North America, growth in the industry is being fueled by massive investments on the part of both exhibitors and motion picture studios.

Theatre chains, including Famous Players, Cineplex's chief competitor, are on building sprees, constructing elegant new theatres, like Toronto's Grande and Silver City, with the most modern amenities and conveniences.

"People are going out to the movies more frequently because of these wonderful theatres," claimed Karp.

The numbers tell the story. In 1997, viewers in the greater Toronto area spent approximately $91 million on tickets at Cineplex outlets. As of November 1998, excluding the Christmas rush, the figure had increased to $101 million.

The momentum is also rooted in the fact that far more movies are being cranked out by Hollywood and independent studios these days. For example, 159 films were released by the big studios in 1996, in comparison to 143 in 1995.

These trends have had a positive effect on Cineplex's bottom line. "We're having a very strong year," said Karp, a slim, compact, casually-attired man who was interviewed last month at his spacious and airy office in mid-town Toronto. "It's been a good year at the movies."

Allan Karp

It hasn't always been so.

In 1995 and again in 1996, Cineplex sustained net losses running into the tens of millions of dollars. As serious as this sounds, consider this: red ink threatened to sink Cineplex altogether in the late 1980s.

"We were certainly a candidate for bankruptcy," conceded Karp.

Cineplex, founded by Toronto entrepreneurs Nat Taylor and his protege, Garth Drabinsky, grew tremendously after its launch in 1979.

As the debts piled up and the return on equity fell, investors grumbled. And when Drabinsky tried to wrest Cineplex from the American entertainment conglomerate MCA, he was ousted unceremoniously, prompting him to establish Livent Inc. (which itself has fallen on hard times).

Karp, whom Drabinsky hired in 1986 as a senior executive vice-president, prefers not to discuss his former boss. "It would be inappropriate for me to comment," he said.

But after Drabinsky's ouster, Karp embarked upon a mammoth cost-cutting campaign to improve cash flow, reduce astronomical debts and satisfy shareholders.

"I shut off all the leaky taps," he said.

In his bid to retrench, Karp cut administrative expenses, ordered layoffs, instituted economies, sold off assets and restructured management.

Yet, after having shaken up Cineplex, Karp quickly realized that the nation-wide recession gripping Canada could destroy all his efforts at consolidating the company.

The recession, combined with the discovery that Cineplex was still vastly under-capitalized, led Karp to the conclusion that he could best stabilize the situation and stimulate growth by finding a compatible partner.

As it happened, he was the right man for the job, having been a specialist in mergers and acquisitions before joining Cineplex. After an arduous search, Cineplex hooked up with Sony's Loews Theatres Exhibition Group, an American firm. By all accounts, the match has benefited both parties.

Before joining Cineplex, Karp – a graduate of the University of Toronto who was called to the Ontario bar in 1966 – practised law with Goodman and Carr. On the side, he lectured on taxation, corporate and commercial law.

Karp's involvement with the motion picture exhibition business took shape in the mid-1970s, when he represented a Canadian client in the purchase of Odeon Theatres from the Rank Organization.

In rapid succession, he was invited to join the board of Canadian Odeon Theatres, then was asked to be Cineplex Odeon's outside corporate counsel.

Karp, who was president and chief executive officer prior to last year's merger, is a movie fan par excellence. His current favorites are two foreign films: *Life is Beautiful*, a dark Italian fable cum-satire on the Holocaust, and *Elizabeth*, a bracing British biopic about a long reigning queen.

In the past, Karp has enjoyed, among others, *Patton*, *The Great Santini* and *Star Wars*. "I like quality pictures," he said.

A member of the board of the Canadian Film Centre, Karp has a special place in his heart for Canadian films.

He is cautiously optimistic that great Canadian movies can be made, though he is fully aware of the difficulties homegrown filmmakers face in finding distribution and marketing support.

Putting his money where his mouth is, Karp makes a point of buying Canadian movies. "My policy is to give every Canadian film from a recognizable distributor proper play."

About six percent of Cineplex's films are Canadian-made, although Karp says they account for less than two percent of the company's revenues.

An avid sailor, skier, golfer and motorcycle rider, Karp is the scion of Polish immigrants. His father, David, was a tailor. His mother, Mollie, was a housewife. They immigrated to Canada in the mid-1920s.

Karp's older brother, Fred, now retired, was chief executive officer of Speedy Muffler King Inc.

Karp's wife, Sharon, a former administrator of the National Council of Jewish Women, volunteers for the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care and the Hospital for Sick Children.

The Karps have three married daughters -- Debra, who's involved with the Toronto Jewish Film Festival; Amy, who's a jewelry designer and manufacturer; and Melanie, who's a job counsellor at the Jewish Vocational Services.

A UJA activist who was formerly chair of the lawyers and entertainment divisions, Karp has led fund-raising drives for the Weizmann Institute and the Hebrew University.

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Diabetic refuses to let illness interfere with lifestyle

Josh Feuer

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — When graduate student Josh Feuer, 24, was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at the age of 12, he refused to let his illness interfere with his active lifestyle.

Heavily involved in sports, the Winnipeg native, now a strapping 6-foot-1, became an expert in fitness and nutrition as a means of "staying healthy," he said.

"I always did a lot of reading on nutrition and personal training. I have always been involved in some sort of physical activity or competitive sport because of my history of diabetes."

Currently pursuing a master's degree in epidemiology at the University of Toronto, and working in research on diabetes for the Ministry of Health, Feuer is also a professionally certified trainer, predominantly based at Epic Fitness. He recently shared some of his expertise on health and fitness with *The CJN*.

Feuer advocates the use of a personal trainer for maintaining motivation and interest in a fitness program: trainers know how to vary routines to keep the workout from becoming boring.

They also ensure safety, and improve the efficiency of the workout, he said. "Personal trainers know how to target problem areas so you can meet your goals a lot faster. You're working harder. You're doing things properly and with proper moderation. A knowledgable trainer will be able to push you just the right amount so that you're getting a safe, effective and efficient workout."

But pushing doesn't suit everyone. Trainers have to be sensitive to the varying needs of individual clients, he said. "Every program is tailor-made. No one has the same ability or the same goals. I have trained people of all ages – from 17 to 60."

Personal training generally includes resistance, aerobics and flexibility training, Feuer explained. "The ratio is different for everybody."

Resistance training using weights is suitable for adults of all ages, and is especially beneficial for women 40 and up who are more at risk for developing osteoporosis, he said.

As they age, their bones become more brittle and less dense, and are more prone to fracture. Resistance training, supplemented by flexibility and aerobic training is one of the most effective ways of increasing bone density, he said.

Resistance training also improves posture by strengthening the back muscles which support the spine, he added.

Working with weights allows a trainer to isolate muscles; for example, the biceps can be strengthened by doing curls with a dumb-bell, while the bench press will benefit the chest and triceps Feuer said.

You are constantly changing the exercise to stimulate the muscle in different ways, he said. "You see gains quickly, but you do reach a plateau. You have to trick the muscles at that point by hitting them in new and different ways."

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. I do a lot of baking but always feel guilty about the amount of oil, butter, shortening and sour cream being used. How can I cut back the fat?

A. There are many great low-fat substitutions. I have tried using many of these as fat replacers. Try using yogurt instead of sour cream, two egg whites instead of one whole egg, applesauce or buttermilk in place of butter or oil. My advice is to try cutting the fat back by half at first and using a replacement for half only. If you find the result is like the original, try cutting back a little more the next time. Sometimes eliminating all the fat just doesn't produce as palatable a product.

Q. I recently bought some olive oil labelled "light," thinking that it was a lower fat variety. My friend tells me it actually is not. Is this a fact?

A. Yes. Most likely the oil that you purchased is 100 percent fat, as all oil is. The light claim probably pertains to either color, weight or taste, not the fat and calories.

Q. I was wondering if you would know where the best place is to store apples. I prefer my apples at room temperature but find that they don't stay fresh as long as when refrigerated.

A. I also prefer my fruit at room temperature. However, your observation is accurate. Apples will last much longer and get soft less quickly when stored in the fridge. I usually purchase small amounts to avoid having the apples spoil.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist, specializing in pediatric and adult nutrition in Toronto. If you have any nutrition questions, send them to The CJN.

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365 CARPENTRY
368 CARPETS
370 CATERING
371 CERAMICS
372 CHUPPAHS
375 CLEANING
377 CLEANING SUPPLIES
379 CLOCKS/WATCHES
380 CLOTHING
385 COMPUTER
386 DANCING
387 DECORATING
390 DRIVING
392 DRY CLEANING/LAUNDRY
394 EDUCATION
395 ELECTRICAL
396 ELECTRONICS
400 ENTERTAINMENT
405 FURNITURE
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430 LANDSCAPING
432 LAWN CARE
433 LEASING
434 LIMOUSINE SERVICES
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465 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
470 RENOVATIONS
475 ROOFING
477 SECOND HAND STORES
478 SCHOOLS
479 SENIORS
480 SECURITY SYSTEMS
481 SEWING
482 SIGNS
483 SKIING
485 SNOW REMOVAL
490 TABLE COVERING
493 TAILORING/ALTERATIONS
495 TILING
498 TRAVEL & TOURISM
500 TUTORING/LESSONS
510 UPHOLSTERY
515 WATERPROOFING
517 WATER TREATMENTS
520 WINDOW COVERINGS
525 WINDOW REPLACEMENT
530 WINDOW CLEANING
548 WORD PROCESSING
550 WORKSHOPS

REAL ESTATE Section

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

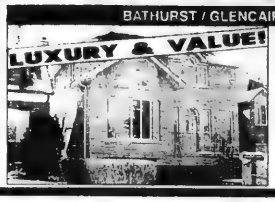
"WE OPEN DOORS FOR YOU"

DAVID EICHORN REALTY LIMITED 787-1712

50% SOLD! CUSTOM HOMES AVAILABLE AT BATHURST & LAWRENCE

Magnificent 4 + 1 bdrms., 4 baths, fin. bsmt. (in-law suite), cornice mouldings, marble fireplace, oak plank hardwood floors, rear deck, Jacuzzi, interlock driveway +++, only $489,000 (incl. GST). Model homes available for viewing now. **DON'T MISS OUT!** Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712

BATHURST / GLENCAIRN



Custom-built luxury home! 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, family room, granite hallway, dream maple kitchen, fireplace, library. **ACT NOW** — only $618,000! Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712

CORTLEIGH BLVD. — COUNTRY IN THE CITY!
Spacious 5 bedroom family home, most prestigious location, surrounded by multi-million dollar homes, asking $1.25 mil. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / CLARK — THORNHILL – REDUCED FOR QUICK SALE!
Detached 2 storey, 3 + 1 bedrooms, family room / fireplace, premium oversized lot, gorgeous landscaping, finished basement, close to BAYT Shul, only $279,900. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / GLENCAIRN — SPACIOUS NEW LISTING!
4 + 1 bdrms., main flr. fam. room, sep. entry to in-law suite, close to TTC, shops, schools, $399,500. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

CLANTON PARK – SPACIOUS 3 + 1 BDRM. BUNGALOW!
Huge family room addition at rear, 50 x 150 ft. lot, quiet street, only $279,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — SPACIOUS RANCH BUNGALOW!
California-style, 2,700 sq. ft. (approx.), 4 bdrms., oversize family room, 69 x 120 ft. lot, eat-in kitchen, only $349,000. **ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

INVESTMENT NEAR BATHURST / BLOOR
Store + apt. near Bathurst & Bloor. Fabulous existing rental at $3,100 per month. Excellent location near Christie subway station. Asking $499,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712

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Real Estate Inc. Realtor
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List with us and appear on our Website: www.foresthill.ca

CENTRAL PROPERTIES

SPADINA RD./ST. CLAIR $1,399,000
Magnificent Brownstone 3,650 sq. ft., outstanding materials. Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

LYNDHURST - FABULOUS OVER 4,000 SQ. FT.
Only 3 years old, has everything. Cathy Eu* 488-2875

AVENUE RD./ST. CLAIR $899,000
Extraordinary condo res. Cobblestone landscaping. Only 3 units left. Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

BLDRS.! 2+4 CARIBOU ROAD! WOW!
Otter Cres. area! Side by side 60 x 152' + 50 x 100' lots! $599,950 + $435,000! Don't miss! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

JUST LISTED! PRIME UPPER VILLAGE
Immaculate 4 bdrm. home, 2 storey addition, 55 x 125' lot, in-ground pool. Many upgrades. Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

BLDRS.! 26+38+40+48 HOUNSLOW AVE!
Start assembling! 49+50+51+60 foot lots! Fab. Yonge S/Finch local! Walk to subway! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

43 ALEXANDRA WOOD! NOW $549,000!
Dare to compare! Fab. 106 x 71' treed lot w/reno. 3+1 bdrm., 2 bath, mn. fam. rm.++ Call Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

144 GOULDING AVENUE! $377,700!
Yonge N/Finch reno. 4+2 bdrm., 4 bath, sep. nanny ste.! Fab. 50 x 132'! Quick closing! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

229 BURNETT AVENUE! NOW $249,000!
Yonge/Sheppard! Reno. 2+1 bdrm., 2 bath, cac, dble. grge.! Gorgeous 44 x 117'! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

247 CARMICHAEL AVENUE! $239,900! SOLD
Bathurst/Wilson! Reno. 2+1 bdrm., 2 bath, nanny ste.! Gorgeous 40 x 115'! Move right in! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

CEDARVALE - FOR LEASE
Renovated 3 bdrm., 2 storey, fin. bsmt., cac. Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

BAYVIEW PROPERTIES

1ST ADI 238 MOUNTAIN AVE! $578,800! SOLD
Bayview/Sheppard custom built 4+1 bdrm., 5 bath, mn. fam.! Nanny ste.! Stunning! Walk to Shul! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

LESLIE/STEELES 4 LEV. BACKSPLIT
3 bdrm. + 1 fam. rm. Pool, dble. gar. Must see! Must sell! Ruth Bass* 226-1987

NORTH PROPERTIES

OLD THORNHILL VILLAGE RAVINE LOT
70 x 305 heritage look modern home inside with top of line finishes throughout!!! Mark Cowan* 226-1987

CONDOMINIUMS

10 TICHESTER #206 SEE IT NOW!!
2 bdrm., 2 sol. Model suite! Upgrades. Julie Gofman* 488-2875

BAYVIEW/GREENLANE $179,900
Luxurious 2 bdrm. condo + solarium. Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

LOWER VILLAGE ELEGANT 1 BEDROOM
A short walk to Spadina on Lonsdale, hardwood floors, fireplace, bay windows+++ $156,500. Mark Cowan* 226-1987.

** Associate Broker * Sales Representative

SEIDMAN
REAL ESTATE LIMITED REALTOR
633-7373

WILMINGTON OVERBROOK
Spac. 4 bdrm. bung., mod. kit., L-shape liv. & din., stained hdwd. flrs., fin. bsmnt., dble. drive, gar., move-in cond., A-1 buy & location.

SHEPPARD WILSON HEIGHTS
Estate sale, 3 bdrms., 2 baths, 2 kits., fin. bsmnt., lge. lot, steps to all.

BATHURST LAWRENCE
8-plex, 6 - 2 bdrms. + 2 - 1 bdrms., balcs., garages + pkg., fully rented, good income, don't miss!

WILMINGTON FINCH
Split lvl., 3 bdrms., 3 baths, fam. rm., rec. rm., dble. gar., near plaza, schools & TTC.

BATHURST WILSON CONDO
3 bdrms., 2 baths., mod. kit., bth. & lndry. ens., 5 appls., fast poss., don't miss!

A. & D. SEIDMAN 633-7373

10 HOUSES FOR SALE PRIVATE

Avenue/Bathurst - Westgate access, 4 bdrm., quiet crt., 2 car gar. Full bsmnt. w/walk-out. Lge. kit., liv. rm., din. rm. Ravine. $499K. By appt. 237 Sandringham. Rochelle, 398-3997.

Bathurst/Clark, 3+1 bdrms, 4 baths, fin. bsmnt, 5 appl, alarm, most new windows. $264,900. 416-665-2695.

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Clanton Park area, lge., 4 bdr., newly reno'd. 905-660-1919.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

Bathurst/Steeles - Primrose $182,900 lux., 2 bdr., solarium (3rd bdr.), 2 bth., in ste. lau. + stor., 24 hr. gate sec., tennis courts, pool, gym, etc. Leave message at 739-0105. (Short term rental considered, $1595.)

80 ANTIBES DRIVE 3 bdrms., 2 baths, all appliances, high floor, immediately! Call **Saul Goldkind,** Sutton Group Admiral Realty, 416-739-7200.

COLDWELL BANKER — GOLDEN KEY REALTY LTD. 352 SHEPPARD AVE EAST WILLOWDALE, ONT. M2N 3B4

WILFRED HORWICH Sales Representative (416) 250-9000

LAWRENCE/GLENRUSH $375,000
Detached 1,750 sq. ft. bungalow, with dbl. gar. Ready for redevelopment. Original 1950 condition.

CLARK/HILDA $319,900
Detached 2,450 sq. ft. Former Model Home with loads of extras.

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

100 Antibes - 3 bdrm., 2 bth., formal din. rm., fam. rm., liv. rm., eat-in kit., 6 appl., 3 car gar., high flr. 705-484-1539.

Bath./Clark - lge. 2 bdrm., 2 bth., balc., 5 appl., facilities, sec., Jan. 15. 905-886-6460.

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT

Miami, Hallandale - 1 bdrm., 1 1/2 bths., ocean view, $1500/mo. U.S. 416-638-7257.

75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

APARTMENTS AVAILABLE

3636 BATHURST ST. - THE EMPRESS

1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments available. Large bedrooms, Sabbath elevator, indoor pool. From $1,100/mo. Hydro included.

Call 416-663-8662

BATHURST-SHEPPARD
Very lg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrms., ample closets, some 1½ baths & 2 balc., roof, laundry, ravine setting, pool, ind. pkg., 6 apts. per flr. From $900.
960-3238 - Bus.
631-9377 or 631-0388 - Super

Bath./Wilson - 3B, 2 bth., new kit., sep. din. rm., A/C, pkg., lau., $1275/mo+. 416-322-8040

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

Miami Bch., apt. on ocean, ocean view, fully equipped kit., shul on premises, sec., restaurant, pool. Cheny 305-595-6477

Southbeach, lge. 1 bdrm. 1 1/2 bth., highrise, $1000/mo US. 3 mos. Days 416-429-4200. Eves & wkends, 561-439-5824 collect

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT

HOLLYWOOD BEACH
The Summit
A large selection of seasonal and yearly apartments for *Rent* or *Sale*.
Call Ted Aronsky
JALMARK REALTY
954-925-6500
ext. 24

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT/SALE

ANBER MOVERS
(LOCAL MOVING)
SPECIALIST IN:
TORONTO ↔ VANCOUVER
NEW YORK ↔ FLORIDA
(514) 735-8148
1-800-561-MOVE

140 FLORIDA ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Condo for month of February, Palm Aire or Cyprus Bend, Pompano Beach. 416-223-5018

240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BEAUTIFUL JEWISH RESIDENTIAL SUMMER CAMP IN POCONO MOUNTAINS
Counselors, Unit Heads, Specialists, Swim Instructors/Lifeguards, WSI's for boating program. Interviewing in Toronto January 12 - 13. For appt. call (516) 355-2267

MENORAH NURSERY
is seeking
***ECE Teacher**
FULL OR PART TIME
Call: Helen (416) 638-6910

Orthodox Elementary Day School in Vancouver, Canada seeks teachers and principal. Fax resume in confidence to 604-876-6153.

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Cleaning lady avail. Over 14 yrs. exp in Old Forest Hill. Call Rachel at 905-785-9141.

European cleaning lady seeks job cleaning homes. Refs. Call 416-246-9064.

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

NEED A NANNY?
• No Fee to Employer
APPLE
DOMESTICS
(416) 730-0127

GOLDEN CARE LTD.
There's *no place* like HOME!
Live-in and live-out Caregivers.
Staff training in safety, appropriate behaviour and even Jewish cooking!
On-going contact with you after placement.
LOW RATES WITH THE BEST PERSONAL SERVICE
Honey Hecker
665-1435, 665-4229

Exp. lady avail. to care for seniors. Speaks Polish, Russian, Ukrainian. Refs. 416-503-1582.

Frustrated by trying to find a suitable nanny? Let us help you. We have dependable, caring nannies who are thoroughly qualified, personally interviewed & pre-screened. All refs. are checked. Some are CPR trained. Low finders fee.
Wee Care Placement Agency
416-789-3070

High quality house cleaning. Call Dora, 736-1179.

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Nanny, nice Jewish lady seeks work with a nice Jewish family. Hrs. negot., pref. am. Exper., refs. Call Kati at 416-968-6781.

Spik -N- Span Housekeeping. We do custom house cleaning as low as $55. 416-492-3831.

255 DOMESTIC HELP WANTED

Help req'd to babysit/walk dog on Sat's. & Sun's. 636-1808.

257 HEALTHCARE AVAILABLE

Shoshana's Nursing Service. Reasonable rates, 493-2095.

Young lady, HCA, seeks f/t job caring for elderly.905-455-9545.

260 BUSINESS PERSONALS

B"H
SOULMATES WORLDWIDE JEWISH MATCHMAKERS.
Make your parents happy. Tell them you're engaged. Call today. Evelyn at 905-709-3868.
www.soulmates.net

Jewish Singles Registry, over 1680 registered. 483-4151

Rainbow Premier Dating Services of Toronto. Best Gay Dating Service of Canada. Operated by a Gay Jewish Man. (416) 565-0802.
E-Mail: rainbowp@idirect.ca

264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cordi - Domenic (Jay) of Carscadden Road and I-Jean are proud to announce the birth of their son, Domenic James. Little brother to 3 yr. old Katerina and 1 yr. old half sister Hannah.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Are there any decent guys left out there? If you know one or are one, I'd like to hear about it. I'm all the usual things you read about in these ads. I'm 29, blonde and good-looking. I love theatre, movies, cooking, etc., and I'm for real. If you're for real and you're looking for a soul mate, drop me a note. I'm worth a try. CJN Box # 7129.

Early 40's widow w/17 yr. old son, slightly physically challenged would like to find male companionship, 43-48, young Israel, Modern Orthodox background. CJN Box # 7124.

I believe in good natured laughter, sentimental intentions, pillow talk, loyalty, and never-ending soft, warm kisses. If you are a 30-36 yr old exotic beauty - a girl with the sun in her eyes, and the moon in her thoughts - then this handsome, ambitious 41 yr old, with a playful smile, is here for you. 416-410-6558.

Love & laughter awaits the male who enjoys nature, walks, music, family & friends with a slim, pretty, petite, intelligent youthful 57, thoughtful, happy, warm caring lady.CJN box 7134

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

SJM, 31, looking for female companion. I have many interests & enjoyments. Please feel free to reply. CJN Box # 7132.

CLASSIFIED ADS/ SERVICE DIRECTORY ADS
· CUSTOMER SERVICE ·

The CJN requires that advertisers check their advertisement upon publication, as *The CJN* will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion, and there shall be no liability for non-insertion of any advertisement. Liability for errors in advertisements is limited to the amount paid for the space occupying the error. All copy is subject to the approval of the management of *The CJN*. *The CJN* reserves the right to classify all advertisements.

Service Directory & Classified Ad Deadlines are Wednesday, 8 days previous to the issue, by 4 pm.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Replying to a Companion ad with a CJN Box Number?

Address your mail to:

The Canadian Jewish News
1500 Don Mills Rd.
Suite 205
North York, Ontario
M3B 3K4
Box # _____

• CJN Boxes for Personal Companions Wanted ads are valid for 30 (thirty) days only (from 1st publication date). Replies must be received within this time frame in order to be forwarded to the correct CJN Box #.

305 ARTICLES WANTED

I will buy your coins, stamps, gold, silver, diamonds, watches & antiques **for cash. 605-1640**

315 CARS FOR SALE

Turn you old car into renewed hope. Donate your used car to benefit Jewish special education and receive maximum tax credit.Free towing.787-1101

330 OBITUARIES

SLONIM, Vivian Agosin - on Dec. 9, 1998, late of 38 Bernard Ave.

DANIELS, Isaac - on Dec. 10, 1998, late of 100 Canyon Ave., #1003.

ROSEN, Betty - on Dec. 12, 1998, late of 7601 Bathurst St., #907.

MANDELL, Marvin - on Dec. 13, 1998, late of 120 Promenade Circle, #802.

CARSON, Lillian - on Dec. 14, 1998, late of 55 Ameer, #309.

WEISSMANN, Tova - on Dec. 14, 1998, late of 3560 Bathurst St.

CHRIS, Milton - on Dec. 15, 1998, late of 165 Spring Garden, #1201.

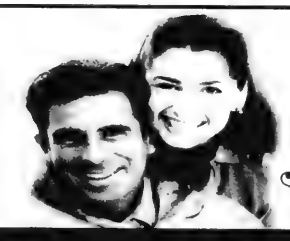
DUNKELMAN, Jean - on Dec. 16, 1998, late of 581 Avenue Rd.,#702.

HELLER, Julia - on Dec. 16, 1998, late of 120 Shelbourne Ave., #1101.

MUNDINGER, Nancy - on Dec. 17, 1998, late of 600 Thornton Rd. N., #206.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED



To **Listen** & **Respond** To Ads **call 1-900-451-4552 *Ext.#* 65**
The cost of the 900# is only $2.49 per minute
To Place Your **FREE** Ad **call 905-276-6167 *Ext.#* 65**

The *Meeting Place*

Brought to you by the Canadian Jewish News

Women seeking Men

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single female, 35, 5'4", brunette, slim, attractive, sensitive, intelligent, romantic, enjoy theater, movies, travel, reading, restaurants, the outdoors, long walks by the ocean Seeking a male, 33-43, intelligent, sensitive, handsome, financially secure, employed, professional, good communicator, romantic AD#1758

NO GAMES PLEASE
Single female, 31, 5'8", blue-green eyes, dark hair, professional,no baggage, outgoing, fun to be with, have a zest for life, and a love for learning Seeking a male, who enjoys theater, dining out, travelling, with traditional Jewish values AD#1751

LET'S HAVE COFFEE
Single female, Hungarian background, attractive, slim, variety of interests. Seeking a male, 56+, who enjoys music, art, movies, and Chicken Poprekash. AD#1752

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single female, 49, widow, bubbly, easy going, level headed, down to earth, with traditional Jewish values, keep a nice Jewish home Seeking a male to share her life with, with a good sense of humour, self-employed or employed, down to earth, for long term relationship. AD#1754

INTELLIGENT
Single Jewish female, 35, attractive, petite, fit, easy going, enjoy hiking, camping, canoeing, movies, good conversation, museums seeking an attractive male, with a great sense of humour, intelligent, who enjoys outdoor activities. AD#1759

Questions ???
416-236-6644

BEAUTIFUL BROWN EYES
Single Jewish female, attractive, brown eyes, shoulder length brown hair, youthful looking, 5'5", single mom of 1 teenage son. Seeking a single Jewish male, traditional values, established, fit, kind, sincere, tall, professional, with a zest for life AD#1765

FABULOUS 40'S
Single Jewish female, late 40's, widow, funny, warm, passionate, down to earth, enjoy long conversations, walking in the rain, dancing the night away, movies, theater, dining in and out Seeking a Jewish male, capable, down to earth, active, sensual, sincere AD#1766

LET'S HAVE COFFEE
Single female, 50, attractive, 5'2", blond hair, professional, active, enjoy the theater, travelling, reading Seeking a male, kind, & well established AD#1865

BOTMITZFAED
Single female, 48, 2 kids & 2 cats, non-smoker, enjoy the outdoors, jazz, the arts. Seeking a male, 46-54, non-smoker, honest, health oriented, with a heart and brains, and saychel, for an understanding and caring relationship. AD#1768

PETITE LADY
Single petite female, slim, attractive, 5'2", brunette, enjoy dining, dancing, & movies. Seeking a male, over 5'6", honest, sincere, outgoing, 62-66 years old. AD#1737

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single Jewish female, early 50's, 5', 140lbs, enjoy dining & dancing, quiet times, art, music, family & friends Seeking a male, 50-60, with similar interests and values AD#1746

STRONG VALUES
Single female, attractive, funny, 29, in the Education field Seeking a warm, intelligent, fun, educated, Jewish male, who has a love of Israel and a good sense of humour. AD#1736

UNIVERSITY EDUCATED
Divorced female, 51, youthful, attractive, warm, non-smoker, university educated, enjoy theater, movies, literature, quiet times, fun. Seeking an intelligent male, kind, sensitive, honest, with a good sense of humour AD#1738

THOUGHTFUL
Single Jewish female, early 60's, down to earth, light smoker. Seeking a male, outgoing, caring and thoughtful. AD#1801

DEFINITELY THE BEST
Single Jewish female, attractive, youthful, 5'5", shoulder length brown hair & eyes, kind, sincere, lots of fun to be with, non-smoker. Seeking a Jewish male, 6', handsome, kind, established, who loves life AD#1745

WANTED: SINCERE & HONEST
Single Jewish female, non-smoker, good conversationalist, enjoy laughter & movies Seeking a professional, Jewish male, 38-45, who enjoys life, is active, and has a great sense of humour AD#1721

SINGLE MOM
Single mom of 1 teenage son, outgoing, loving, caring, professional, attractive, 49, intelligent, educated, non-smoker, enjoy the theater, movies, dining & dancing Seeking a male, 49-58, height and weight not important, loving, caring, educated with a love of children. AD#1775

RELAXED
Single Jewish female, 39, professional, warm, sincere, with a good sense of humour, non-smoker, like to have fun. Seeking a Jewish male, 47-60, with a good sense of humour, relaxed and likes to have fun. AD#1731

BIG, BOLD & BEAUTIFUL
Single Jewish female, 40+, professional, optimistic, educated, vibrant, fit, attractive, full figured, big, bold, and beautiful, good sense of humour. Seeking a male, secure, kind, willing to take risks, & live, laugh and love, who enjoys the company of a good woman. AD#1732

Men seeking Women

OLD FASHIONED
Single male, mid 30's, old fashioned, sensitive, stubborn, romantic, enjoy cuddling, outdoor activities, movies, camping. Seeking a female, 30-35, with similar interests AD#1762

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single Jewish male, 36, 5'7", professional, traditional values, warm, fit, and fun Seeking a Jewish female, late 20's to mid 30's, down to earth, creative, spontaneous, well grounded, with a good sense of humour AD#1771

LET'S GO FOR COFFEE
Single Jewish male, 32, professional, 180lbs, self employed, own his own business, fit, enjoy all aspects of life, movies, dining and dancing, travelling, working out, motor cycling. Seeking a Jewish female, very down to earth, non-smoker, strong morals and values, clean and neat AD#1774

LET'S CONNECT
Single male, 19, seeking a female, tall, slim, loving & caring for a meaningful relationship AD#1814

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, early 50's, down to earth, tall, slim, caring, easy going, professional, enjoy movies & quiet times. Seeking a Jewish female, 39-49, warm, sensitive, and health conscious. AD#1718

EASY TO LOOK AT
Single white male, young looking, late 50's, blue eyes, brown hair, medium built, financially secure, down to earth, great sense of humour, enjoy the outdoors. Seeking an attractive female, caring down to earth, trim figure, of any age AD#1720

GOOD CONVERSATIONALIST
Single Jewish male, 6', slim, attractive, brown hair, blue-green eyes, have a B.A., enjoy cooking, travelling, movies, dining out. Seeking a Jewish female, 30-34, who is well read. AD#1730

LIKES LAUGHS & OUTDOORS
Divorced Jewish male, 29, brown hair, blue eyes, professional, enjoy outdoor activities. Seeking a female with good sense of humour, caring, & kind. AD#1787

CALL ME
Single male, 32, professional, fit, enjoy motor cycles, travelling, moves, working out, life. Seeking an attractive female, down to earth, fit, who also has a zest for life. AD#1733

COMPANIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 55, professional. Seeking a non-smoking, Jewish female, 50-60, with traditional values, who enjoys the theater, dancing & dining AD#1710

SEEKING NICE LADY
Single male, 18, enjoy movies, dancing. Seeking a single female with similar interests. AD#1670

TIME WAITS FOR NO ONE
Single male, 45, conservative looking, enjoy country drives, art auctions, have a business degree, stock market investor and analyzer. Seeking a lady, no need to be slim, for serious relationship. AD#1681

ROMANTIC AND CARING
Single white male, 56, self-employed, businessman, enjoy movies, music, travel, good conversation, quiet times. Seeking a female, compassionate, loving, attractive, sensitive, to be his special lady AD#1784

ACTIVE JUNIOR SENIOR
Single male, mid 60's, 5'6", non-smoker, Anglo-Jewish background, enjoy music, theater, outdoors, travel, public affairs. Seeking a semi-dependent, warm, educated, outgoing, caring lady, 50+. AD#1690

MY KIDS TAUGHT ME WELL
Single male, 40, ready to get into life again. Seeking a special lady to share life with. AD#1779

DON'T MISS OUT
Youthful Jewish senior, 65+, semi-retired, 5'7", 180lbs, blue eyes, thoughtful, sincere, reliable, romantic, affectionate, humorous. Seeking a special lady to share love, understanding, and friendship, 50-64 AD#1676

HONEST
Single Jewish male, 39, 5'10", 160lbs, fun, fit, handsome, athletic, financially and emotionally secure, honest, professional, 2 university degrees, blue eyes, light brown hair, enjoy outdoor activities, reading, movies. Seeking a female, fit, attractive, independent, fun loving, with similar values and interests AD#1679

FRIENDSHIP
Single male, 5'7", 180lbs, semi-retired, blue eyes, sincere, thoughtful, easy to talk to, romantic, reliable, dependable, humorous. Seeking an attractive female, 50-64, that is slim, trim in body and mind AD#1653

A NEW BEGINNING
Young looking male, 53, 5'9", 180lbs, professional, successful, healthy, enjoy long walks, good food, dancing, theater, movies. Seeking a female for partnership AD#1654

INTEGRITY
Senior Jewish male, 5'7", 180lbs, presentable, romantic, down to earth, humorous, blue eyes. Seeking a slim, attractive female, 50-64, that is kind, caring to share love, understanding and integrity. AD#1657

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NOBLE, Allan - on Dec. 17, 1998, late of 133 Theodore Pl.
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ATKIN, Ida - on Dec. 18, 1998, late of 7 Townsgate Dr., #1501.
KAPLAN, Sylvia - on Dec. 18, 1998, late of 1 Canyon Ave., #1410.
MARMER, Anna - on Dec. 18, 1998, late of 351 Christie St.
ROSENBAUM, Sydney - on Dec. 18, 1998, late of 10 Tichester Rd., #201.
GREEN, Ivy - on Dec. 19, 1998, late of 351 Christie St.
MENDELSON, Max - on Dec. 20, 1998, late of 35 Cedarcroft Blvd., #1114.
SILVER, Eleanor - on Dec. 20, 1998, late of 2900 Bathurst St., #1102.
GARLAND, Karen - on Dec. 22, 1998, late of 5 Rockingham Crt.
GLAZER, Michael - on Dec. 22, 1998, late of 21 Nomad Cres.
HOFFMAN, Martin - on Dec. 22, 1998, late of 151 Townsgate Dr., #3.
SIMONS, Arleigh - on Dec. 22, 1998, late of 97 Nymark Ave.
FISH, Harry - on Dec. 13, 1998.
FISH, Toby - on Dec. 13, 1998.
FOSTER, Elsie - on Dec. 15, 1998, late of 55 Ameer Ave.
KATZ, Max - on Dec. 16, 1998.
ROTENBERG, Peretz David - on Dec. 17, 1998, late of 12 Goldfinch Crt.
GREENBERG, Sam - on Dec. 17, 1998, late of 1085 Steeles Ave. W.
KORMAN, Sarah - on Dec. 17, 1998, late of 6000 Bathurst St.
DONATH, Klara - on Dec. 20, 1998, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
ISAAC, Louis - on Dec. 21, 1998.
KRAKOVITS, Leslie - on Dec. 21, 1998, late of 56 Timberlane Dr.
SHERMAN, Sarah - on Dec. 21, 1998, late of 138 Cactus Ave.
SHRAGGE, Enid Paula - on Dec. 21, 1998.
WALDMAN, David Solomon - on Dec. 21, 1998, late of 131 Torresdale Ave.
LICHTMAN, Gisela - on Dec. 22, 1998.
PRICE, Sarah - on Dec. 22, 1998.
GRANEK, Guta - on Dec. 23, 1998, late of 76 Bickerton Cres.
LEVIS, Esther - on Dec. 14, 1998, late of 110 Edward St.
JACOBSON, Ruth - on Dec. 15, 1998, late of 7905 Bayview Ave., #1003.
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Israel & the Jewish World

Russian Communist takes aim at 'Zionists'

By LEV KRICHEVSKY
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

MOSCOW — Fanning the already smoldering flames of anti-Semitism in Russia, the leader of Russia's Communist party has declared in a manifesto that the "spread of Zionism" is "one of the reasons for the current catastrophic condition of the country."

But at the same time, Gennady Zyuganov, the leader of Russia's largest party, condemned anti-Semitism, drawing a distinction between Jews and Zionism, which he called "a blood relative of fascism."

The manifesto was released in response to a request from President Boris Yeltsin's administration and the Russian Justice Ministry, which wanted to clarify the Communist party's position on anti-Semitism.

But the document's release has only heightened concern about anti-Semitism in Russia and increased international condemnation.

Indeed, UN Watch, an affiliate of the World Jewish Congress, called on the UN high commissioner for human rights to denounce all members of Russia's Communist party who made anti-Semitic statements.

And Jewish leaders in Russia expressed their outrage at the document, which they said was written in the spirit of the 19th-century canard, *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.

The document is the latest in a series of anti-Semitic developments that have plagued Russia since the economy began to deteriorate sharply earlier this year – along with Yeltsin's health.

Two Communist lawmakers, Albert Makashov and Viktor Ilyukhin, made several anti-Semitic remarks in public; a lawmaker known for her support of Jewish causes was assassinated; and anti-Semitic literature and graffiti appeared in at least two Russian cities.

In a move underlining the seriousness with which the government takes these incidents, Yeltsin's chief of staff convened a meeting of top security and defence officials last week to discuss the situation and the related problem of political extremism.

The manifesto released last week "declares anti-Semitism as the official policy of the Russian Communist party," said Moscow Chief Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt. "No one is going to question anymore what ideology this party represents," he said.

"This is clearly an anti-Semitic position," said Mikhail Chlenov, president of the Va'ad, an umbrella group of Russian Jewish organizations. "Zyuganov has shown the most ugly prejudices of anti-Semitic mythology."

But despite the tone of the document, one Russian newspaper said the distinction made between anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism would likely mean less pressure will be brought by the Yeltsin administration to crack down on the Communist party.

A leading Moscow daily wrote that the Kremlin may not be fully satisfied with the way Zyuganov tried to quell the scandal over anti-Semitism by playing with the words Zionists and Jews. But *Vremya-MN* said that by making the distinction, Zyuganov reduced the possibility of federal authorities placing political and legal pressure on his party.

In the document, Zyuganov said the only difference between Zionism and Nazism is that Hitler attempted to subjugate the world openly, while Zionists, "appearing under the mask of Jewish nationalism, act secretly."

He added that the public attention paid to these remarks by members of his parliamentary faction were attempts on the part of the Russian media to stir up ethnic tensions to divert attention from Russia's current economic problems.

The manifesto did not make specific mention of the anti-Semitic remarks made by Makashov and Ilyukhin. Instead, Zyuganov equivocally referred to "hasty remarks by some Communists that run counter" to the party's position on the national question.

Zyuganov wrote that, according to his party, Jews in Russia have three options: leave the country, live in Russia as members of the Jewish community while considering Russia as their "only motherland," or assimilate into the ethnic Russian population or any other ethnicity living in Russia.

During the years of Soviet rule, authorities often drew the same distinction between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism that Zyuganov made in the manifesto.

From the late 1940s, the Soviet propaganda machine worked hard to spread the myth of a worldwide Zionist plot. The campaign was especially intense after 1967, when the Soviet Union severed diplomatic relations with Israel.

The situation changed in the late 1980s, during the rule of Mikhail Gorbachev. Still, Zionism remains a topic to avoid for many Russian media outlets, and recent opinion surveys showed that the majority of Russians do not have an understanding of Zionism.

"Zyuganov has clearly demonstrated the ignorance of the Communist leadership, which lacks an elementary knowledge of history and politics," said Tankred Golenpolsky, founder of the Jewish weekly newspaper *Evreyskaya Gazeta*.

The manifesto was issued shortly after the Kremlin vowed to crack down on anti-Semitism and political extremism.

Recently, representatives from the Main Military Inspectorate and the Security Council were sent to several Russian regions to check whether Yeltsin's instructions on combating political extremism and ethnic intolerance were being followed.

Serbs want share of Sarajevo Haggadah

By DOUGLAS DAVIS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LONDON — A priceless Jewish artifact has become the object of a tug of war between Bosnian Serbs and Muslims.

The 1995 Dayton Accord ended the civil war that broke out in Bosnia in 1992, but long-simmering ethnic tensions remain, and now they are focused on a Jewish manuscript known as the Sarajevo Haggadah.

Written on bleached calfskin, the Haggadah dates back to the Jewish presence in Spain before the Expulsion in 1492.

Citing the Dayton Accord, which divided Bosnia along ethnic lines, Bosnian Serbs – who make up about one-third of Bosnia's population, but control nearly half of the territory – are seeking a one-third share in the treasure.

While not asking for the Haggadah to be physically dismantled, they are demanding that it be exhibited every third year in Banja Luka, capital of the mini-state carved out for Bosnian Serbs after the war.

The manuscript is currently held in the vault of the National Bank in Sarajevo, the seat of the Bosnian government.

According to the Bosnian Serb argument, the Haggadah should also be displayed every third year in Mostar, the unofficial Bosnian Croat capital.

Jakob Finci, who heads what remains of the Bosnian Jewish community, believes the manuscript should stay where it is, saying the country's Serbian and Croatian populations showed no respect for each other's religious and cultural treasures during the civil war.

The Serbs, he points out, destroyed a 16th-century mosque in Banja Luka, while the Croats blew up the Old Bridge, an Ottoman construction in Mostar. These buildings were considered among Bosnia's leading architectural treasures.

"Now, everybody wants his own museum," said Finci. "The Haggadah is proof of the multi-ethnicity in Bosnia. It is a testament that even in the worst of times, other people's values were not destroyed."

The Haggadah, which was carried by Spanish Jews to Italy after the expulsion of 1492, was subsequently brought by a rabbi to Bosnia, which at the time was a province of the Ottoman Empire.

The rabbi's family passed it down from generation to generation until a descendent sold it in 1894 to the National Museum in Sarajevo.

During World War II, a Nazi general demanded that the Croat and Muslim curators of the museum turn the Haggadah over to him. The curators saved the manuscript by saying they had already given it to another German officer.

They subsequently smuggled the Haggadah from the museum and turned it over to a Muslim preacher, who kept it hidden under the doorstep of a village mosque until the war's end.

The Haggadah was then returned to the National Museum, where it remained until the outbreak of civil war in 1992.

When Bosnian Serbs shelled Sarajevo in that year, the museum's Muslim director, along with members of the Jewish community, braved sniper fire to remove the Haggadah from the museum's vault and store it in its current sanctuary – the National Bank.

After the civil war's end, the Haggadah was not returned to the museum because that structure – which dates back to the Austro-Hungarian Empire – suffered heavy damage during the Bosnian Serb shelling of the city, and has not since been rebuilt.

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Elite gymnasts work through painful injuries

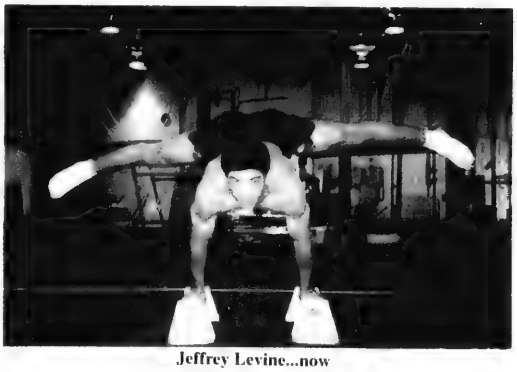
By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — With his ultra-flexible physique, languid movements and balletic posture, you wouldn't think a gymnast like Roy Asaria would sound as tough and hard-nosed as a football lineman. Asaria is the type of gymnast John Madden would like, somebody who can ignore an injury and grind it out.

"I love the pain," Asaria, 16, said recently. "It's part of gymnastics. It's a sport. You've got to work through it."

Asaria was referring to his "crooked spine," the result of a missed landing during one of his exercises, and the wrist tendinitis he suffers from as a result of overworking the joint.

Putting aside the pain, and performing, has been a major ingredient in Asaria's competitive success. Recently, all his training and hard work paid off as he shrugged off a sprained ankle and walked off – make that hobbled off – with a sixth place finish overall in the Elite Canada competition in Burlington, Ont.



Jeffrey Levine...now

Competing against athletes one to three years older than himself, Asaria turned some heads and put himself in good shape for the Canadian Nationals in May. Points garnered at the two events go towards determining the national team.

His teammate and fellow athlete at the Vaughan Gymnastics club, Jeffrey Levine, managed a fourth place finish overall in Burlington, while winning the gold in the rings event.

Both boys have qualified for the Canada Winter Games, which will be held in Corner Brook, Nfld. in February.

At 17, a year older than Asaria, Levine has racked up his share of championships and medals, going back to his debut in the sport at nine, when he won the provincial championship in the Under-12 category. And like Asaria, Levine has had to fight his way through his share of injuries, which he sloughs off as a price that must be paid. Last fall, he broke his foot, and he's suffered torn cartilage in his shoulder and a back injury caused by stress.

The injuries haven't slowed him down much, if his high finishes are any indication.

At the Nationals in Hamilton last year, he finished fifth overall. Later in the year, he travelled to a meet in Vienna and came in second in the 1981 Division, for those boys born that year.

In 1997, Levine managed a third place finish at the Under-17 national championships and in the summer he finished fifth overall at the Maccabiah Games in Israel.

More recently in Burlington, Levine rode a strong showing in his best event, rings, to a fourth-place finish. Unfortunately, his worst event, pommel horse, held him back, though he managed to improve by five points over his showing earlier in the year in Hamilton.

Evaluating his strengths and weaknesses, Levine said he usually does best in rings because "I'm strong. I have good balance and of all the events, rings is the one I have the greatest understanding to get my body to do it."

As for pommel horse, "It's coming along."

Like Levine, Asaria is "very pleased" with his results in Burlington. "It's my first year of junior," he said. "I've never competed with these guys before. I didn't think I'd do as well as I did. I impressed myself."

Though they both attend the gifted students program at Thornhill Secondary School and work out at Vaughan Gymnastics under coach Bob Carisse, they part company when it comes to their best events. Unlike Levine, who would rather cut out his gizzard than go on the pommel horse, Asaria excels at that event. At the Canada Winter Games trials, he finished second in that even and fourth in T-bars.

Both boys devote enormous amounts of time to their sport, usually working out six days a week. And like two peas in a pod, they both say they plan to continue in the sport during their college days. They've set their sights on a gymnastics career that will occupy them to their mid-20s, with perhaps a trip to the Olympics to cap it all.

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Roy Asaria...four years ago

Soccer game anti-Semitism

By RUTH E. GRUBER
Special to The CJN

ROME — The president of Rome's Jewish community is calling on local Jews to react to an outbreak of anti-Semitism that took place during a soccer game recently.

Sandro Di Castro made his pitch following a match between arch-rival teams Roma and Lazio, during which fans displayed banners deriding the other team's fans with anti-Semitic slogans.

"Auschwitz is Your Homeland, the Ovens are Your Homes," read a banner unfurled in the stands by Lazio fans.

Roma fans in turn displayed an anti-Semitic sign that used Nazi and Holocaust imagery.

"We've been fighting against this for years but we don't get anywhere. It's high time to put an end to it," said Vittorio Pavoncello, the Rome Jewish community board member in charge of sports activities.

Occasionally during the past 10 years, soccer fans in several European countries have used racist and anti-Semitic slogans to denigrate their opponents.

The Inside Back

ספרותנו

מאת: יעל זליגר

שברים שלמים מאת: רות בונדי, תוצאת גוונים.

רות בונדי, עיתונאית, חוקרת וביוגרפית העניקה לנו בשברים שלמים דגם מעולה של ספר שמאחוריו אישיות מופלאה.

בעוריה חיה רות בונדי בפראג. היא עברה את אימת השואה, שרדה מחנה ריכוז ועלתה ארצה. לזכותה שלושים שנות עבודת עיתונאות, כתיבת ביוגרפיות, תרגומים, מחקרים בתולדות יהדות ציכיה, כתיבת מדור אישי ידוע ב'דבר השבוע' וכן כתיבת ספר בישול. ("הספר חיניאד שהרווחתי עליו...היה טעם החיים ספר בישול.") על השניה כעיתונאית וחוקרת זכתה רות בונדי במספר פרסים חשובים.

שברים שלמים, ספרה האוטו-ביוגרפי נקרא כדרמה עוצרת נשימה. זהו הסיפור האמיתי, על אנשים ומקומות שהיו ואינם. רגעי סבל רב ידעה רות בונדי, מאבקים ואכזבות אך אין בה טינה וזעם. יש בסיפורה צער, פליאה והרבה חיוך ומעל לכל אין בו חרטה. היא מודרכת בשאיפה לכתוב את האמת וכן היא קבעה לעצמה תאריך יעד: "אסיים את כתיבת המאזן בגיל שבעים." אמרה ועשתה והעניקה לנו נכס לדורות.

בפרק הראשון, מספרת בונדי על פראג האהובה. קרוב לארבעים שנה היא חיה ברמת-גן; במודע ספגה את פראג לא יותר משמונה-עשרה שנה, אך פראג הקסומה חרוטה בנשמתה. אימת השואה הפרידה בחייה של בונדי בין ילדות ונעורים בציכיה, בבית יהודי, בורגני, תרבותי ולבין חייה בישראל. היא כותבת על השואה בקול מאופק ועובדתי ודווקא בשל כך, מחדהד; "ארבעה חזרנו מהשואה... עשרים וחמישה נמחקו בשואה. מבחינה סטטיסטית משפחה בת-מזל. מישהו בכל זאת שרד כדי לספר את סיפורה!"

בונדי מעמיקה בניתוח מחקרה הביוגרפי. בבחירת האישים, בהשקעת שנים של איסוף מידע ולבסוף במלאכת הכתיבה היא בוחנת את אישיותה ואת האני מאמין שלה.

המניע העיקרי לכתיבת תולדות חייו של פנחס רוזן היה הצורך להבהיר לעצמה מדוע נוצחה חציונות ההומניסטית, הסובלנית על-ידי הלאומנות הדתית, הקנאית. הספר על אנצ'ו סרני חיה מבחן של כתיבה ביוגרפית; הכתיבה על יעקב אדלשטיין נבעה מתוך שאיפה לגשר בין הישראלים לקורבנות השואה כיחידים וכתיבת קורות חייו של ד"ר שיבא מתוך דחף להסיט ממסלולה את הרפואה המתרחקת מהחולה ומתייחסת אל המחלה כעיקר.

רות בונדי אוהבת תיאטרון; מה גדול כוחו של התיאטרון היא למדה בגטו טרזין. בזרם הבלתי-פוסק של טרנספורטים, בעיצומם של יסורים אימים, אסירי הגטו היו מוכנים לשלם במזון בעד הזכות ללמוד מחזה. כך גם בצריף הילדים במחנה המשפחות בבירקנאו. "גם שם, כשכולם ידעו על הארובה דרכה ייצאו ביום מן חיימים כולם, נערכו הצגות כ'שלגייה ושבעת הגמדים'."

מלבד התיאטרון, בונדי אוהבת טיולים בטבע, קריאה ושיחות עם ידידים. היא מדברת על חוש ההומור הציכי שהוא "דק, אירוני, לא אכזרי, מהול בחכמת חיים." וזה בדיוק סגנון ההומור שלה; לא סתם תרגמה לעברית את החייל האמיץ שוויייק ליאروסלב האשק.

בונדי תושפת גם תכונות אישיות שאינן מחמיאות, כמו חוסר סובלנותה לעמדה פוליטית נוגדת. היא מספרת על ידיד טוב מפראג שעמו נשלחה לבירקנאו, אך בישראל, כשחזר והציהיר שאריאל שרון הוא המדינאי הישראלי היחיד בעל שיעור קומתו של הנשיא מסריק, היא לא עמדה במבחן הסובלנות והקשר נותק.

יותר מכל היא מחמירה וממעטת בערך עצמה; "אני כמו בונצה שווייג, אבקש רק לחמניה עם חמאה וקץ למלחמות..."

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BROCCOLI & CHERRY TOMATO SALAD

- 4 cups broccoli florettes
- 1 pint basket cherry tomatoes - halved
- 2 tblsp. chopped fresh oregano, or 2 tsp. dried
- 2 tsps. Dijon mustard
- 1 tblsp. olive oil
- 3 tblsp. seasoned rice vinegar

Steam broccoli until just crisp-tender, about 4 minutes. Dip broccoli in ice-water to stop cooking and retain bright green colour. Remove and drain. Transfer to a large bowl and cool. Add tomatoes. Place mustard in a small bowl. Gradually whisk in vinegar, then oil. Mix in oregano.

Add to salad and toss to coat. Season with salt and pepper. Refrigerate until serving. (Serves 6.)

About families

Dear Susan:

My husband has been unfaithful to me several times during our marriage. I have always worried about the impact of this behavior on our daughter, who is 21. Recently, I have noticed her becoming increasingly angry and agitated with her father as the Clinton affair has progressed through the media. Any helpful hints?

Dear Reader:

The American public is divided on how to deal with President Clinton's transgressions. The public seems to be at odds with its elected representatives, and the media is having a field day rehashing every detail and speculating endlessly as to the ultimate outcome.

However, lost in the political and media feeding frenzy is Chelsea, the president's daughter. She is arguably the biggest victim in this national crisis. She leads a public and protected life, and while she may strive for normalcy, her personal struggles will take place in the merciless glare of the public eye.

You wrote of your concern for your own daughter who is roughly the same age as Chelsea. Your daughter may be in the process of developing her own professional career, and she may or may not be in the midst of a serious relationship.

What seems to be clear, however, is that she has little patience for her father, and this lack of patience has been exacerbated by the Clinton affair. You may want to explore what has prompted your daughter's behavior towards her father. Is it his reaction to the Clinton scandal or her growing awareness of her father's sexual improprieties?

It is imperative that you not shut your daughter down by avoiding the issue. If she is angry with her father, she should have the opportunity to express that anger directly to him. Your daughter may also be angry with you for putting up with his behavior for this long.

Prepare for a bumpy ride. Your daughter may feel that her stake in the outcome of this situation has been ignored, and that she has been left to fend for herself. Take heed, and remember that you are still a family, and that you must deal with the situation as a family.

Susan Leventhal is a psychotherapist with 20 years of experience.

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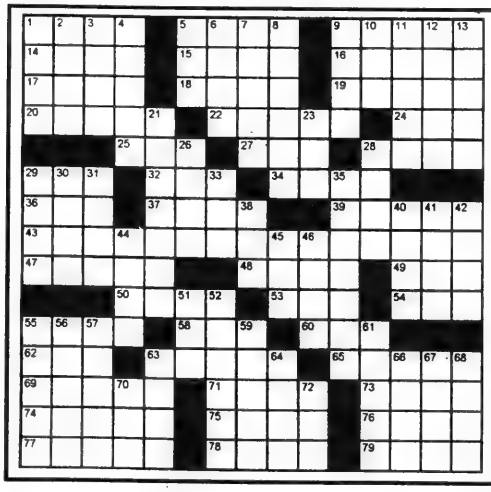

Across

1. Golem matter?
5. Salty sea
9. Yippie Hoffman
14. Biblical garb
15. Machpelah
16. Bubkes (Eng.)
17. Challah maker's equipment
18. Mt. Gilboa flower
19. Bore biblically
20. Jacob's disguise
22. Prayer starts "Hear O"
24. Afula to Degania (dir.)
25. Got ya!!
27. Vase
28. Exodus
29. Platters by Manilow?
32. Exist
34. Awl
36. Sever
37. Naomi at times
39. Torah commentator
43. Eddie Fischer's Ex (2 wds.)
47. NY__, newspaper
48. Royal title
49. Larry Sherry stat
50. "Cheers" star
53. Olympiad Friedman
54. Existed
55. Principles signing city
58. Chagall genre
60. Chaver (Eng.)
62. Moses' aura
63. Sid Caesar specialty
65. Woody Allen
69. Moses' bush
71. Niels Bohr research
73. Richard Tucker specialty
74. Peerce part
75. Seraphim wings?
76. Prepare clothes for funeral
77. Peyes position
78. Monty Hall specialty
79. Galilee and Dead

Down

1. Spelt
2. "__ Story", Segal
3. Cain's victim
4. Budinsky (Yid.)
5. 601
6. Hamantaschen?
7. Son of Aaron
8. Negev
9. Rabbi Silver
10. Bet (Eng.)
11 Lox companion
12. Meshugge
13. Lauder
21. Menorah member
23. Alphabet run
26. PLO member
28. "Martyrology" action
29. Hebrew letter
30. Jewish restaurant
31. Emulate Spitz
33. In front of
35. Talmud
38. Enjoyed gribenes
40. Killed biblically
41. Dance
42. Gershwin and Levin
44. Actor Mostel
45. Old woman
46. Seduce
51. "Water" to Marceau
52. __ Hammer
55. Emulate Abba Eban
56. Israeli city
57. Breaking the ninth?
59. Comedian Fields
61. False witnesses
63. Name on towel
64. Columnist Barrett
66. Life or Knowledge
67. "Gilligan's Island", actress
68. Pointers
70. Lox starters
72. Radioman Allen

This puzzle is the work of Kathi Handler of Waterbury, Connecticut. (This week's answers are on page 34.)

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www.cjnews.com

Cultists worry British authorities

By DOUGLAS DAVIS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LONDON — British police have warned Israeli diplomats based here of a possible attack by members of a Denver-based doomsday cult whose leader is hiding in England.

The cultists may be planning a terror attack disguised as the work of Islamic fundamentalists, police said.

Monte Kim Miller, the leader of the Concerned Christians cult, is believed to have entered Britain on the pretext of conducting research at Oxford University.

Fourteen members of the sect Miller leads returned to Denver over the weekend after they were deported from Israel.

Acting on information provided by the FBI, Israeli officials tracked the cultists for several months before launching raids earlier this month on two of their homes in the Jerusalem area.

The cultists were planning violent actions during the coming year, in order to try to bring about the second coming of Jesus, Israeli officials charged.

The 14 cultists surfaced in Israel after Miller and more than 70 of his followers disappeared from their headquarters in Denver last September.

Some of the disciples are said to have accompanied Miller to Britain, while others are reported to be in Mexico and Greece.

Israel and Britain have been sharing information in an effort to track the movements of the cultists. British officials were alerted to Miller's presence in England after the cult members arrived in Jerusalem.

Miller, a 44-year-old former business executive, has reportedly instructed his followers that he speaks the word of God and that they will die if they do not serve him.

Continued on page 23

STANDOFF IN HEBRON

Israeli soldiers enforce a three day curfew in the Israeli control sector of Hebron. Tensions ran high in the city last week as three Jewish women were shot nearby and as a Palestinian man, brandishing a toy gun, was fatally shot by Israeli soldiers. *[RNS/Reuters photo]*

Pluralism minefield

Yaacov Ne'eman

By AVI MACHLIS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

One year ago, a committee headed by former Israeli finance minister Yaacov Ne'eman was putting the finishing touches on what was billed as a historic compromise over the conversion crisis in Israel.

It aimed to usher in a new era of dialogue between Orthodoxy and the liberal streams of Judaism, and to start a process of reconciliation between Israel and Diaspora Jewry.

Analysis

The compromise was designed to avert the Knesset's adoption of a bill that would codify into law the Orthodox monopoly over conversions to Judaism performed in Israel.

It called for the establishment of an institute in which the three major streams of Judaism would be involved in preparing candidates for conversion, while leaving the actual performance of the conversions under Orthodox control.

But one year later, that compromise appears destined to become no more than a historical footnote.

Although the institute is preparing to open, the compromise proposals were never accepted by Israel's Orthodox Chief Rabbinate. The liberal movements will participate, but without the rabbinate's endorsement, Reform and Conservative leaders in Israel fear graduates of the institute may never have their conversions recognized.

Instead of dialogue, the apparent failure of the Ne'eman committee's compromise has sent both sides in the religious pluralism campaign back to the battlefield – which is now being waged on two fronts.

Continued on page 25

INSIDE

Deporting the Nazis, the last essay by Arnold Fradkin, a key member of the federal government's original special prosecutions unit on war criminals. *Please see page 9.*

U.S. concerned over Israel's Lebanon policy — please see page 23

The News in Brief

CANADA

Meetings With Diplomats

OTTAWA — Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) recently held meetings with the Russian, Jordanian and Turkish ambassadors to Canada. The meeting with Russian ambassador Vitaly Churkin was a follow-up to a letter in which CJC expressed concern over anti-Semitic comments made by a Russian politician. Jordanian envoy Samir Khalifeh and CJC exchanged ideas on Middle East peace prospects, while Congress extended congratulations on the 75th anniversary of the founding of modern Turkey to Turkish ambassador Erhan Ogut.

Pact With Palestinians

OTTAWA — Canada could sign a free trade deal with the Palestinian Authority (PA) as soon as next month, reports said last week. The deal would be separate from the Canada-Israel Free Trade Accord, which came into effect two years ago. Officials with the Canada-Israel Committee are watching developments carefully for signs that a deal with the PA would not confer the status of an independent state.

ISRAEL

Israel Delays Flights

JERUSALEM — Israeli officials last week delayed the departure of two flights from the Palestinian airport in the Gaza Strip. The officials charged that the PA had not lived up to security arrangements for the airport's operation.

Peres Backs Barak

JERUSALEM — Former prime minister Shimon Peres announced he is backing Labor leader Ehud Barak over centrist candidate Amnon Lipkin-Shahak for the prime minister's job. Acknowledging that Shahak could draw votes from Barak in the May 17 vote, Peres said he believed that Barak nonetheless has the best chance of unseating Benjamin Netanyahu. Meanwhile, the latest public opinion polls show Netanyahu would be defeated by Barak if national elections were held last week. The poll, published in the Israeli daily *Ma'ariv*, also showed support slipping for Lipkin-Shahak.

Amir Seeks Move

JERUSALEM — Yitzhak Rabin's assassin has petitioned an Israeli court to move him from solitary confinement and ease other prison conditions. Yigal Amir, who is serving a life sentence for the 1995 assassination of Rabin, also asked that he be moved to a jail with other religious inmates and that he be allowed to meet once a month with his brother.

Egged A 'Monopoly'

JERUSALEM — Israel's Supreme Court has ruled that the Egged bus cooperative is an illegal monopoly. The public transport concern cannot block the entry of private companies into the field, the court said.

Shortwave Service Begins

JERUSALEM — Israel Radio has launched an English-language news program on shortwave radio, in a bid to reach North American audiences. The four-minute broadcast can be heard at 7:30 p.m. eastern time at 7495 kilohertz.

WORLD

Canadians To Be Feted

NEW YORK — Three prominent Canadians will be among 21 North American women to be honored later this month by State of Israel Bonds. Bella Cohen of Montreal, Dr. Cheryl Greenbaum of Hamilton and Karen Morton of Toronto will be honored at a tribute dinner Jan. 24 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Palm Beach, Fla.

Bronfman Fellowships

ALBANY — Applications are being accepted for the 1999 Bronfman Youth Fellowship in Israel. Now in their 13th year, the fellowships offer a chance for 26 students entering Grade 12 in the fall of 1999 to spend five weeks in Israel this summer, where they will take part in seminars, explore Jewish texts and meet with prominent literary and political figures. Applications may be obtained by contacting the Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel, 17 Wilbur St., Albany, N.Y., U.S.A., 12202; phone, 518-465-6575, fax, 518-432-8984 or by e-mail at yfi@bronfman.org.

Castro Visits Shul

HAVANA — Cuban President Fidel Castro visited a Havana synagogue, where he mingled with 200 congregants during Chanukah celebrations last month. Castro spent about two hours in the synagogue and participated in the lighting of Chanukah candles, according to officials of Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), which has been helping the 1,200-member Cuban Jewish community for more than 30 years. Community leader Jose Miller told CJC officials that Castro expressed his admiration for the Jewish people and spoke out against racism.

French Block Monet

PARIS — French authorities are preventing an oil painting by Impressionist Claude Monet from moving to a London exhibit because it is believed to have been looted by the Nazis. Currently on loan to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, *Waterlilies* has been claimed by the descendants of a prominent Jewish art collector in prewar Paris.

Police to Patrol Jewish Institutions

MOSCOW — Russian Jews have worked long and hard to avoid the attention of authorities.

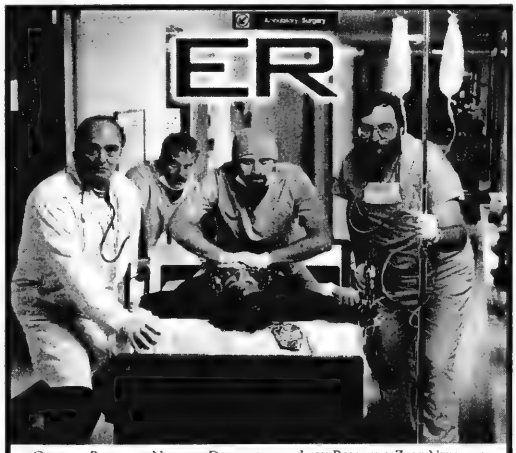
Now they're asking Russian officials for help.

In response to a request from the Russian Jewish Congress, which is alarmed about the rise in anti-Semitism since the country's economy collapsed last year, Russian police will provide special security measures for Jewish institutions in the Moscow area.

Beginning this month, as a result of an order by Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, Jewish institutions in Moscow will be patrolled around the clock by a special police task force. They include all four functioning synagogues in the Russian capital, Jewish schools, Moscow's Jewish theatre and the office of a Jewish weekly newspaper.

According to Luzhkov's office, the mobile police units will also provide security measures for several cemeteries in the Moscow area that have Jewish sections.

Luzhkov has personally experienced the rise in extremist behavior that has hit Russia in the past six months. In December, he was threatened by the leader of the Russian National Unity after he banned a meeting of the group, the country's largest ultranationalist group.



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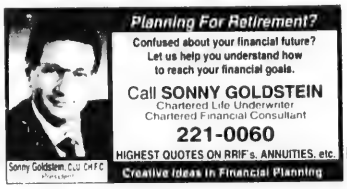
Coast to Coast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Internet provider shuts down racist Web site

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The reappearance of a racist French-language Web site, apparently originating in Quebec as a link to a white supremacist site in the United States, has underscored the difficulty of controlling dissemination of hate propaganda on the Internet.

The site, headed Nationalistes Quebecois Aryens (NQA) and containing anti-Semitic material, was discovered in August by the Toronto-based Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies.

The site's service provider, Montreal-based TotalNet, at that time shut it down, after Wiesenthal Centre director Sol Littman wrote Premier Lucien Bouchard that the NQA was using the Internet to spread "racially hateful material of the vilest kind."

The site calls upon French Quebecers to preserve their culture by not intermarrying or associating with other people. It also makes specific attacks against Jews, including citing purported passages from the Talmud that give Jews licence to treat gentiles as animals.

The site's home page carries a 10-point disclaimer that what follows is not hate propaganda and is lawful in Canada. "This site contains personal opinions...The author is not neo-Nazi and does not encourage genocide or racial wars." It's signed by the initials D.L.

The NQA is not a known organization, and the source of the site is under investigation by the Surete du Quebec. The identification Ressources Patriotiques Euro-Quebecoises also appears on the site.

Last month, the site was found "mirrored" in *14 Words Press*, a white supremacist publication put out by David Lane, who has been in prison for the past 10 years serving a 190-year sentence for his role in the murder of radio talk show host Alan Berg. Berg had used the airwaves to denounce extreme right-wing groups in the United States.

The "14 words" refer to Lane's battle cry: "We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children."

The site propagates what it calls "Wotanism," the "will of the Aryan nation," and calls for the immediate establishment of an exclusively white nation.

The NQA site is no longer accessible through *14 Words*, having disappeared soon after news reports of its existence.

On one page of the NQA site, 35 purported quotes from the Talmud are listed under "the Code of the Jew." They include the passages "The Jews are human beings, but the other nations of the world are not human, but beasts," and "The non-Jew is consequently an animal under human form, and is condemned to serve the Jew night and day."

There are directives that permit Jews to steal from, swindle, enslave, rape and even murder non-Jews with impunity.

Rabbi Reuben Poupko said this represents "a blatantly false understanding of Judaism" and said he found this sort of propaganda especially worrisome because it evokes the "classical" anti-Semitism that led to persecution of Jews over the centuries.

While he does not believe these sentiments are characteristic of Quebec nationalists, Rabbi Poupko does think "there is a fringe of the movement that is xenophobic, racist and anti-Semitic," from which sovereigntists should clearly disassociate.

The site's introduction, headed by a pair of stylized swastikas, warns against the threat of assimilation to white Christian Quebecois "founders," by foreigners. It concludes with "Vive le national-socialisme Quebecois!"

"We hope that the provincial police will be successful in finding the authors of this disturbing and offensive site," said Jeffrey Boro, chair of the community relations committee of Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC).

"We expect that the local Internet service provider will be cooperative in providing whatever information is necessary in getting to the bottom of this material."

The incident has prompted CJC to renew its call for government to find legal avenues to control hate on the World Wide Web, including requiring service providers to adhere to a code of ethics.

"It is our opinion that the government should urge industry

Continued on page 14

CORRECTION

TORONTO — An article in last week's *CJN* on the Bank of Canada's new Web site that enables searches of forgotten accounts listed an incorrect Internet address.

The correct address is:
uebs www.bank-banque-canada.ca

The CJN regrets any inconvenience caused to our readers.

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From the editor's desk

We must resist

As we travel the last little piece of time on the road to the end of this century, we are seeing an increase in troubling behavior, in Israel and in Canada, on the part of some fundamentalist, evangelical and missionary churches.

That behavior of course, is aimed at us: the Jews.

Last week, Israel deported back to the United States 14 members of Concerned Christians, a Denver-based Christian cult. They had been planning to trigger some "catastrophic" event in Jerusalem to set in motion a train of events that would result, as they believe, in the second coming of Jesus.

Fortunately, Israeli security forces had been monitoring the movements of the group for some time. "They planned to carry out violent and extreme acts in the streets of Jerusalem at the end of 1999 to start the process of bringing Jesus back to life," said an Israeli police spokesperson after the group was taken into custody.

According to reports in the media, the al-Aksa mosque on the Temple Mount was one of their intended targets. Hayan Idrisi, a prayer leader at the mosque, accused the group of planning to destroy the mosque. Had the cultists succeeded, one can only imagine the conflagration that might have resulted!

The fear of extremist, religiously motivated Christian-cult violence is so severe in Israel as the year 2000 approaches, that the government has created a special security task force to keep a watchful eye on the situation.

Closer to home, in communities across North America, a different kind of Christian extremism is appearing as we approach 2000.

Missionary activities aimed at converting Jews away from their Judaism have sharply increased.

Last month, during the Chanukah/Christmas period, the Chosen People Ministries, an aggressive, well-funded group of proselytizing Christians, launched a new-look conversion campaign by taking out full page ads in prominent, high circulation newspapers around the continent, among which were the *Globe and Mail* in Toronto and the *New York Times*.

"Is it reasonable to be Jewish and believe in Jesus?" the ad deceitfully asks.

Preceding the ad by some weeks, several different missionary organizations mailed evangelical literature to more than 5,000 rabbis urging their embrace of Christian doctrine. Before that, the *Messianic Times*, a cleverly designed, full-color, missionary newspaper reappeared in the mailboxes of more than 10,000 households in greater Toronto.

Last week, we discovered that the Christian People Ministries had applied to register, as their own trademark, a stylized version of the menorah.

The Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) and B'nai Brith Canada are opposing the group's application. Mark Weintraub, chair of the CJC's national community relations committee described the manoeuvre by the Ministries as "nothing short of scandalous and deceptive."

This latest tactic by the missionaries is yet another shameless assault on truth and on the concept of mutual respect. It is of a piece with the dishonesty that calls a place where Christians pray a synagogue. It is cut from the same craven, fraudulent cloth that wraps Christian teaching into "Bible studies" for young, unsuspecting Jewish children.

Rabbi Michael Skobac, education director of Jews for Judaism, the largest Jewish counter-missionary organization in Canada, reports a dramatic increase in Christian missionary groups in the past 30 years.

Jews for Judaism reports that there are more than 50 such missionary groups in Canada and more than 700 worldwide spending in excess of $225 million to convert Jews. In Toronto, there are more than 40 such groups targeting Jews.

The issue between Jews and missionary Christians is not one of theology. It is not a dispute between different interpretations of canonical text. Rather, it is very simply an issue of the deepest, most profound existential significance for all Jews, namely, the ability of these Christians to allow a world that has *Jews*.

James Parkes, author of the seminal work, *The Conflict of the Church and the Synagogue*, pointedly observed that "the rejection of Christianity by the Jewish people has always troubled the Christian conscience."

Indeed, so troubled has the Christian conscience been, it has seemed at times to have disappeared.

In 1939, the number of Jews throughout the world was approximately 18 million. In 1945, the number of Jews throughout the world was approximately 12 million. In 1999, the number of Jews throughout the world is still approximately 12 million.

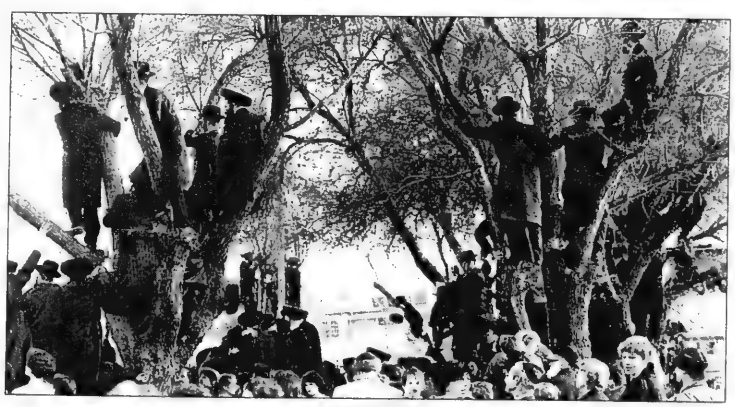
As a community we should therefore be alarmed and angered at the increase in missionary activities.

The aim of all these activities, simply if inelegantly put, is nothing less than the elimination of Jews. To be sure, we are not now talking about the elimination of Jewish human beings. We are talking about the elimination of these human beings as Jews.

This is not merely a semantic difference.

We must resist the missionary efforts. "Resistance" requires knowledge and self-confidence and the determination to fight every deception the deceivers aim at us. *MBD*

SEE JN



A TREETOP VIEW
Everyone was angling for a better view at a Chasidic wedding in Israel. [Motty Levi photo]

Greater Toronto Area

Christian group seeks to trademark menorah

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A "Hebrew-Christian" group says it won't back off from its attempt to register a controversial trademark, despite stiff opposition from Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) and B'nai Brith Canada.

Chosen People Ministries has applied to the Canadian Intellectual Property Office to register a stylized menorah as its official trademark. The group has used the semi-circular menorah as a logo on its stationery and newsletters for years.

But CJC has filed a strongly worded statement of opposition to the application, saying the menorah is a Jewish symbol and that the attempt to adopt it by a group that works "specifically to convert Jews to Christianity" is "scandalous and immoral."

CJC points out that the menorah "has been widely identified and used around the world (including Canada) as a symbol of the Jewish religion," and is also used as Israel's official state emblem.

Congress adds that the menorah is already used as a symbol by a number of Jewish organizations in Canada.

Chosen People Ministries, which maintains a branch operation in

Chosen People Ministries seeks to trademark this menorah.

north Toronto, has been described by Congress and others as one of many groups which target Jews for conversion to evangelical Christianity. Central to its teachings is that it's acceptable, even desirable, for Jews to accept Jesus as the Messiah.

In its application to register the trademark, the group says it provides religious literature and information, and engages in a "ministry and mission to reach both Jewish and non-Jewish people with the gospel of Jesus the Messiah."

Larry Rich, Canadian director of Chosen People Ministries, told *The CJN* that his group "is just trying to get the message out."

He said the group is simply formalizing a logo it has been using, one that's been "an established part of our identity for decades.

"Registering it would give us the freedom to use it in a variety of ways," Rich said, perhaps on T-shirts and coffee mugs. "We don't want to get into a [legal] problem 10 years down the road."

Rich said he understands CJC's concerns.

"We're not out to be troublemakers. We believe that believing in Jesus is a Jewish thing to do. History has camouflaged that for the Jewish people."

Two Toronto lawyers who specialize in intellectual property, spotted the menorah last November in a journal that publishes trademark applications for the public to see.

Anyone can oppose an application for a trademark. The next step is for Chosen People Ministries to respond to CJC's challenge. The matter then goes to the registrar of trademarks for a final decision.

Mark Weintraub, chair of CJC's national community relations committee, said Chosen People Ministries' attempt to "monopolize" the menorah is "nothing short of scandalous and deceptive."

The Canadian arm of B'nai Brith, whose logo for 150 years has been a menorah, also said it will oppose the trademark application.

B'nai Brith Canada president Lawrence Hart said the use of a menorah to "attract unsuspecting Jews to Christianity...is completely unacceptable."

The development came just two weeks after Chosen People Ministries raised the ire of several community organizations with a full-page ad in the *Globe and Mail*, which said it's "reasonable" for Jews to believe in Jesus.

SINGING OUT LOUD

The Leo Baeck Day School Choir recently opened the biennial of the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism. They sang a medley of songs in Hebrew, English and Yiddish and charmed the audience with their spirit and musicality.

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Joseph Sahar stands before his Star of David-emblazoned patient transport van. [Ron Csillag photo]

Jewish transport service will aid bedridden, disabled

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Toronto's first transport service for the Jewish bedridden is off and running.

Joseph Sahar, owner and operator of the Ahavath Achim retirement home, at 31 and 33 Wilmington Ave., has purchased a used ambulance, and turned it into a patient transport service.

The vehicle will be used to pick up and take bedridden and wheelchair-bound people to medical appointments, social events and other functions.

The service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Rules and regulations prevent Sahar from calling the vehicle an ambulance, but it is allowed to rush a client to hospital should an emergency happen during a trip. On board, is emergency equipment, including oxygen.

The $14,000 van has large red Stars of David painted on the side and rear windows. "It's the first Jewish patient transport service in Toronto," says Sahar, who was once a paramedic in his native Israel.

The van will be driven by a registered nurse who speaks Yiddish, Russian, Hebrew, French and Ukrainian. "It will make people who can't speak English more comfortable," adds Sahar, who with his wife Louise, has operated the Ahavath Achim retirement home, with its 34 residents, for the past six years.

Sahar says he wants to hook up with Hatzalah, which is slated to begin an ambulance service in the Orthodox community of Toronto and York Region in the near future.

Sahar will charge a flat rate that he says is a better deal than comparable services.

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CJC helps to reunite psychiatric patients, relatives

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — An attempt by the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) to reunite 1,000 Holocaust survivors in Israeli psychiatric hospitals with their relatives, in Israel or abroad, is beginning to bear fruit.

A total of 300 of these survivors will be transferred from hospitals to hostels, old age homes or other non-psychiatric facilities, Israeli Health Minister Yehoshua Matza announced recently.

"This is a step in the right direction, but we don't intend to stop our efforts," said Jack Silverstone, CJC executive vice-president, from his Montreal office.

Silverstone has written to Shmuel Tsur, administrator general of the hospitals, asking if, in view of their removal from hospitals,the names of the 300 can be released to aid reunification.

Up to now, Israel has maintained that the names of the survivors are confidential under Israeli regulations.

But CJC president Moshe Ronen has advised Israel that a "case by case" release of names does not satisfy the requirements of Diaspora survivor organizations, who want all the names released. Many survivors will not come forward voluntarily until the names are available, these organizations contend.

"Now is the time to attend to any rights of these survivor patients which have been abridged, whether in compensation or otherwise," said Ronen.

The issue has become front page news in Israeli papers.

Matza also announced that a committee of inquiry looking into charges that these patients have not had access to reparations has finished its work and will report to the government.

Ronen believes the problem is not a difficult one for the Israeli government to solve, and that the "veil of secrecy" over the patients should be lifted.

"It will lead to a moral society in Israel if the government does it now," he said.

Concern about how and where the patients will be transferred from the hospitals was expressed by Gustava Weiner of Montreal, who first raised the issue with the CJC .

She said she doubted that there are resources in place to assist in the transfer and relocation of patients who have been held in psychiatric hospitals for 50 years.

But she welcomed an announcement from AMCHA (National Israel Centre for Psychosocial Support of Holocaust Survivors) that the health minister has asked AMCHA to help enhance the quality of life of the 300 patients to be transferred.

New book captures world of city's first Jewish cardiologist

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Ruth Mather, who for 44 years was secretary to Dr. Sidney Carlen, Toronto's first Jewish cardiologist, has written a tribute to his pioneering and sensitive medical practice.

It is an unvarnished and historically accurate account of the Jewish doctors who started their practices in Toronto in the 1930s and 1940s, many of them after serving in World War II.

Mather's book, *The Doctor's Office, A Secretary's Memoir*, (Abbeyfield Publishers, soft cover, $17.95) doesn't avoid the rough spots along the way. It records that when Carlen first started his practice in Toronto before enlisting, he had so few patients that his brother Elmer used to sit in the waiting room when a patient was due to arrive.

Besides paying tribute to Carlen's skills in diagnosing heart problems (there is an excellent seven-page glossary of heart disease terms), the author also writes about the human interest stories of many of his patients, including Holocaust survivors.

She tells about the shrewd but inhumane businessman who rejected a marriage broker-arranged bride from Europe as his second wife because she had had rheumatic fever and could not work.

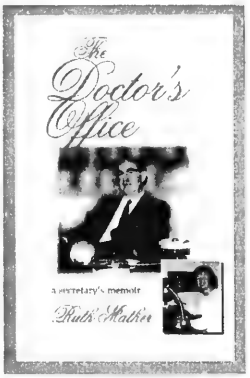
Though the husband denied any responsibility, the woman was given free care by Carlen and looked after by Jewish social workers.

An embittered patient who suffered a major stroke never achieved a reconciliation with his son over a disputed marriage, despite Carlen's efforts to bring the two together before it was too late.

In contrast to these sad tales, however, are the stories she tells about the patients who overcame difficulties and went on to lead healthier lives as a result of Carlen's ministrations.

Many doctors brought their problems to Carlen for consultation, among them Dr. Jules Haber, Dr. Joe Hart, Dr. Gordon Stewart, Dr. Joe Fenton and Dr Dave Axmith.

Carlen, who died in 1991 of heart disease, has two sons in medical



practice in Toronto, Dr. Peter Carlen and Dr. Robert Carlen.

He emerges in the book as a devoted doctor who managed to deal with life's vexing moments, such as the time he made house calls on a patient whose pet chihuahua attacked him more than once, even ruining a pair of his best pants. The doctor did not ask for compensation, and none was ever offered.

Mather was a young secretary at the Ontario Department of Education when she answered an ad for a typist-receptionist.

In the building at 116 College St. (now the site of the Best Institute), at the end of a long walkway from the Parliament Buildings, were the offices of Carlen, Dr. I.R. Smith, Dr. A.A. Appell, Dr. L.J. Harris, Dr. M. Rotstein, Dr. D. Borsook, Dr. D. Bohnen and Dr. L.J. Cole. Mather's starting salary was $100 a month.

After the College Street building was demolished, Carlen moved his office to different locations, where Mather continued to work as his secretary until his death.

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This coalition of regions can't work

Next month, the dreamers of a "united alternative" political movement in Canada will hold an exploratory convention to see if there is sufficient political will among the gathering of the diverse but unhappy regional right-wingers to coalesce into one new political party, presumably with Preston Manning as the head.

Organizers of the convention last week released discussion points for the formation of a "confederal party." As summarized in the *National Post*, the confederal party would be "a regionally driven national movement which could use the Reform as a western base, the Bloc Québécois as a launching pad in Quebec, the Tories in Atlantic Canada, and a united Reform-Tory force in Ontario... [T]he new party would elect one national leader and five deputy leaders responsible for representing Canada's regions and developing distinct regional policies and political organizations."

To be fair, details of the proposal were only sketchy. But as presented thus far, they appear to reach no higher than the lofty language of a business agreement cobbled together out of anger, among disgruntled, disparate departments of a large corporation. The unifying thread that ties one region of representatives to the next seems only to be the desire deep in their aching hearts to topple the incumbent Liberal government of Jean Chrétien.

There appeared to be no vision, nor drawing, nor even an outline, of the shape and the values of the country that these regionally-focused representatives would represent.

More troubling still was the question: Would anyone speak for Canada rather than for the amalgam of the regions?

Under the scheme being proposed by the United Alternative planners, the parts would never equal the sum. The parts would always be greater than the sum. There would be no house built out of widely shared sacrifice, but only a common roof under which the regions would find shelter.

The greatest loyalty would always be to one's own region, to the self-interest, to what was familiar. It would never be to a higher ideal of the wider common good, of the wider, rich diversity, of the wider striving to achieve something national.

The proof of this lies in the fact that members of the Bloc Québécois are also envisioned as flag carriers for the party. As we know, however, the Bloc members have but one allegiance. That allegiance is to the province of Quebec only. Their entire raison d'être is to remove Quebec from Canada and in the process, to remove Canada, in the sense it has always been, from Canadians.

As Michael Bliss, the renowned historian noted, "The idea that the Bloc Québécois would be the Quebec wing [of a United Alternative Party] is absolutely the kiss of death."

Courting politicians who are avowedly separatist into a political party that purports to be Canadian is not a sound strategy. Canadians intent on strengthening the country will not be attracted to vote for a party held together with prominent separatists, because, after all, separatists have no interest in strengthening the country. Their chief political interest is in dismembering the country.

What does it say about the judgment of the conference organizers that they would appeal to Canadians by putting forward a proposal that requires them to share the goals of separatists? What does it say about the proposal's chances of success? We refer again to the observations of Bliss: "If it is reduced to something like this, people might just as well stay home. Our tradition since Confederation has been one of national parties. If our politics becomes nothing but a coalition of regions, frankly I don't think that can work."

We agree with Bliss.

WISDOM OF THE AGES
"I have heard the anguished cries of the children of Israel."
Parshat Va'era

Dry Bones

STRANGE. IT'S THE FIRST DAY'S OF THE LAST YEAR OF THE 20TH CENTURY.
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Survivors included in Conference decisions

D.M. Schonberger's letter (*CJN*, Dec. 24), complaining of the lack of Holocaust survivor participation in the Washington Conference on Holocaust assets is inaccurate. The conference itself, as he must have known, was co-sponsored by the U.S. State Department and the United States Holocaust Museum; its co-chair was the head of the museum, Miles Lerman, a survivor; the keynote address was given by Elie Wiesel, a survivor. Many of the delegates were survivors, and indeed, the leading survivor organizations were all recognized as accredited delegations, equal to each of the 47 governments who attended.

As well, it was these organizations, and not me as Schonberger claims, who sensibly recommended that the final governmental conference on the Holocaust in this century not be devoted solely to assets and compensation, but that it deal, in addition, with Holocaust education and the meaning and significance of the Holocaust in the new millennium.

It was these organizations as well – and not me – who referred to the Holocaust as the ultimate metaphor for evil, not as Schonberger mean-spiritedly and absurdly suggests to "trivialize" the Holocaust, but rather to enhance its uniqueness and to give meaning for generations to come to the murder of six million Jews.

Irving Abella
Member, Canadian delegation

Sulphite patient concerned by meat additive

As an unwitting victim to sulphite sensitivity caused by eating at a salad bar, which resulted in a trip to a hospital emergency department, I am appalled by your report of a conviction of a Toronto meat purveyor for adulterating ground beef to give the false illusion of freshness. (*CJN*, Dec. 24)

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is to be congratulated for their efforts to safeguard the foods that we purchase here in Canada.

Martin G. Wolfish, MD
Toronto

Applauds new production of The Prince of Egypt

When I read Bill Gladstone's review of *The Prince of Egypt* (*CJN*, Dec, 17), I suspected that he had missed the point. And now, after seeing the film, I'm sure of it. Granted, the movie misses some plot twists. But, it would take several hours to work through the entire story. I felt that the writers did a phenomenal job of retelling this emotional tale. More than that, they added a refreshing dimension to it, highlighting the double bind that Moses must have experienced in having to harm and betray the only brother he had ever known.

Furthermore, the film revealed a more sensitive leader, one who was affected not only by the suffering of "his" people, but of all people, Egyptians included. Cecil B. de Mille's version of the story was appropriate for its time. However, in my opinion this 1998 adaptation is far superior.

Jenny Lass
Toronto

Ramadan halt contrasts with Yom Kippur War of 1973

I was very impressed by the number of politicians and media types who were concerned about Muslim sensibilities if the attack on Iraq were to conflict with the holy days of Ramadan. Very commendable.

Yet I couldn't help wondering how many politicians and media types expressed a similar concern over Jewish sensibilities when Israel was attacked by Egypt and Syria on Yom Kippur of 1973, the *holiest* day in the Jewish calendar.

Just wondering out loud.

Sam Pasternack
National Commander
Jewish War Veterans of Canada

Against a self-imposed ghetto

I lost most of my family in the Shoah. If the only way we Jews can escape assimilation is by living in a ghetto again, albeit self-imposed, history has demonstrated that this creates xenophobia and hatred, and is a sure recipe for prejudice and persecution.

Today, we Jews live in a global village and belong to the society of which we are a part. Let us, together with all other peoples, strive to make this world a better place in which all of us can live in understanding and peace, and most importantly welcome the non-Jewish marriage partner into our midst.

Mrs. S. Hodes-Gilbert
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Perspectives

Deporting the Nazis: it may be too late

By ARNOLD FRADKIN

Arnold Fradkin was a key member of the original special prosecutions unit established by the Department of Justice. He died suddenly in his home in Ottawa, Saturday, Jan. 2.

At the beginning of November 1987, a conference marking the 40th anniversary of the Nuremberg War Crimes trials, called Nuremberg 40 years Later: The Struggle Against Injustice in Our Time, was held at McGill University.

Those attending the conference included Allan Ryan, former director of the American Office of Special Investigations; New York District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman, who, as a U.S. congresswoman, drafted the legislation that allowed for the removal of people who were involved in wartime persecution (known as the Holtzman amendment); Ray Hnatyshyn, then attorney general of Canada; and members of the then recently constituted War Crimes Unit of the Canadian Justice Department.

At the conference, Holtzman expressed grave reservations about the process that was being put into place in Canada. She warned that by emphasizing criminal prosecution at such a late date rather than denaturalization and deportation, "Canada may seriously compound the original wrong" (*CJN*, Nov. 12, 1987).

One doesn't have to be a seasoned criminal lawyer to appreciate her warning. If only one of 12 jurors in a criminal case believes there is a reasonable doubt, then there cannot be a conviction. A denaturalization case, however, is tried by a judge alone, and the proof is on the civil standard, which means on the balance of probabilities or a high degree of probability.

I am not saying that convictions cannot be obtained in old cases. If criminal convictions can be obtained for sex offences committed 30 to 50 years ago, then convictions can most certainly be obtained against suspected Nazi war criminals for acts committed during the same time period. It depends upon how well the prosecution is presented before the court and how the trial plays itself out.

But denaturalization proceedings against suspected Nazi war criminals and collaborators in Canada clearly have a much better chance of succeeding than criminal prosecution. That was certainly the experience in the United States.

A few days after the conference, David Matas, senior counsel to B'nai Brith Canada, sent Hnatyshyn a letter, dated Nov. 12, 1987, seeking clarification of the government's intent to utilize the denaturalization and deportation remedy with respect to alleged Nazi war criminals in Canada. A similar letter, dated Nov. 25, 1987, was sent by Sol Littman, Canadian representative of the friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre. Between the dates of their letters and Hnatyshyn's replies in March 1988, the first denaturalization case was instituted against a suspected Nazi war criminal and collaborator in Canada, Jacob Luitjens.

Within its first six months, the War Crimes Unit launched both the Luitjens denaturalization proceeding (in January 1988) and a criminal proceeding simultaneously, thereby following a two-track approach. Eventually, the criminal case was lost at trial and the Crown's appeals were dismissed. The denaturalization case against Luitjens received its successful judgment in October 1991, thereby opening the way for more denaturalization cases.

The attorney general's replies in March 1988 to Matas and Littman occurred *after* the Luitjens case had been launched. In his reply to Matas dated March 14, 1988, he stated: "The Criminal Code was amended to give Canadian courts jurisdiction to try cases of war crimes and crimes against humanity as defined in the legislation. *That does not mean that other available legal remedies are not to be used.*" He added that if citizenship was obtained by fraud, then he could "see no reason why revocation of citizenship proceedings would not be instituted." He sent a similar reply to Littman dated March 9, 1988.

This two-track approach in pursuing suspected Nazi war criminals in Canada was again mentioned by the next attorney general of Canada, Kim Campbell. The May 21, 1992, editorial of *The CJN* reports as follows: "Campbell noted, in replying to a query from MP Robert Kaplan, that the Department of Justice is pursuing a two-track approach to suspected Nazi war criminals – prosecution under the war crimes statute and denaturalization procedures."

The pronouncements were clear. If we couldn't proceed by prosecution in a particular case, then we would try to denaturalize. It was pretty straightforward.

After the first criminal and denaturalization cases were instituted in December 1987 and January 1988, another criminal case was instituted in December 1989 and again in January 1990. However, the charges in these two criminal cases were eventually withdrawn before trial.

Notwithstanding the Luitjens decision, no cases, denaturalization or criminal, were instituted in 1991. In 1992, a criminal case was instituted instead, which never went to trial because the accused was too ill, but no denaturalization cases were instituted. No cases, denaturalization or criminal, were instituted in 1993 or 1994.

Until 1995, Luitjens remained the only denaturalization case in Canada, and until 1998, it was the only successful trial of a Nazi war criminal and/or collaborator since the program began in 1987.

In March 1994, the Supreme Court of Canada delivered its decision in the one criminal case that had gone to trial, that of Imre Finta. The acquittal was upheld.

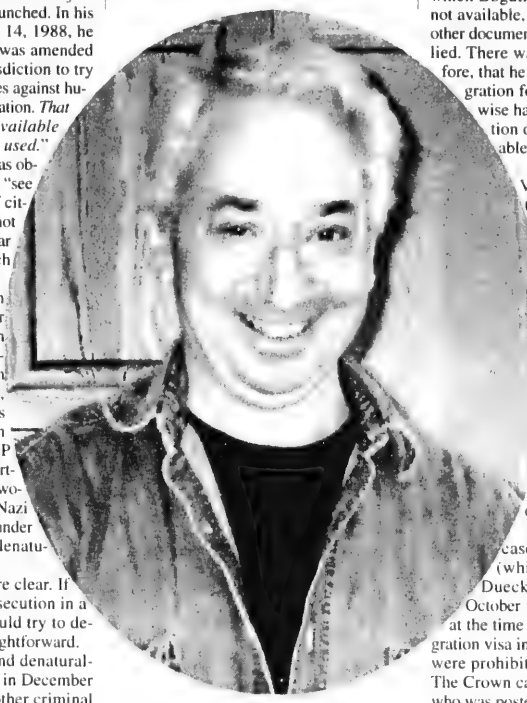
In 1995, three denaturalization and two deportation cases were instituted. To date, there has been only one other successful denaturalization case; it was decided in 1998, seven years after the Luitjens decision. Of the five cases instituted in 1995, three of the accused died before trial.

In 1996, five more cases were instituted. Of these, one was won, the next was lost, one accused voluntarily agreed to give up his citizenship and two are awaiting judgment.

In 1997, four denaturalization cases were instituted. Two are still awaiting trial. One is in trial and one voluntarily relinquished citizenship

In 1998, one deportation case was instituted; it is awaiting trial. No denaturalization cases were instituted.

The pattern which has emerged, therefore, is that beginning in 1997, there was a



Arnold Fradkin 1942–1999

decline in the number of denaturalization cases instituted each year. This might be due to the fact that the security officers who could have given evidence are no longer available.

Since the immigration forms which had been completed by the suspected Nazi war criminals were destroyed, testimony by the security officers who administered those forms and checked the information contained therein is obviously vital to prove a denaturalization case based upon immigration fraud. Swift action in bringing forward denaturalization cases is therefore crucial to success because of the advanced age of the screening officers. If the specific officers who could give this key evidence about the forms are no longer alive or well, then without this testimony and without the actual forms, it is extremely doubtful whether cases could succeed.

We moved quickly in the Luitjens case and were able to prove through a sequential chain of testimony of screening officers the high probability that Luitjens would have been refused admission into Canada had he provided truthful answers to the questions set out in the immigration form about what he did and the organizations he belonged to between 1939 and 1945. Hence the court found that he must have lied and thereby committed immigration fraud.

There have been two further denaturalization decisions since the Luitjens decision of October 1991: one on Wasily Bogutin, who was denaturalized, on Feb. 20, 1998, and the other on Peteris Vitols, who was not, on Sept. 23, 1998.

The Bogutin case was somewhat unique because, although the immigration form which Bogutin would have filled out was not available, there were available several other documents that clearly showed he had lied. There was a strong inference, therefore, that he must have lied on the immigration form, because it would otherwise have contradicted the information on the forms that were available.

This was not the case with Vitols, and the court found that the Crown had not proved that Vitols lied in a material way when he entered Canada. The only security screening officer who testified in the Vitols case about the procedure respecting the forms at the relevant time period stated that in effect, he had applied his own personal discretion in the interpretation of the criteria for admission. There were "too many inferences which have to be drawn on insufficient evidence," said the court.

An interim decision in the case against Johann Dueck (which was recently decided in Dueck's favor) was delivered in October 1998. The Crown alleged that at the time Dueck applied for his immigration visa in or about 1948, collaborators were prohibited from coming to Canada. The Crown called a former RCMP officer who was posted in London in 1951 and had no work experience with respect to security screening of immigrants in 1949. The officer relied upon what he had been told by others was the procedure in 1949. The court noted that it appeared that no security officer who was in function in 1948 or who had direct knowledge of that time is available to testify. It therefore refused to admit the evidence about 1949.

The Vitols and Dueck decisions reflect the difficulty now being faced in trying to make a circumstantial case of immigration fraud for denaturalization purposes so late in the day.

Without the actual immigration forms, testimony by the security screening officers who were actively involved at the time and place where the suspected Nazi war criminal or collaborators applied to enter Canada is critical. But increasing numbers of these officers are dying or becoming too sick to testify. Without them there may not be sufficient evidence to establish the circumstantial chain of proof that the suspected persons lied to immigration authorities.

At this point in time, therefore, not only are the actual immigration forms not available, but now, frequently, the specific officers who dealt with those forms and could testify about them are not available either. The denaturalization proceedings finally reinstituted in 1995 may simply have been too late. We will have to wait and see. Let's hope that is not the case.

Opinions

Israel's election fever

The Israeli election is five months away, and at the outset of such a long election campaign, it is possible to predict only that it is impossible to predict very much.

Shira Herzog in Toronto

However, several factors underlying this early election are easier to analyze, and they reflect significant trends in Israeli politics and society.

Perhaps more than any other election in Israel's history, this one will be about leadership. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has lost the confidence of his cabinet and the Knesset primarily due to a failure of personal credibility. Policy divisions inside the cabinet, especially in the wake of the Wye agreement, play a secondary role. During the campaign, therefore, leadership is likely to be debated more than issues.

Indeed, this is the first election in Israel's history in which the historic divide between the pragmatic "Labor" approach to the territorial question, and the ideological "Herut" approach, has actually been rendered irrelevant. Once Netanyahu, as leader of Likud, redeployed in Hebron and signed the Wye agreement, the great debate that had divided the Zionist movement since its early days was decided. Those who oppose Netanyahu on the right will now form a splinter group. In doing so, they will follow a pattern that was established two decades ago, when Menachem Begin led the withdrawal from Sinai.

Then, the majority supported the compromise for peace and the opponents broke off to establish a small party. Begin's purist opponents on the right formed the Tehiya party, which acted as a strident opposition throughout the autonomy negotiations in the 1980s and the terms of two national unity governments.

Similarly, when Yitzhak Rabin appeared to be considering withdrawal from the Golan in return for peace with Syria, opponents of that potential move broke away from the Labor party and formed the Third Way party.

As a result, in spite of differences in emphasis and nuance, the historic distinctions between Labor and Likud are less significant than ever before. While each party has a committed cadre of voters, for voters in the centre, who represent the swing vote, the key issue is leadership.

Israel's crisis of confidence in the political process takes place against a broader international trend that has been described as a crisis of legitimacy for democracies. The public perceives a weakness in the functioning of traditional parties, and believes that politicians are motivated primarily by self-interest.

In Israel, the new system of direct elections for prime minister, first experimented with in 1996, was originally an attempt to restore confidence in the governance process. In practice, the two-ballot system decimated the two dominant parties and transformed the Knesset into an arena cluttered with interest groups that had become political parties. As a result, the Knesset has lost its ability to serve as a focus of solidarity and accommodation – historically the role of large parties.

Over the last two years, Israelis have seen far more polarization and fragmentation in every public policy debate. The "sectorization" of Israeli politics has exacerbated the disenchantment with existing political structures and institutions, and has unleashed a vague yearning for strong leadership that can "pull it all back together."

In such an atmosphere, the attractiveness of a new "centrist" voice is evident, if perhaps naïve. And in Israel, the cleanest, most attractive candidates for the role of the "political messiah" are traditionally ex-generals. They are non-partisan celebrities (at least until they join or form a party). This is why so many generals are courted by the different parties for top slots. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, former chief of staff, heads the list, but there are others, like Matan Vilnay, Yossi Peled and Yitzhak Mordechai (currently minister of defence in the Netanyahu government).

Along with the vote for early elections, the Knesset passed a bill to revert back to the previous parliamentary system, in which the voter votes with one ballot for a party and its leader. The bill was supported on a bipartisan basis by many Knesset members who have realized the weaknesses of the system they put in place, especially as practised by Netanyahu. While indicative of serious misgivings with the results of the latest experiment in electoral reform, the future of this bill remains uncertain. It only goes into effect for the elections subsequent to those next May, and it may not pass second and third reading in the short time left in the Knesset's current term.

In the meantime, the election of '99 will go ahead with the current system in place, and will see a proliferation of candidates for prime minister. In the old system, most of them would not have been able to qualify. All of them will run a highly personal campaign and will take full advantage of the flawed system that lets them appeal directly to the public. But more on the candidates in future columns.

A never-ending controversy

Readers of this column are by now aware that Germany does not have an official Holocaust memorial, and the structure planned for Berlin has been the subject of endless controversy.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

The recent edition of *The Week in Germany* has the following report:

"During a debate on cultural policy, representatives of the new governing coalition and the parliamentary opposition voiced support for giving the Bundestag the final say on whether a memorial for victims of the Holocaust will be built in Berlin. State minister for cultural affairs Michael Naumann cautioned members against passing judgment on those who have voiced objections to the project. 'There is no one correct form of commemoration,' Naumann reminded the assembly. At issue, he said, is not the importance of the Holocaust as a historical event, but the aesthetic value of a particular monument.

"Born of a private initiative, and nurtured by the city and former chancellor Helmut Kohl, the plan to erect a Holocaust memorial has been the centre of controversy for several years. The design under consideration, proposed by New York architect Peter Eisenman, envisions a series of some 4,000 concrete columns spread over 60,000 square feet between the Brandenburg Gate and Potsdamer Platz. While some public figures have reservations about the design, others have begun to question the value of addressing the story of the Holocaust through a monument.

"Naumann expressed his own reservations during the Bundestag campaign earlier this year. Rather than providing the city with a 'place to lay wreaths,' he has proposed that Berlin house part of the video archive of Holocaust testimony compiled by Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation. Spielberg favors that idea. In an interview with the German magazine *Stern*, he said he envisions a centre offering meditation rooms with video monitors where visitors could call up the stories told by Holocaust survivors.

"Other critics of the memorial have argued that education, not just remembrance, should be the goal. Andreas Nachama, president of the Jewish congregation of Berlin, believes a more active way to remember victims of Nazism would be to establish a school for religious studies. The institute would promote research, not just on Judaism, but also Christian and perhaps Islamic theology, recognizing that all of these biblical traditions were threatened during the Nazi period.

"The memorial's strongest supporters include Helmut Kohl and Ignatz Bubis, chair of the Central Council of Jews in Germany. During his visit to Israel this week, President Roman Herzog also endorsed the project. In accepting an honorary doctorate from the Ben Gurion University, he told students he hoped the Bundestag would be able to agree on a form for the memorial 'that will do justice to the enormity of the crimes and endure as a reminder for future generations."

It appears to me that the longer the controversy lasts, the more loudly will those voices be heard that want no memorial at all. They are not so much the voices of Shoah deniers but of people who say, "Enough already!" The longer the delay, the stronger their appeal.

The challenge of the holidays

The holiday season has come and gone. I am referring to Christmas, New Year's and Chanukah. It is worth reflecting on how Jews react to all three, and indeed how Canadian society has changed its attitude to them.

Morton Weinfeld in Montreal

Christmas is not a Jewish holiday. But I can remember distinctly as a young child having some red Christmas stockings filled with small gifts. But never a tree, unlike the 20 percent of American homes with at least one Jew in them that nowadays do have a tree. I also recall sitting on Santa's knee in Eatons department store in Montreal, cleverly passing as a non-Jew in order to get one of the cheap gifts the store would hand out.

I once attended a late night Christmas Eve mass at St. Joseph's Oratory, though not to celebrate but to gawk. My father, a Holocaust survivor who worked as an office manager, first for the Yiddish paper the *Kenader Adler* and then for the Lubavitch yeshiva, loved singing along with Christmas carols, as much as he did with *zmirot*.

But nothing could change the fact that Christmas would always be alien. And in my own home today, there are no stockings and of course no trees, but rather a heightened celebration of Chanukah. Indeed Chanukah has increased its importance in Jewish religious life far beyond its theological significance, as a direct response to the seductive challenge of Christmas. It has all the important features for a successful Jewish holiday: It is child-centred, with latkes, dreidels, candles and gifts. It celebrates a struggle for freedom, which makes it universally appealing to and easily defended for non-Jews. It comes only once a year, albeit for eight days. It does not involve restrictions or onerous duties. As a result, more Jews in both Canada (87 percent to 77 percent) and the United States (78 percent to 64 percent) claim to light Chanukah candles than to fast on Yom Kippur!

New Year's poses difficult challenges for Jews. It is not religious, but Jews already have their own Rosh Hashanah. I know I will wish other Jews a Happy New Year on occasion, but it never sounds just right. So I try to avoid it, which also makes me feel silly. But Jews attend and host New Year's parties without a thought.

The responses of non-Jews to these holidays have been as interesting as the Jewish responses. Political correctness now reigns, and Christmas is in full retreat. Office parties and holiday cards now resound with the neutral Happy Holidays and Seasons' Greetings, with nary a Merry Christmas to be heard or seen. No one wants to give offense, and everyone wants to be culturally sensitive. Certainly many Christian colleagues go out of their way to wish me a Happy Chanukah. Day care centres and schools now give Chanukah (and in the United States Kwanza) almost equal time with Christmas, lest any Jews or other minorities feel offended.

My dilemma is that I am not anti-religious, or anti-Christian. I feel no antagonism, no slight, when I hear a Merry Christmas directed my way by someone who does not know me, but certainly means well. No one is threatening me with forced conversion. And I make a point of wishing Christian friends and colleagues a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year unless I know they are passionate atheists.

A Jewish colleague once told me some years ago how she took offence at Air Canada staff who would wish her, and all the passengers, a Merry Christmas as they deplaned. I wonder if Air Canada has now cleaned up its act. I would never find that offensive; maybe my skin is not thin enough.

What hurts more is to see how Christians themselves have expunged Christmas, and certainly Christ and his message, from their seasonal vocabulary. This is not surprising. Christians have also abandoned their churches in record numbers in recent decades. Weekly church attendance in Canada declined from 53 percent in 1957 to 23 percent in 1990, and church membership declined from 82 percent to 29 percent in the same period. These rates of decrease are much greater than anything facing Canadian Jewry.

First Christmas and now Chanukah face the danger of over-commercialization and of having the original message of the holidays lost in an avalanche of gifts and hype. The good news is that unlike many of their Christian neighbors, Jews are not yet too inhibited to wish each other Happy Chanukah!

The Kirshner File

Betty Goodwin: Canada's grande dame of art

Betty Goodwin, though commonly considered the grande dame of Canadian art, still seems unaccustomed to the limelight

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

As she submits to yet another interview in connection with her retrospective at the Art Gallery of Ontario, which runs until March 7, one suspects she would rather be at home in her Montreal studio

Asked if she enjoys all the attention lavished upon her, she murmured, "I just go along with it."

Fame, clearly, has not gone to her head.

Single-minded and persistent, Goodwin focuses instead on the future. "I just want to push my work as far as I can," she said, a woman of 75 swathed in fashionable layered clothes and an elegant neck scarf.

Renowned for her drawings, paintings, lithographs, etchings and sculptures, all of which convey a sombre mood and a brittle spirit of mourning, Goodwin is at the top of her form.

"It is impossible to think of the history of the visual arts in Canada in the latter part of this century without recognizing her achievement, so profound has her influence been on other artists, and the general public alike," Matthew Teitelbaum, director of the Art Gallery of Ontario, writes.

A child of Romanian immigrants who did not gain widespread recognition until she hit her 50s, Goodwin has always been open to change and renewal. Virtually self-taught, she began as a painter of conventional still lifes in oil.

"I never felt really pleased with what I was doing," explained Goodwin, whose pieces are represented in all major Canadian public collections, and who was recently named the first recipient of the Harold Town Prize for Drawing, one of many prizes she has won over the years.

In the late 1960s, she broke with the past, breaking free of the stodgy formalism which had been the hallmark of her style. Embarking upon a new path, she produced a series of bold etchings entitled Vests. Making further forays into uncharted territory, she fashioned minimalist sculptural paintings out of canvas tarpaulins, and then whipped up a set of haunting, somewhat eerie drawings of distressed swimmers and disembodied phantom figures floating off into the distance.

Although she does not dwell on it, at least in a brief conversation, Goodwin's sensibility is indubitably a function of Jewish tradition, deeply ingrained grief and barely suppressed outrage at the world's injustices.

Born and raised in Montreal, she is the daughter of Abraham and Clare Roodish, a couple who settled in Montreal by way of the United States.

When she was nine, her father, a tailor and the proprietor of Rochester Vests, a modest garment factory, died suddenly, forcing her mother to take over a struggling business tossed to and fro by the Depression

His death had a profound effect on Goodwin, and as Teitelbaum observes, the Vests series suggests both a memorial to him and an affirmation of future life.

Goodwin, who lived a stone's throw away from the campus of McGill University, attended Montreal High School, where she was an indifferent pupil. "I went through 12 grades without being a great student," she recalled, conveying the impression that she would rather forget that period.

However, she excelled in the visual arts. "I couldn't do anything else better," she said. Encouraged by her mother, Goodwin honed her talents with the help of teachers who came to their home. Goodwin's mother was a budding artist herself, and after she retired, she became a sculptor. "She turned out some very, very nice pieces."

Graduating from high school, she joined Steinberg's, the now-defunct Quebec food store chain, as a graphic and layout artist. "It was an enjoyable job to a point."

In 1945, she married a dashing young man she had met at a dance. She and her husband, Martin, a civil engineer, had a son, Paul, who died under tragic circumstances in 1976 when he was 30. This loss, too, has had a lasting impact on her sensibility.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, Goodwin exhibited at exhibitions, sometimes winning prizes. Her first major show, in 1976, was held at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. Her second solo show, 10 years later, took place in the same venue, as well as at the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Vancouver Art Gallery and the New Museum of Contemporary Art in Manhattan.

As she developed her craft, she briefly studied printmaking with Yves Gaucher at Sir George Williams University (now Concordia University).

Goodwin works out of a converted beverage plant on Colonial Street, off St. Lawrence Blvd, redesigned by Martin Goodwin. The studio is also her home. She has high words of praise for her husband. "He has been incredibly helpful. I wouldn't be where I am without his support. And he's a very good critic."

You don't have to be a critic to realize that Goodwin's oeuvre is driven in part by her Jewish roots. "I come from a long line of Jews, and I'm very happy to be Jewish," she said.

As Teitelbaum observes, the suspended figures in her drawings are evocative of *The Dybbuk*, a story by Shalom Anski drawn from kabbalistic folklore.

Betty Goodwin

In addition, Goodwin has been influenced by German painter Kathe Kollwitz, whose images of the trauma of war helped her better understand the horrors of the Holocaust.

Yet, in her view, the Holocaust is not the only blight on civilization. Citing a litany of disasters which have occurred in the waning decade of this century, she referred to ethnic cleansing in Rwanda and mass famine in Sudan.

Goodwin acknowledges that she expresses her grief through her work. "It helps me cope with the incredible inhumanity in the world, though I don't expect it to change anything. We don't seem to learn a thing on this small planet. Despite technical advances, we have not advanced much. They used machetes to break up people in Rwanda."

She acknowledges that the theme of mourning is deeply embedded in her work, but in Teitelbaum's opinion, it is not confined to a certain time or place. As he puts it: "Mourning has an episodic quality, formed from distinctive memories which cascade without heed to specific chronology."

Her agent in Toronto, Jared Sable, is acutely aware of this quality. "She's an open wound," he told *The Globe and Mail* recently. "She feels everything."

Although she has never visited Israel, and admits that she does not completely understand the intricacies of Israeli politics, Goodwin is flabbergasted by the acrimonious debates raging over the Who is a Jew issue.

"I find it stunning that there is that kind of division in Israel after the Holocaust," she said, criticizing "Jewish fundamentalists" who expect every Jew to conform to all the rituals of Judaism.

She goes further, claiming that organized religion sows divisions under a consistent rubric: "My god is better than your god."

Calling Canada an "amazing, wonderful country," Goodwin is concerned by the spectre of separatism in Quebec. "I want to see a whole Canada," she said, but conceded that she intends to live in Quebec come what may. "I love living in Quebec."

In the meantime, she plans to keep on exploring new frontiers. "I've had a very intense and exhilarating year, and I intend to keep on going until I'm horizontal."

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JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

Problems educators face

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

In Anton Chekhov's moving story, *The Lady with the Lapdog*, a cynical womanizer named Gurov surprises himself by falling in love with Anna Sergeyevna, whom he had first thought would be just another conquest in his life of drift. Both are married and are thus consigned to meeting secretly every few months in a Moscow hotel room.

On the way to one such rendezvous, Gurov ruminates about the paradox that his life has become: "Everything that was important, interesting, essential, everything about which he was sincere and did not deceive himself, everything that made up the quintessence of his life, went on in secret, while everything that was a lie, everything that was merely the husk in which he hid himself to conceal the truth, like his work at the bank, for instance, his discussions at the club... all that happened in the sight of all."

There are times when the Jewish educator may feel as though he is carrying on a clandestine affair with Torah. Unable or afraid to profoundly express the passion he feels for religion, and fearful of scorn or worse, indifference, he is consigned to a discussion of only the most broadly based Jewish topics, with the inevitable descent into politics or gossip that such a compromise entails: Israeli peace agreements, anti-Semitism, interdenominational relations; and the Rodney King-like mantra of Jewish unity (Can't we all just get along?).

But the educator must resist, at all costs, the slide into a religious discourse stripped of passion and even tension, despite the possible discomfort that such passion can often cause others. Occasionally there are individuals who get excited about discussions about God; or are obsessed by issues that are often the stock in trade of religion, such as good and evil (How could Hitler do what he did?). But for the most part, many people in our society do not define themselves as all that interested in religion.

Men in long black coats

They will say – somewhat sheepishly, and at times aggressively – "I'm not a religious person." And what they mean by this is some kind of stereotypical association that they have made between religion and a certain kind of lifestyle or personality.

Judaism conjures up scenes of men in beards and long black coats speaking in a foreign language. Christianity evokes images of Protestant evangelicals "performing" the Gospels in front of rapt audiences, or priests in the confessional dispensing formulaic forgiveness. And Islam, unfortunately, often becomes automatically equated with terrorist activity.

Many of the people I teach, depending on what stage of life they are at, see their path in terms of friendship, romantic ties, family, leisure activities, job, house. The current so-called "revival in spirituality," even though it may be light years away from any organized religion, barely touches them, as though it is news from a different country, one that they have heard of but feel no compulsion to visit.

The temptation, therefore, is to lower the heat, as it were, and just surrender to the lowest common denominator in order to accommodate the public's reticence about religion. Hence talk of belief in God gets supplanted by sermons about the president's fall from grace; difficult questions of religious authority and the compulsory nature of the moral life become seamlessly replaced by an analysis of the Wye accords.

Beware the Jewish educator who pretends to cultural hipness in place of religious challenge and existential engagement. As Kurt Vonnegut Jr. once noted wryly, "We are who we pretend to be, so we had better be very careful who we pretend to be."

The origins of cholent

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Want to keep warm? Then read on. Today we continue looking at the marvelous resources and recipes for cholent on the Jewish Highway.

The source of the word cholent seems to bewilder a lot of people. As with most things cholent, there are fierce disagreements about its origins. Ohr Somayach's *Ask the Rabbi* had a bit of correspondence on the topic **[http://www.virtual.co.il/education/education/ohr/ask/ask070.htm#Q2]**.

They suggest that the name comes from the French chaud lent meaning hot-slow. R. Naftali Falk responded that the word cholent comes from the Hebrew sh'lahn, meaning "that it stayed over-night." This refers to the fact that cholent stays on the fire overnight. Whereupon Shimon Goldstein chimed in that cholent comes from the words Shul end, because in many communities, people didn't have private stoves, so before Shabbat they all put their cholent in the baker's oven. On Shabbat morning after shul finished, everyone went to the baker to pick up their cholent.

Kayla Kuchleffel's CHA-CHA-CHA CHOLENT doesn't offer any recipes.

Rather, she looks at cholent as a social phenomenon **[http://www.countryyossi.com/feb97/kayla.html]**. "It is a known fact that in shuls where the rebbetzin serves cholent every week, there is a 100 percent attendance by men, women and children. Cholent is the glue (or should I say cement) that holds the congregants to their shul."

But who says that cholent is just the rebbetzin's domain, anyway? Rabbi Reuben Poupko of Montreal's Beth Israel Beth Aaron's Congregation discloses the recipe for his "famous" cholent **[http://www.shul.org/cholent.htm]**. But please note the minuscule writing at the bottom of the page: "DISCLAIMER: Making cholent is an art, not a science."

If you love cholent, but aren't crazy about beans, try a Moroccan horisa which uses wheat, onions, paprika, potatoes and NO beans **[http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/1717/Cooking.html]**. Over at Berkeley University, type in the word "cholent" and you'll get five recipes including New Orleans' cholent with cayenne pepper **[http://soar.Berkeley.EDU/recipes/ethnic/jewish/indexall.html]**.

But the bubbe of all cholent lists can be found at the Jewish Food Archives **[http://www.eskimo.com/~jefffree/recipes/choindex.htm]**. At last count, there were over 50 cholent recipes including dafina, hammin, Hungarian sole't and nyana choma. But if you are really daring, why not try out the chocolate cholent or the yogurt curry cholent!

Of course, everyone knows *their* cholent is best. Last year, 131 hopefuls congregated at the Dan Panorama Hotel in Haifa to vie in the first-ever National Cholent Competition **[http://www.shamash.org/jb/bk980213/istrong.htm]**.

There was Moroccan schena, Iraqi tbit, Kurdistan hetteh and Yemeni hammin. But the 30 judges chose Esther Israel's tripolitanian spinach cholent which included chicken, beef, semolina dumplings, stuffed vegetables and spinach, and flavored with garlic, onion and a medley of herbs, including parsley and cilantro.

"I've fulfilled a dream," said Israel, a 39-year-old mother of three. "I've always wanted many people to eat my cooking, because my children don't appreciate it."

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a television producer in Toronto with an interest in the Internet. He can be reached at [mdm@inforamp.net].

Berlin a complex man

Books
Bernard Baskin

***A Life, Isaiah Berlin*, by Michael Ignatieff (Viking Press, $35).**

Isaiah Berlin, British philosopher and historian of ideas who died last year, was a complex, many-sided personality and seminal thinker. Unprepossessing in appearance, he was renowned as a gifted conversationalist, and regarded as charming and intellectually elegant. During his busy lifetime, he was friend and confidant of many of the political and social makers and shakers of the day.

He was born in Latvia, and at 11, he emigrated with his parents to London. Brilliant in his studies, he became the first Jew ever elected to a fellowship at All Souls College, Oxford. He always maintained that the three strands of his life – Russian, English and Jewish – had been braided over time into the single skein of his identity.

Just before the outbreak of World War II, he was dispatched by the British Foreign Office to Washington to report on the attitude of Americans to events in Europe. He took advantage of the opportunity to meet and discuss Jewish issues with such Jewish leaders as Rabbi Stephen Wise; Felix Frankfurter; Herbert Lehmann, governor of New York; and Supreme Court Justice, Louis Brandeis. His impressions of these personalities were candid, insightful – and not always complimentary.

The people he couldn't bear, were apologetic American Jews such as Arthur Krock and Walter Lippmann, the two most famous columnists of their day, who both gave the impression of writhing inwardly at the very fact of being Jews.

Berlin's book on Karl Marx, his profound study of 19th-century Russian thought, his original and forceful ideas – especially on the subject of liberalism and freedom articulated in more than 120 essays – throw a brilliant light on many of the salient political and social issues and concerns of our time.

Michael Ignatieff, Canadian born and educated, is an esteemed author and British television personality. He spent a decade in interviewing Berlin and setting down his ideas in devoted Boswell-like fashion. The resultant biography is polished, sprightly, continually absorbing and gracefully written.

Much in the book concerns Berlin's involvement in Jewish matters. Throughout his life, he was an unswerving supporter of Zionism, chronicling some of its most crucial and least known moments as an inside observer, as well as drawing memorable portraits of some of its central actors.

Through his wide contacts, both formal and informal, he performed many acts of beneficence towards the State of Israel. Its birth against all the historical odds was for him, one of the living refutations of determinist conceptions of history, and to the degree that it remained a secular, democratic state, an unparalleled triumph of free, unrelenting moral effort.

In 1977, a year before his death, he composed a statement imploring Israelis to accept a final partition of the land with the Palestinians. Jerusalem must remain the capital of the Jewish state, but he urged that Muslims have access to the holy places of Jerusalem, and that Palestinians have a right of abode in Jerusalem under international guarantee. The alternative, he warned, was an interminable cycle of terrorist chauvinism on both sides, and savage war.

To the surprise of many, Berlin agreed to become the first president of Wolfson College, Oxford, from 1966 to 1975. He managed to cajole the Ford Foundation in the United States and his friend Leonard Wolfson in Britain to provide the necessary funds which made the college possible.

The author concludes his well-rounded life and touching portrait of this singular personality with these words "In a dark century, he showed what a life of the mind should be: skeptical, ironical, dispassionate and free."

Guest Voices

Life in the IDF

By MICHAEL KAY

Last summer, I had the opportunity to learn first hand about life in the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) by spending four weeks on the Chetz v'Keshet Summer program.

The North American students, including three Canadians, met in New York, then flew to Prague, where we stayed for a few days, and then left for Israel.

In Tel Aviv, we met the Israeli high school students who would be joining the program, and the leaders of our program who were army officers.

One reason I chose this program, was to be able to meet Israelis my age; another was to improve my fluency in Hebrew. Since I had enrolled in the Hebrew-speaking group, I had the opportunity to work and live with Israeli students.

Our first week was spent in an army base in the north, where we learned that life in the IDF is very hard. Although it varies in the different army units, many recruits routinely sleep only four hours a night. There is constant physical work, as there was for us, as students, too.

Recruits must go through many hours of physical exercise – running, weightlifting, and doing push-ups, sit-ups and more drills every day, just to get in shape before they begin their specialized training.

We were taught how to act in the face of danger, and we learned the Hebrew commands and warnings used in dangerous situations.

Our barracks were very rudimentary, with 20 hard, metal bunk-beds in a room. The food was also very basic.

Although we were based in the north, we went on long, sometimes difficult, beautiful hikes in the Galil, and for a treat, we went on a cruise of the Kinneret.

The base in the north is unique in that it has a dual training function: basic education and basic training.

As part of my cousin Tamar's army work, she is teaching some new recruits basic educational skills, such as reading, writing and math. Some of the recruits are boys who did not do well in school, and are being given a second chance to learn. Some are immigrants who did not go to school in Israel. All are being taught basic education as well as basic training; this is a double program, which is both mentally and physically demanding.

In our second week, we moved south to a housing complex near Sde Boker. The accommodations were much more luxurious than those in the north: we had nicer rooms and the food was far better.

We had the experience of loading and firing an M-16 rifle, the gun commonly used by all soldiers. The soldiers in the streets have their own M-16s for which they are responsible.

Because of the concern that terrorists could strike at any time, there is barely a minute in the day when a soldier is not carrying his or her gun strapped around a shoulder. The punishment for losing a gun is imprisonment, which reflects the seriousness with which soldiers regard their weapons.

Of course, we were well supervised, and only used the rifle on a firing range. Even in those controlled conditions, the power of the M-16 was awesome.

Our final week was spent in Jerusalem, and it was a great experience. We toured the Old City, and were saddened to see the trenches in Ramat Eshkol from which the soldiers fought for Jerusalem in the Six Day War.

Our experience helped me learn about Israel as a country, meet many great people, and strengthened my desire to go back again.

Michael Kay is a high school student in Toronto.

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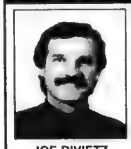

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Socio-economic status linked to control of diabetes

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The way a person responds to a diagnosis of diabetes depends, to a large extent, on their own personality and the personalities of their family members, according to a consulting psychologist at Sunnybrook Health Centre.

David Patrick Ryan, who is also coordinator for community regional health for Toronto's aged, was speaking at a recent meeting of the Jewish Diabetes chapter of the Canadian Diabetes Association, held at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation.

Other determinants, he said, include socio-economic status – "wealth makes things easier" – your regular lifestyle and habits, the amount of support provided by the health-care system, and knowledge of the illness.

Diabetes is different from a disease such as rheumatoid arthritis, Ryan said. "The fact that rheumatoid arthritis can't be controlled, affects a person's psychological state."

Diabetes, however, can be controlled through careful juggling of diet, exercise, and, if necessary, medication. "The challenge is to take control of it, because if you don't, it will control you."

The issue of control is important to a great many people he said, citing as an example the person who comes upon a group of people waiting for an elevator, and promptly pushes the elevator button himself.

"If you feel that [generally speaking] you can control your world, you have to convince yourself that you are still in control," he explained.

Another example of a personality trait that could affect how one handles diabetes, is the way in which the person reacts to new situations.

"If you hold a rattle in front of very young babies, some will move towards the rattle, and some will pull away from it. Those same babies, grown up, will react in the same way to new things," said Ryan.

Similarly, those who can handle new situations will confront and deal with the diagnosis, while those who can't will deny the situation.

Using a questionnaire to illustrate his point, Ryan divided people into four categories: drivers, enthusiasts, harmonizers and analysts.

Drivers "want to get on with it. They need to know what they have to do to deal with their illness and just how to do it."

Enthusiasts, on the other hand, like to jump into new things. "They are the ones to be willing to try new techniques and fads," Ryan said.

Harmonizers like to hear all sides of an issue, and try to preserve peace, trust and good relationships. "They will be the ones who will be most concerned about others. If the harmonizer is the patient, he or she may try to protect the family from being upset; if the harmonizer is the family, he or she will be the most concerned, and the most likely to maintain an ongoing interest."

Finally, he said, the analyst wants to hear all the details and steps. "They will be the best organized, and keep the best records."

If both partners of a couple are the same, it may lead to a stalemate, according to Ryan. For instance, if both are harmonizers, "they may be so careful to avoid hurting the other person, that no one will say what needs to be done. With two enthusiasts, they are both rushing off in different directions, while two analysts are so busy getting all the facts, that nothing much gets done."

On the other hand, a combination such as the enthusiast and the analyst might be very successful, as one will keep a check on the other, who may be going off in all directions.

An analyst and a driver, both calm, cool and collected, may both be so matter of fact that there will be little effective communication about the illness.

Ryan said that there is no perfect combination. "There are strengths and weaknesses in all of them. What is important, is to recognize what each of the couple shares, and what is different...and to adapt and empathize."

The next meeting of the Jewish Diabetes chapter, March 8, will be about how a diabetic deals with Pesach.

PIZZA TIME
Students at United Synagogue Day School, Bayview campus, enjoy kosher pizza every other week.

PLANTING TREES
Students at United Synagogue Day School, Richmond Hill campus, planned to mark Israel's 50th birthday by planting 50 trees in the Jubilee Forest at Yatir. Yaen Vered of the Jewish National Fund presents the certificate to the students. Seen above with Yaen are (from left) Deborah Grossman, Erich Schaeffer and Josh Adler.

MINYANIM IN THE GTA
WEEK OF JANUARY 15- 21/'99

Synagogue	Address & Tel.	Fri. Night	Shabbat	Sun. A.M.	Daily A.M.	Daily P.M.
Beth Jacob V'Anshe Dridz (O)	147 Overbrook Pl. (416) 638-5955	4:48 PM	9:00 AM	6:45 & 7:30 AM	Mon. Thurs. 6:40, 7:30 Tues. Wed. Fri. 6:45, 7:30	4:50 PM
Beth Tzedec (C)	1700 Bathurst St. (416) 781-3511	4:45 PM	8:45 AM	9:00 AM	7:45 AM	4:55 PM
B'nai Torah (O)	465 Patricia Ave. (416) 226-3700	4:56 PM	8:45 AM	7:00 & 8:00 AM	Mon. Thurs. 6:45, 7:10 Tues. Wed. Fri. 7:00, 7:20	5:00 PM
Chabad Lubavitch Community Centre (O)	770 Chabad Gate (905) 731-7000	4:48 PM	9:30 AM	8:00 & 9:00 AM	Mon. Thurs. 6:50, 7:30 Tues. Wed. Fri. 7:00, 7:30	4:50 PM
Clanton Park Synagogue (O)	11 Lowesmoor Ave. (416)633-4193	4:51 PM	9:00 AM	7:30 AM & 8:15 AM	Mon. Thurs. 6:50, 7:15 Tues. Wed. Fri. 7:00, 7:25	4:50 PM
Darchei Noam (Rec.)	15 Hove St. (416) 638-4783	----------	10:00 AM	----------	----------	----------
Pride of Israel (C)	50 Lissom Cres. (416) 226-0111	6:00 PM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	7:30 AM	6:00 PM
Shomrei Shaboth Chevra Mishnayoth (O)	583 Glengrove Ave. W. (416) 787-1631	4:51 PM	9:15 AM	7:30 & 8:30 AM	6:45 & 7:30 AM	5:00 PM
Solel Congregation (R)	2399 Folkway Dr. (905) 820-5915	7:30 PM	10:00 AM	----------	Tuesday 7:00 AM	----------
Temple Sinai (R)	210 Wilson Ave. (416) 487-4161	7:30 PM	10:00 AM	9:30 AM	7:30 AM	----------

This is not a comprehensive listing of the synagogues in the Greater Toronto area. The information is provided by the Vaad Harabonim of Toronto and the Toronto Board of Rabbis. The Vaad and the Board will periodically revise the listings. For statutory holidays, please call the Synagogue for any changes in times.

Racist Web site resurfaces in Quebec

Continued from page 3

players to organize themselves into a professional association, complete with a code of ethics and a conflict resolution mechanism," he said.

Joy Walter, who is in charge of TotalNet's "abuse" department, said the company had decided to shut down the NQA's site because it was found to be in violation of its "appropriate use" policy, which states there is "zero tolerance" of threatening or harassing material.

"It is our intention to allow TotalNet customers access to the wealth the Internet has to offer with minimal or no interference," a policy clause reads. "TotalNet believes in free speech, however, certain activities are considered inappropriate by the Internet community at large, and cannot be permitted under the guise of free speech."

Webmaster Maria Sweeney, however, noted that this remains a legally grey area, and service providers are loath to be censors. In TotalNet's case, with over 50,000 customers, monitoring the content of sites would be next to impossible any way, she said.

"In theory, we should have 100 percent discretion [in who providers accept as customers]," she said, "but if we did just take down their site, they would have every right to sue us...The whole issue is censorship; where does it begin and where do you stop?"

Boro, a lawyer, thinks service providers could be charged with being an accessory if a client engages in criminal activity on the Internet, although the law is hazy.

He made an analogy with telephone companies which routinely cooperate with police when the service they provide is used to make threats or to stalk, for example.

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York U business student awarded Rhodes Scholarship

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — When Irvin Studin was a little boy, he was tested for giftedness twice. Ironically, he failed to meet the criteria both times (possibly because English was not his first language).

These days, there is no question about his exceptional abilities. The 22-year-old York University business student was recently awarded a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship, one of only 11 given annually in Canada.

The scholarship will cover his tuition and living expenses for the next two years at Oxford University in England.

Studin's talents are not restricted to the academic arena. The captain of York's Men's Varsity soccer team, he also represented Canada at the 1997 World Maccabiah Games in Israel, has coached young soccer players and played soccer professionally with the Toronto Lynx.

Both his parents are directors of sports schools – his father of a soccer school, his mother of a gymnastics school – although there has been a series of economics scholars in his mother's family, Studin said.

Irvin Studin

"I became interested in a broad range of things," he added. "I don't believe in limiting yourself."

His parents, Yuri and Sima – Odessa natives who immigrated to Toronto when Studin was two months old (he was born in Rome) – ensured that his childhood was filled with diverse activities, he said in an interview at their home in Thornhill.

Aside from school, where he attended French immersion classes at Aurora High School, Studin grew up playing hockey and soccer, studying music and going to Hebrew school.

Studin sees "huge parallels" between excelling at soccer and at academics. "Soccer is a physical and a mental challenge," he said. "It's very much a strategic game."

His approach to course work has become "quite efficient" in order to make the most of time not devoted to soccer and other extracurricular activities (he has also been a mentor for incoming business students, and served as assistant managing editor of the student newspaper of York's Schulich School of Business).

"In high school," he said, "I used to be a perfectionist to the point of inefficiency."

Although he probably spends less time per course now than in high school, he still pulls all-nighters "quite often."

Studin believes, in academics as in soccer, that it's possible to compensate for weaknesses by working harder.

In the fall, he will begin his master of philosophy degree in economics at Oxford. He hopes to have the scholarship extended so he can pursue doctoral studies.

"This is the opportunity of a lifetime," he enthused.

Eventually, he would like to work in international regulation of corporate competition.

Studin is Schulich's top-ranked bachelor of business administration student. He entered the program on the President's Scholarship, one of the university's top entrance awards, and has won numerous other scholarships.

York economics professor Fred Lazar said he would rank Studin "among the best students I have ever known."

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FINE COMPUTER ROOM DEDICATED

As part of a Ben-Gurion University mission to Israel and Jordan, the Valerie Fine Computer Room was dedicated in memory of a past member of the board of directors. It was made possible through the generosity of her family, friends and colleagues in Toronto who sought to recognize Fine's good deeds on behalf of Israel and the Toronto community. The computer room is available to students on a 24-hour basis. Seen at the dedication is BGU president Dr. Avishay Braverman and (from left) JoAnn Schwebel, Walter Fine and Jack Fine.

Coast to Coast

Proposed immigration changes draw praise

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A government white paper that proposes substantial changes to Canada's immigration and refugee-determination legislation, has drawn mostly positive reviews from observers in the Jewish community.

Though they tinged their observations with some concerns and a wait-and-see attitude, the observers applauded the white paper as a vast improvement over a year-old working paper that would have eliminated the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB), and would have required immigrants to be proficient in either French or English.

"It's not as irrationally off-kilter as the *Not Just Numbers* report, which had a whole sequence of loopy recommendations," said immigration lawyer David Matas. "There are some good things here."

The 60-page white paper, released last week, is aimed at making Canada's immigration legislation relevant for the 21st century, said citizenship and immigration minister Lucienne Robillard.

"I want to strengthen and support family reunification; new legislation must modernize our selection system for skilled workers and business immigrants, and ease the entry of highly skilled temporary workers," Robillard said.

"We reiterate our commitment to upholding Canada's humanitarian tradition by strengthening the protection of genuine refugees. We must also continue to maintain the safety of Canadian society. I want to see this process result in a clearer, simpler and more coherent act," she added.

Michael Briks, executive vice-president of Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) said the agency backs the minister's emphasis on family reunification and maintaining Canada's humanitarian tradition of protecting refugees.

A proposal that permits, when possible, the processing of refugee families overseas and rapid reunification "is a very positive step," he said.

Eric Vernon, director of Canadian Jewish Congress' Ottawa advocacy centre, said Congress supports, in principle, the minister's proposal to strengthen family reunification. "We see that as a cornerstone of Canadian immigration policy."

There appears to be a widening of the definition of the family members to include relatives like aunts and uncles who are not immediate family members, Vernon said. The move to boost the age of dependency from 19 to 22 is "reasonable at first blush," he added.

Immigration lawyer Mendel Green, said some of his Israeli clients should benefit from that provision. Under current practice, immigrants' children over 19 must make their own application to move to Canada, unless they were enrolled in school full time. By raising the bar to 22, families immigrating from countries with military conscription – like Israel or Taiwan – will be able to bring their son or daughter as part of the same family unit, said Green, founding chair of the Canadian Bar Association's immigration section.

"In my office, we have 20 cases where parents decided not to leave Israel, and stay with their children," he noted.

A second proposal should cut down on "a tremendous abuse of the refugee-determination system" that involves Russian-Israelis moving to Canada and claiming refugee status. Currently, some claim they faced discrimination because their children were not circumcised or because they are living in mixed marriages, he said.

Refugee applicants can wait two to three years while living on social assistance in Canada. The white paper suggests speeding up the refugee-determination system which should reduce "spurious claims" and "send them packing," he contended.

Green, Matas and Vernon all backed a proposal that would remove from war criminals the right to appeal against deportation on humanitarian or compassionate grounds.

Vernon said Congress was disappointed the white paper did not accept its recommendations to include "extremist hatemongers" among the classes ineligible to remain in Canada on humanitarian or compassionate grounds.

Green and Matas backed the proposal to increase the IRB's role by consolidating decision making on refugee claims and risk review. But Vernon said Congress questioned expanding the IRB's jurisdiction in light of what it considers unanswered questions about alleged systemic discrimination in the IRB.

"We believe the IRB must be examined thoroughly by an independent examiner," he said.

In light of allegations of anti-semitism in the IRB, "we have concerns about expanding its mandate."

JNF Negev Dinner returns to Saint John, New Brunswick

SAINT JOHN, N.B. — The first Negev Dinner held here in 10 years honored Senator Erminie Joy Cohen.

Cohen's father, Mitchell Bernstein, was New Brunswick's first Negev honoree.

Some 500 people from every community across the province attended the dinner, which raised more than $300,000, surpassing the goal for the evening.

Funds raised were to be used to plant 25,000 trees in Israel, and Cohen chose as her project a New Brunswick forest at Yatir.

The dinner should raise awareness about Israel with her "fellow New Brunswickers," she says. "I hope they embrace the project with enthusiasm."

Dinner organizers say that Cohen is "a person who has transcended the boundaries of community affairs, politics, social justice and religion."

Campaign co-chairs were Senator Noel Kinsella and Teri Levine.

Naomi Frankenburg, national president of JNF, presented Cohen with a Negev Dinner citation.

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By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Jan. 18, is deadline for Jan. 28 issue; and Monday, Jan. 25, is deadline for Feb. 4. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Thursday, Jan. 14

PILLAR OF FIRE

Pillar of Fire, Israeli television documentary series on the history of Israel's rebirth 1898-1948, continues with *Tribunal of Nations, 1947*. Introduction and commentary by **David Goldberg** of Foundation for Middle East Studies. 7:30 p.m., Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue. 633-3988 or 633-5500.

Friday, Jan. 15

SHABBAT SERVICE

At Temple Har Zion Shabbat service, **Rabbi Victor Rashkovsky** speaks on Is There Any Future for Jews in the Former Soviet Union? Service begins 8:30 p.m., 7360 Bayview Ave.

Saturday, Jan. 16

SISTERHOOD SHABBAT

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Sisterhood Shabbat, 4:45 p.m. Participants include **Helen Bienstock, Karen Fox, Elise Rose** and **Daryl Beber**. D'var Torah given by **Terry S. Winston**, vice-president, Women's League for Conservative Judaism.

Sunday, Jan. 17

MAGEN DAVID ADOM

Alex Serota, president, Toronto chapter of Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel, speaks at Shaar Shalom Synagogue, 2 Simonston Blvd., Thornhill, at 10 a.m.

MEMORY AND AGING

Dr. Angela Troyer discusses Memory and Aging at Beth Tzedec Men's Club breakfast. Service 9 a.m., breakfast (nominal charge) 9:30, program at 10.

EDUCATION IN ONTARIO

Lecture on The Present State of Education in Ontario Especially as Regards Bill 160, by **David Onley**, 10 a.m., Temple Sinai. $3.

SPOUSAL ABUSE

The Downtown Jewish Community School and the Downtown Jewish Learning Council present Spousal Abuse – Jewish Perspectives, with **Elliott Malamet**, a teacher at CHAT. 11:30 a.m., Bloor Jewish Community Centre. 924-6211.

YUJJIE CAFE

Jewish Healing: It Couldn't Hurt! with **Rabbi Daniel Komito Gottlieb**, at "Yujjie" cafe at Indigo Cafe, Yonge Eglinton Centre, 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by Kolel: A Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning and Les and Minda Feldman Foundation. (A Yujjie is a young urban Jew, age 25-40) 905-709-1900, ext. 222.

WHY ASK MY NAME?

Prof. Adele Reinhartz of McMaster University speaks on themes from her recent book, *Why Ask My Name? Anonymity and Identity in Biblical Narrative*, 8 p.m., Beth Jacob Synagogue, 375 Aberdeen Ave., Hamilton. $5.

JEWISH TRIVIA

Entertainment and Cultural Connection and Shaarei Shomayim Brotherhood present An Evening of Jewish Trivia with **Edmond Yehuda Lipsitz**, author of *6400 Questions About Judaism and the Jewish People*, 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim. Guests $2. Coordinators **Jerry** and **Sandra Genesove.**

CASINO RAMA

Jewish Women International Orah chapter trip to Casino Rama, bus leaves Promenade Shopping Mall 9:30 a.m. and departs Casino Rama 4 p.m. $6 includes lunch. Reserve. **Rhonda** 905-889-0432 or **Gloria** 739-6595.

Monday, Jan. 18

JUDAISM AND THE ARTS

Adath Israel and Beth David B'nai Israel Congregations series,

Continued on page 19

Maccabi Bridge Disaster

Four athletes demand MWU resignations

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A victim of the bridge collapse being rushed to the hospital [RNS/Reuters]

TORONTO —The protest against the leadership of the Maccabi World Union (MWU) is widening.

Last week, four medal-winning Maccabiah Games athletes joined the chorus of voices calling on two senior MWU officials to resign because of a bridge collapse that killed four Australian athletes and injured dozens more during the opening ceremonies of the 1997 Maccabiah Games.

To underscore their demand, the Israeli athletes turned in their Maccabiah Games medals during a special Knesset committee hearing into the tragedy.

Committee chair Micha Goldman announced he will propose that the two executives, MWU president Ronald Bakalarz and MWU chair Uzi Netanel, step down immediately. "Those who are morally responsible for the tragedy cannot run away from their responsibilities," a news release quotes him as saying.

The Knesset committee's hearings, which were launched at the urgent behest of the Australian Jewish community, coincide with civil and criminal cases resulting from the bridge collapse. Yoram Eyal, the former chair of the Maccabiah organizing committee, as well as the bridge engineer and three contractors, are facing criminal charges while civil claims have also been filed by families of the victims.

In addition to the human toll, the tragedy has created a rift between the Australian Jewish community and the MWU, which has been accused of shirking its responsibility for the mishap.

Two senior Australian Jewish organizations, the Zionist Federation of Australia and the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, have called for the resignations of Bakalarz and Netanel, pending the Knesset investigation into the tragedy. The Maccabi officials have declined to relinquish their posts.

Addressing the Knesset committee, attorney Robert Kaye, representing the victims and the families of those killed, also urged Bakalarz and Netanel to step down.

The officials' resignations would "recognize the principles of accountability and governance," Kaye told the Knesset hearing. "The president and chair need not have personally built that matchstick-like structure to subject themselves to such a duty...They assumed responsibility with all the perks, advantages and disadvantages of their office. They must now act in accordance with accepted principles of accountability and step aside."

In a news release, Kaye said such a resignation "would ease the burden of the victims and their families and demonstrate sensitivity. These are people who feel they have been abandoned by the MWU, and what is worse, have been cast as villains for daring to voice criticism."

The resignations would also "send a strong message to Maccabi athletes worldwide that this is an organization prepared to change direction and address its shortcomings," Kaye stated. "In so doing, the organization will be in a position to rebuild its credibility and restore its integrity. It is ultimately a question of trust...If those bearing the ultimate responsibility remain in their positions, this will be interpreted in Australia as a lack of compassion, and a statement that the Maccabi movement is indifferent to the well-being of our children."

MWU officials have steadfastly denied suggestions they were indifferent to the victims. Roy Salomon, president of Maccabi Canada and a member of the MWU executive, said members of the Maccabi organization visited the victims in the hospital and arranged for financial compensation.

Last February, Salomon joined a high level MWU delegation that travelled to Australia to explain the organization's point of view at public meetings of the country's Jewish community.

The mission expressed MWU's sympathies and tried to explain the MWU's role in the wake of the tragedy.

The Australian Jewish community has many misconceptions about the MWU, thinking it played down the tragedy and did little to help them in their hour of need, Salomon said.

"We feel really terrible about what happened," he said at the time. "From day one, we reacted in a very compassionate way."

Montreal law professor and human rights advocate Irwin Cotler has also waded into the issue. Following a trip to Australia last fall, he said he found "the close-knit Australian community, with its almost mythic view of Israel, has been disappointed. Their pain is due to a tragedy that was caused by criminal negligence and they feel that since then, Israel has been dragging its feet" in getting to the bottom of it.

The question of responsibility for the collapse is "not a matter limited to the families of the victims. I saw it as pervasive. It's an important issue in Australia-Israel relations," Cotler said.

For Australian Jews, the bridge collapse is especially painful because it was preventable, Cotler said. Australians he met asked "how could this negligence have been allowed to occur?" They also ask, "why is it taking so long for justice to be done and why are there no MWU resignations?" he added.

What's New

Continued from page 18

Expressions of Judaism Through the Arts, opens with Israel and the Jewish People Through Song and Story with performance by **Ritasue Fisher**, 8 p.m., at Adath Israel.

CURRENT ISSUES

Current Issues and Problems Facing Israel and the Middle East with **Prof. Ben Shek**, presented by Cranbrooke Friendship Club, 12:30 p.m., Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Program preceded by light lunch. $5.

NAGILLAH CHAPTER, JWI

Nagillah chapter, Jewish Women International, (40+ singles) general meeting 7:30 p.m., Pride of Israel Synagogue. Program following meeting is Interiors by Oreet presented by **Oreet Fagen**. $2. Prospective members invited. **Helen** 638-4326 or **Fran** 638-22716.

AUDITIONS

Medina Theatre Ensemble auditions for *I Never Sang for My Father*, which is to be presented as a stage reading in March. Cast will include six men and five women. Auditions at B'nai Brith Building, 15 Hove St. Members 7 p.m., non-members 8:30 p.m. **Fran** 785-1074.

SUPPORT GROUP

Jewish Parents and Families of Gays and Lesbians meets 7:30 p.m., Jewish Family & Child Service, 6th floor, Lipa Green Building. Phone in confidence. **Ruth** 763-9111.

Tuesday, Jan. 19

RUTH AND TAMAR

Beth Tikvah Sisterhood series on Women in the Bible continues with educator/editor **Lynne Heller** who explores the lives of Ruth and Tamar. Non-members $5.

Thursday, Jan. 21

JEWISH PARENTING

Downtown Jewish Learning Council continuing program, Jewish Parenting in a Modern World continues with instructor **Rabbi Chezi Zionce,** 8 p.m., First Narayever Congregation, 189 Brunswick Ave.

And What Else Is New

SHABBAT FAIR

At Beth Tzedec Shabbat Fair Sunday, Jan. 24, 9:30-11:30 a.m., learn about blessings, how to braid challah, how Shabbat was observed through the ages, appropriate Shabbat table talk, how to make cholent and why it is a traditional Shabbat food; also taste kosher wines.

HEARING SCREENING

Baycrest Centre's Wellness Education Group session, Hearing Screening Clinic with audiologist **Suzanne Stewart**, Monday, Jan. 29, 1-3:30 p.m. at the Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave. Clinic is free of charge by appointment only. **Judy Chu**.

VOLUNTEER IN ISRAEL

Yad Beyad, the volunteer program for adults to teach conversational English in various locations in Israel for two weeks during July, needs you. It is not necessary to have any teaching experience, as training is provided. Volunteers stay in groups in hotels and pay some of their own expenses. To learn more and for date of next information session, 222-2871 or 905-731-6262.

MEDINA ENSEMBLE

Medina Theatre Ensemble invites new members to join in the 1999 program, which includes acting classes, performances, lectures, showcases for new writers and actors. Membership chair **Minabelle** 633-5216 or **Roselle** 633-2057.

BOOK REVIEW

Beth Tikvah Progressive Singles (35-55) book review of *The Reader* by **Bernard Schlink,** reviewed by **Cathy Tile.** Monday, Jan. 25, 8 p.m. $16. RSVP synagogue office 221-3433.

TRADITIONAL MINYAN

Shomer Israel Congregation traditional heimish minyan welcomes all non-affiliated. No dues. Shabbat 9 a.m. Shabbat Minchah study class with **Rabbi Sheldon Schwartz**. Sunday morning minyan 8:30 a.m. 60 Rockford Rd. (behind Rockford School). **David** 256-1600.

OUTDOOR CLUB

Join the Mosaic Jewish Outdoor Club of Southern Ontario in a variety of winter activities, such as skiing, skating, hiking, out-of-town trips. Upcoming events include Cross-country skiing Jan. 24, Feb. 7 and 28; Winterlude Weekend in Ottawa Feb. 19-21; Ski trip to Mont Sutton Jay Peaks March 4-7; Skating Thursday nights. Mosaic Hotline 280-6407.

KABBALAH CENTRE

Kabbalah Centre, 678 Sheppard Ave. W. 631-9395.

Rosh Chodesh Shvat, Sunday, Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m. $14.

Kabbalistic Meditation, Monday, Jan. 18 for eight weeks. $120.

ST. JOHNS COURSES

Heartsaver CPR, Sunday, Jan. 24, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. $35 light lunch included.

Reserve now for Infant and Child CPR (0-8 years) Babysitting course 11- plus years. **Rhonda** 905-9441.

PARENT AND BABY TIME

National Council of Jewish Women, Toronto Section, Parent and Baby Time, featuring baby massage, 11 a.m. to noon for six consecutive Tuesdays at Council House. $48. **Rachel** 905-731-7216.

SINGLES SCENE

For ages 25-35: Skate Nite, Thursday, Jan. 21, 8-10 p.m.; Oneg Shabbat Friday, Jan. 29, 6:30 p.m., Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. Reserve. 633-3838: Cross-country/downhill ski day, Horseshoe Valley, Sunday, Feb. 14.

For ages 35-55, Oneg Shabbat, Friday, Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m. Reserve. 633-3838.

FOR SENIORS

Spring adventure to Boston and Cape Cod May 9-14, includes transportation, accommodation, 10 meals, tour of Boston and Holocaust Exhibit, cruise, baggage handling, taxes; cost – twin $749 (Cdn).Co-sponsored by Bathurst Jewish Centre and Bernard Betel Centre. **Teme** 636-1880, ext. 364 or **Barbara** 225-2112, ext. 134.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club Israel trip Feb. 28, nine full days of touring. In the planning: cruises, two musicals *A Foggy Day* at Shaw Festival, and *West Side Story* at Stratford. **Lena** 785-5773. Golden Book donations go to Laniado Hospital in Israel. **Dorothy Bloomfield** 787-1526.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Jan 14, lecture by **Noam Raz**, envoy for Hashomer Hatzair; Jan. 21, video; Jan. 28, evening of singing. **Jerry Bengall** 905-707-7334.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club trips to Casino Rama Jan. 27, Feb. 10 and 24, March 10 and 24. Membership open $12. 395-7881.

Young at Heart Seniors trip to Florida, kosher Saxony Hotel, Jan. 25-Feb. 22. Package deal $3,015 Canadian, double occupancy. Partners available. **Helen** 635-6343.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W, 225-2112.

Winterlude Tea Dance with **L. Bouts** and **E. Isaev**, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 1-3 p.m. Members $5, non-members $7.

Healthy Cooking with dietitian/nutritionist **Andrea Sturk** Tuesday, Jan. 19, 1 p.m. $1 for materials.

Therapeutic Touch with nurse **Florence Baum**. Tuesday, Jan. 19, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Joan**.

Caregiver Education series features social worker **Jeffrey Cole** of North York Community Care Access Centre, speaking on How to Access Community Services, Thursday, Jan. 21, 1:15 p.m.

Working Together for Change: When Relationships Hurt, 10 sessions, group leader, a social worker from Jewish Family & Child Service, date to be announced. $10. **Sheila Zane** or **Ruth Cohen.**

Israeli Club Etrog meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays for movies, sing-alongs, lectures, bingo, dances. Jan. 19 is bingo. **Anna**.

Movie *The Birdcage* Sunday, Jan. 17, 2:30 p.m.

BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

Between Stages presents a reading of the play *The Song*, written and directed by **Adam Nashman,** featuring actors **Alon Nashman** and **Deborah Hay**. Monday, Jan. 18, 8 p.m. *The Song* is being prepared for a full production to run Feb. 13-March 7 at Theatre Passe Muraille's Backspace.

Study program with **Elliott Malamet** on Spousal Abuse – Jewish Perspectives, Sunday, Jan. 17, 11:30 a.m. Check details under date.

Seniors Calendar: Thursday, Jan. 14, 2 p.m., massage therapist **Lorraine Wilson** speaks on Massage Therapy for Seniors; Thursday, Jan. 21, 2 p.m., **Anna Markus** of the Canadian Hearing Society discusses Issues of Hearing Loss. **Judy**.

UAHC BOARD MEMBER

Jeffrey Dermer (centre) was installed as a member of the board of trustees of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) at its recent meeting in Memphis. A member of Shaarei-Beth-El Congregation in Oakville, he was congratulated by Jerome Somers, chairman of the board (left), and UAHC president Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20

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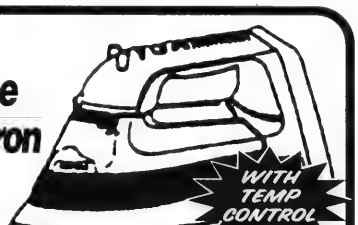

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Victoria shul gets new rabbi

By KITTY HOFFMAN
Special to The CJN

VICTORIA — Rabbi David Seidenberg is the new spiritual leader and teacher at Congregation Emanuel, the oldest continuing synagogue in Canada.

Rabbi Seidenberg, who has rabbinic ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, is a PhD candidate at the seminary, where he is focusing his research on eco-theology, the relationship of theology and the natural world.

His interest in the links between spirituality and the environment, he said, was a factor in his decision to choose Victoria as his home. He was impressed by the fact that Victoria's "larger community has a spiritual dimension that includes activity around alternative spirituality linked to ecology and the environment.

"There is already a well-developed spiritual community in the synagogue, and a high sense of responsibility among the lay leaders."

Rabbi Seidenberg said he is delighted to "help bring the group to a higher level of learning and engagement with the spiritual sources and tradition."

As the rabbi of the only synagogue on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, Rabbi Seidenberg wants to remain open to a diversity of Jewish approaches and orientations.

His first role as rabbi was to lead the High Holy Day services, where he interspersed Sephardi tunes and chassidic niggunim into the traditional Conservative liturgy. He has already invited other Jewish groups – Reform, Orthodox and Secular Jewish Humanists – to participate in rituals such as the public Chanukah candlelighting at the shul.

He is scheduled to begin teaching a course in Maimonides at the Jewish Community Centre.

The rabbi said his objective is to help people take "personal responsibility for their spiritual lives, [for example, by] learning enough Hebrew to know when they're encountering a poor translation."

The goal, he said, is "to know enough of the tradition to have an adult relationship with Judaism, so that we can become creators, and not merely consumers of Jewish life."

Rabbi Seidenberg said that outreach is "not just about more people in shul, but more people davening with *kavanah*, with real intention, and to have the tools to use davening and meditation in a serious way."

Similarly, he said, Shabbat is "not just about not working or turning on lights, but rather, about creating a unique and holy relationship with the world around us.

"This is linked with more involvement in social justice and environmental issues."

He is stressed that his approach is one among many possible paths. He is dedicated, he said, to establishing "creative opportunities for people to find their own path, [to take part], for example, in classes where they are not embarrassed by their lack of experience, or services where [they] can learn to daven."

Rabbi Seidenberg said he wants to "integrate chassidic spirituality, the joy of getting closer to God, with contemporary egalitarianism."

SINGLES EVENTS
Singles Events is an advertising feature of *The Canadian Jewish News*
Deadline is Wednesday, 4:00 p.m., 8 days preceding issue date.
For rates or to place an ad, please call
TANYA at (416) 391-1836
The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries they may have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.

A Large Singles Party 1999, Sat., Jan 16 at 8pm. Latin Fever Night Club (beautiful banquet hall), 2220 Hwy. 7 at Keele St. Friendly atmosphere, cash bar, modern live band. $10. One free cocktail per person Ladies free from 8-8:30pm. Use Keele St. entr. Don't miss this night.! Call Lili at **905-764-3256** for info.

Beth Tikvah Progressive Singles 35-55. Book Review. "The Reader" By Bernard Schlink, reviewed by Cathy Tile. Refreshments. Mon., Jan. 25, 8:00p.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. $16. R.S.V.P. 221-3433

Events By Sharyn. (40's - 60's) Presents Sharon Singer - Publisher of Singles Newspaper, "Hotdates." Dating Skills in the 90's: Using today's technology to meet your Ba'shert in 99. Sun, Jan. 17, 7:45pm at Zionist Centre, 788 Marlee Ave. $8.00. Refreshments. 416-785-7020

Jewish Singles Registry. Over 1680 registered. **416-483-4151.**

Singles Scene, 25-35. Oneg Shabbat Friday, Jan. 29 at 7pm. Beth Emeth Synagogue. $20.00 Reserve now at 416-633-3838.
25-35 monthly meeting is on Mon., Jan. 18 at 8pm.
Singles Scene, 35-55. Oneg Shabbat Fri., Feb. 12 at 7pm. $20. Reserve now at 416-633-3838.
Ski Day - All Welcome! Sun., Feb. 14 at Horseshoe Valley. Cross country & downhill. Details to follow. For info call Rhonda, 905-731-9441

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U.S. firm buys Winnipeg teenager's Web site

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Fifteen-year-old Jay Strauss is like most kids his age.

He attended Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education schools until this year and is involved in BBYO, serving as co-president of his chapter.

Like many other teens, he also enjoys fooling around with computers. But Strauss doesn't just surf the Web or visit chat sites.

Three years ago, he established Teens Online [www.teensonline.com], a site with chat rooms, e-mail services and sports and entertainment news that has become very popular with Winnipeg teens.

Now, Strauss and Teens Online have hit the big time.

Last summer, Teens Online caught the attention of Jeff Edelman, president of The Student Centre, a popular New York-based group of Web sites for college and high school students.

Edelman was so impressed by Teens Online that he drew up a proposal to buy the Winnipeg Web site. After some electronic negotiation, Strauss accepted Edelman's offer and the deal went through at the beginning of December.

Under the terms of the agreement, Strauss will continue to operate Teens Online as a salaried senior vice-president, and several of his friends who worked with him will also have executive positions.

As a result of the merger, Strauss has been receiving reams of publicity, including radio interviews and a profile in a local newspaper. He is also be the subject of a profile in an upcoming issue of *Family PC*, which has a circulation of 500,000.

Strauss remains modest about his business success and newfound fame. His top priority, he says, is to do well in his exams and get through Grade 10.

Obituaries

Arnold Fradkin remembered for prosecuting Nazi war criminals

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Arnold Fradkin, the Department of Justice lawyer best known for his work in the War Crimes Unit, died suddenly. He was 56.

Fradkin, born in Winnipeg, was the son of the late Harry and Gerry Fradkin. The family moved to Montreal, where Fradkin graduated from Sir George Williams University and received his law degree from McGill University.

In 1969, he moved to Ottawa to work for the Department of Justice. Throughout his nearly 30-year career, he worked in various areas of the department, including combines and anti-trusts, criminal litigation and civil litigation.

In 1987, Fradkin was one of the founding members of the War Crimes Unit, and eventually became deputy director. In 1991 he returned to the civil litigation area.

Fradkin gained recognition when he and William Hobson, War Crimes Unit director, successfully prosecuted the precedent-setting case against Dutch immigrant Jacob Luitjens.

Luitjens, a retired University of British Columbia botany professor, lost his Canadian citizenship, and was deported to Holland, where he had been convicted in absentia of collaborating with the Nazis.

Hobson spoke of his relationship with Fradkin as a "once in a lifetime opportunity to work with a person with a great sense of humor, a great legal mind and a great ability to challenge everything, so that nobody is hurt by injustice." He talked about Fradkin's deep compassion, even while acting as a prosecutor.

Driven by a quest for justice

Fradkin was recognized by colleagues, as well as representatives of such Jewish organizations as B'nai Brith Canada, Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) and the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, as a dedicated and committed professional, driven by a quest for justice.

He considered his work on the War Crimes Unit "a truly righteous fight," said his wife Barbara. "He had a real passion for justice, which protected the powerless, the person without connections. He went into law because he believed that justice worked."

Prof. Irving Abella, chair of the CJC war crimes committee, described Fradkin as "the fibre and backbone of the War Crimes Unit, a consummate public servant committed to justice and...determined to make sure that no mass murderers are living in Canada."

An inquiry in response to recent allegations by Hobson that Fradkin had been subjected to anti-Semitic attitudes, resulted in a report by Osgoode Hall law Prof. John McCamus, which cleared the Department of Justice of any wrongdoing.

Fradkin had planned on retiring in the spring. "He was a good [landscape] painter, and that was his way of finding calm and peace after a day of fighting in the courts. It was his way of re-connecting to tranquillity," said his wife.

Fradkin is also survived by three children, Leslie, Dana and Jeremy.

Miller served as managing director of CJN in Montreal

MONTREAL — Lou Miller, who ended a 45-year career in newspapers as managing director of *The Canadian Jewish News'* Montreal office, died recently after a lengthy illness at age 70.

He had suffered from the complication of diabetes for some years.

Miller, who was with *The CJN* from 1984-91, was best known as publisher of the Notre-Dame-de-Grace-based *The Monitor* and other West End weekly newspapers.

Miller, whose actual first name was Irvin, began newspaper reporting at 17 on local sports in his native Lachine. The Miller family had a general store in that suburb, which was home to a sizable Jewish community in the 1930s.

In an interview, Miller recalled how a great uncle who had one of the contracts to dig the Lachine Canal persuaded Miller's grandfather to leave Europe and open a store for the workmen from Montreal and the Indian reservation across the river.

Soon after World War II, Miller landed a job at the *Gazette* covering amateur sports, which he did for 11 years.

He was then hired as editor of the new *Montreal Sun*, which was founded after the *Herald* folded. The *Sun* closed after 28 issues, but Miller was shortly employed again as managing editor of *The Monitor*. Later, he was also advertising director of other weeklies in Verdun and Westmount.

Longtime colleague Joe King described Miller as "a colorful newspaperman of the old persuasion.

"He did his reporting in a methodical way, yet he could add the kind of wording that made a story come alive."

Miller would eventually take over the operation of *The Monitor*, and then the *St. Laurent News*, for a nominal $1 a year, with the proviso that he would continue to do all his printing with *The Monitor* company.

The Monitor became a popular and profitable publication, and by 1970, Miller opened his own typesetting company.

He was president of the Quebec Weekly Newspaper Association in 1965 and headed the Canadian Community Newspaper Association in 1972, and a year later became chair of its board.

Miller spent the year travelling across the country meeting with small-town publishers, and what he learned strengthened his conviction that weeklies were the future of the newspaper business, rather than the big-city dailies.

Over the years, Miller had an avid interest in sports, refereeing amateur football and hockey, and for 11 years calling Alouette football games at Molson Stadium.

He was also associated with the Progressive Conservatives, and ran unsuccessfully as their candidate in 1977 in NDG.

Twenty years ago, he sold his papers and company to a large community newspaper chain, but stayed on for five years to run *The Monitor*.

Miller's challenge when he was hired by *The CJN* was to turn its Montreal edition around financially and put it on a more equal footing with the stronger Toronto edition.

Miller was awarded the Canada Medal for Service to the Community and the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal for his work with the Montreal Westward Rotary Club and the community newspaper associations.

He is survived by Celia, his wife of 46 years, and daughters and sons-in-law Laurie and Bruno, and Audrey and Ronald, and five grandsons.

ייִדיש ווינקל
YIDDISH CORNER
רעדאגירט פון ש. ליפשיץ

אויף אַ קורס פֿון ייִדישער שפּראַך אין לימעראַמור אין וויליַנע

פֿון **אסתר ספיוואַק־מאַרקס** (מאַראָנטאָ)

איך האָב לעצטנס דורכגעמאַכט אַ גרויסע גייסטיקע איבערלעבונג. איך האָב אַנטייל גענומען אין אַ פּראָגראַם פֿון ייִדיש אין ייִדישער ליטעראַטור, וואָס איז דורכגעפֿירט געווארן אין וויליַנע אין האַט געדויערט פֿיר וואָכן — פֿון 6־טן ביזן 21־טן יולי.

ווי עס איז באַקאַנט, איז וויליַנע געווען דער הויפּט־צענטער פֿון ייִדישער קולטור אין פֿאַר־מלחמה־זייקן פּוילן אין געווען באַציכנט אַלס ירושלים ד'ליטא. דאָרט האָבן געלעבט אין געשאָפֿן די סאַמע אָנגעזעענסטע ייִדישע שרייבער, פֿאָעטן אין קינסטלער. זייערע שאַפֿונגען האָבן זיך געפּונען אין ייִדיש היימען פֿון אַלע שטעט אין שטעטלעך אין פּוילן אין איבער דער וועלט. דאָס אַלץ האָבן פֿאַר־ניכטעט די מערדערלעכע נאַצי־באַנדיטן.

איצט פֿאַרמידט זיך אַ ניער ייִדישער ישוב, וואָס פֿרובירט פֿאַר־צוהעלפֿן, אויף וויסל מעגלעך, די גייסטיקע ירושה פֿון דעם פֿאַרניכטעטן דור.

אין 1997 האָט די ייִדישע קהילה אין וויליַנע געפֿירט דעם צווייטן־הונדערט יאָריקן יאָרצייט נאָך דעם ערשטן וויליַנער גאון, אליהו בן שלמה זלמן.

דער פּראָגראַם אין ייִדיש איז וועלכן איך האָב אַנטייל גענומען, האָט אויסגעבריטערט אונדזער וויסן אין געגעבן אונדז די מעג־לעכקייט צו שטודירן אין פֿאַרשטיין די ווערק פֿון די ייִדישע קלאַ־סיקערס, מענדעלע מוכר ספֿרים, י. ל. פּרץ, שלום עליכם אין די אַנדערע ייִדישע שרייבערס אין דיכטערס.

מיר האָבן אויך גהאַט די מעגלעכקייט צו באַזוכן עטלעכע שטעט אין שטעטלעך, וואו יידן לעבן איצט, ווי למשל, קאָוונע, סוויאַנסק אין אַנדערע. אין קאָוונע גענפּיטן זיך דער שרעקלעכער „פֿאַרס 9", וואו טויזנטער יידן זיינען אומגעקומען.

אין קאָוונע פונקציאָנירט דער ייִדישער צענטער. צום באַדויערן איז בלויז אַ זייער קליינע צאָל יידן געבליבן לעבן. די יונגע מענטשן, וואָס האָבן זיך געראַטעוועט, זיינען אַוועק. די עלטערע מענטשן זיינען געבליבן עלטע. זיי זיינען געווען זייער צופֿרידן אונדז צו זען אין צו הערן פֿון אונדז אַ ייִדיש וואָרט. עס האָט זיי דערמוטערט. זיי האָבן דאָס באַטראַכט אַלס סימן, אַז מיר האָבן זיי ניט פֿאַרגעסן.

מיר זיינען געפֿאָרן קיין סוויאַנסק, אַ שטעטל, אַ שעה־אויף־אַ־האַלב פֿון וויליַנע, וואו טויזנטער יידן האָבן געלעבט פֿאַר דער מלחמה. אָבט טויזנט יידן פֿון דעם שטעטל זיינען אומגעבראַכט געווארן דורך די היטלעריסטן. עס טוט ווי, אָפּילו איצט, 50 יאָר שפּעטער, צו זען די אַנדענק מצבות. דאָרט האָבן מיר געמאַכט זכור.

אין וויליַנע האָבן מיר זיך באַקענט מיט אַ טראַגישן קאַפּיטל פֿון אונדזער ייִדישער געשיכטע אין פֿון דעם חורבן, ווען מיר האָבן בא־זוכט דעם מחיי פֿון חורבן.

אַ צוויי מאָל האָט רחל, די אָנפֿירערין, אונדז געפֿירט דורך די גאַסן פֿון געווען ענעם געטא. זי האָט באַשריבן דאָס לעבן אין געטא. זי האָט אונדז אויך דערציילט ווען די קינדערלעך, וועמען די לערער האָבן גערעטעט אין שפּיל, ווי וויט מעגלעך, אָבער זיי זיינען אָלע אומגעקומען. זי האָט אונדז אויך דערציילט ווען די העלדישע אויפֿטוען פֿון ייִדישע קאַצעטלער, וואָס האָבן אייגע־שטעלט זייער לעבן אין גערעטעוועט ביכער, כאָטש די מערסטע ביכער זיינען דורך די נאַציס פֿאַרברענט געווארן.

אין ייִדישן צענטער האָבן מיר באַגעגנט מענטשן, וואָס האָבן פֿאַרלוירן זייערע גאַנצע משפּחות אין זיי אַליין זיינען דורך אַ שׂ געבליבן לעבן.

די פֿירער פֿון דער ייִדישער קהילה אין וויליַנע טוען באמת העל־דישע אַרבעט. זיי וויסמענען זייערע כוחות אויף בויען די קהילה, וואָס איז געווען אַזוי אָנגעזאָגן ביי יידן איבער דער גאַנצער וועלט.

מיר, 71 אין צאָל, זיינען געקומען פֿון פֿאַרשיידענע לענדער צו לערנען אין זיך צו פֿאַרבעסערן אין דער ייִדישער שפּראַך. מיר האָבן צוגעזאָגט, אַז קומענדיק אַהיים וועלן מיר זיך טיילן מיט אונדזערע איבערלעבונגען מיט יידן אין אַנדערע פֿרייַנד. מיר וועלן דערקלערן פֿאַר זיי, אַז ייִדיש לעבט איצט, און וועט וויטער לעבן. מיר זיינען פֿעסט אין אונדזער באַשלוס צו שטאַרקן די סטטקייט לטובת אונ־דזער שפּראַך. ייִדיש איז אונדזער שפּראַך, אונדזער מאַמע לשון. איך האָף, אַז מיר וועלן מצליח זיין.

Features

Sephardic Rabbinate of Ontario in action

By RABBI AMRAM ASSAYAG

Forty years ago, the first wave of Sephardi Jews arrived in Ontario, with the majority settling in Toronto. Over the years,

Backgrounder

Sephardim have distinguished themselves in business, the arts and the professions.

Today, as we continue to grow, many Sephardim yearn to reconnect to the glorious heritage of their forefathers, while many others are only remotely aware that it ever existed.

The Sephardic Rabbinate of Ontario, established three years ago as an umbrella organization, provides religious services for the Sephardi synagogues, institutions and organizations throughout the province, and is responsible for preserving and perpetuating Sephardi heritage and Halachah (Jewish law).

Rabbi Amram Assayag

Today more than ever, as we confront the dangers of secular values and contemporary culture, assimilation and intermarriage, we have a moral duty to rekindle the brilliance of Sephardi Torah observance. But first, we must give everyone in our community, young and old, the knowledge and the tools to start the journey.

To begin, it is important to note that Sephardim follow the Halachah as established by Rabbi Joseph Caro (1488-1575). Born in Toledo, Spain, Rabbi Caro left for Portugal as a result of the Expulsion in 1492, moved to Turkey, and in 1537, settled in the city of Safed in northern Israel, where he was soon revered as the leading Torah and halachic authority.

His monumental work, the Bet Yosef, written in response to the tremendous upheavals of his generation, is a massive compilation of Jewish law. It codifies the decisions of earlier authorities on every issue of practical, day-to-day living, and includes the spiritual significance of these rabbinic rulings.

In 1564, Rabbi Caro wrote the Shulchan Aruch, a simplified, shortened digest of the Bet Yosef. The Shulchan Aruch spread rapidly throughout the Sephardi world and still remains the authoritative Halachah.

Today, Sephardi Halachah also contains the Takanot, rulings made by the rabbis throughout the generations dealing with certain issues pertaining to specific communities or countries.

Ashkenazim follow the Halachah of Rabbi Moishe Isserles (1530 to 1572), a renowned Polish rabbi who founded an outstanding rabbinical academy in his native Krakow. His notes, which covered Rabbi Caro's Shulchan Aruch with an Ashkenazi mapah (tablecloth), soon became the Halachah of all the European Jewish communities.

Today, Ashkenazim around the world use Rabbi Caro's Shulchan Aruch together with Rabbi Isserles' notes as their Code of Law.

For further insight into the Sephardi world, it is important to know that every city, no matter how large or small, in every country, from North Africa to the Middle East, had its own beit din (rabbinical court); each was comprised of three rabbis appointed by the community's officials, with the approval of the government. The secular authorities always had great respect for the activities and rulings of these rabbis. In fact, the beit din administered all religious, social and civil affairs, and therefore, Jews never went to the local or national government for any official documents.

Because the beit din's system of record keeping was so meticulously maintained, there was a uniformity and common structure in all the Sephardi communities. Even today, one phone call to a rabbi in any Sephardi country can quickly reveal a 200-year family history of marriages, divorces, births, conversions, adoptions and everything required to establish a person's genealogy.

To revive these traditions and unite our diverse communities, the Sephardic Rabbinate of Ontario provides a full range of services in accordance with Sephardi Halachah. All are available in French, Spanish and Hebrew, the languages familiar to many people in our community, as well as in English.

The rabbinate also has its own beit din, which provides rabbinical arbitration in business and financial conflicts, and, working in conjunction with the Toronto beit din, grants gittin (divorces). The beit din of the Sephardic Rabbinate of Ontario, is fully endorsed by the Rabbanut Harashit, the Chief Rabbinate of Israel.

The Sephardi beit din eliminates the problems created by the differences between Ashkenazi and Sephardi gittin, such as variations in the actual text of the divorce document. As well, because the two traditions pronounce some Hebrew letters and vowels differently, there are differences in the spellings of the couple's Jewish and secular names.

In cases requiring rabbinical arbitration, the beit din rules according to the Halachah of the Bet Yoseph, and if any of the issues involve business, finances or inheritance, the rulings of the Takanot are included.

In the area of kashrut, Sephardi and Ashkenazi halachot also are dissimilar in significant ways. Because of the particulars regarding a cow's lungs and tissues, there are notable differences between Sephardi and Ashkenazi Halachah in defining what constitutes kosher meat.

The Sephardi Halachah for Passover also presents considerable variation and difficulties. Even though Sephardim can eat legumes, such as corn, peas, chick peas, beans and peanuts, there is no kosher for Passover hashgachah for these products and their derivatives.

To alleviate these and other kashrut problems, the Sephardic Rabbinate of Ontario and the Kashruth Council of Toronto (COR) have agreed to fully cooperate with each other in a joint effort to accommodate these unique communal needs. Foods that meet the specific requirements of Sephardi Halachah will carry the Sephardic hashgachah in addition to COR certification. This hashgachah will only appear on foods that are first certified by COR.

For Passover, however, foods permitted to Sephardim but forbidden to Ashkenazim, will carry only the Sephardic symbol of hashgachah.

To stimulate the learning of Sephardi Halachah, the rabbinate publishes materials describing the laws and the spiritual significance of the chagim, Shabbat, the roles of men and women, divorce, mikvah; and life cycle events, such as brit, bar mitzvah, engagement, wedding, death, mourning and more. This vital information is available at the rabbinate, as well as distributed in synagogues and schools and through lectures.

Other services provided by the rabbinate include officiating at religious ceremonies, counselling families in crisis, enhancing an existing system of bikkur cholim (visiting the sick), and providing chaplaincy services for hospitals and correctional institutions.

The rabbinate continues to provide the services of a Sephardi Hebra Kadisha and officiate at funerals.

The Sephardic Rabbinate has staff that deals with special issues of concern to constituents who are immigrants or seniors. These include signing passport applications, senior citizen certification, translation into English of civil marriage and divorce certificates, ketubot and birth certificates, and writing recommendation letters for immigration purposes, Jewish agencies, schools, social assistance, employment and other needs.

Today when we take a close look at our people, we see that far too many Sephardim are totally uninvolved in the Jewish community, with no access to a rabbi or a synagogue. When faced with a life crisis, they become lost with nowhere to turn for practical and spiritual support.

We want to bring them back to their roots. We want them to know that the Sephardic Rabbinate of Ontario is here for them, as well as for those who are communally active and affiliated. At the community level, the Sephardic Rabbinate of Ontario supplements the services that Sephardi synagogues as individual institutions are not in a position to offer to their members.

We want Sephardim to take pride in their illustrious ancestry, to realize the importance of a unified community structure and to understand the power of Jewish continuity. For some, the memories of the past are still vivid; for others, the memories are quickly fading. And then there is the new generation, weaned on an open and pluralistic society, for whom Sephardi ancestry and Torah observance are somewhat foreign.

We want the Sephardic Rabbinate of Ontario to be the one-stop-shopping spot for Sephardim of all ages and backgrounds. With the help of HaKadosh Baruch Hu, it will happen.

The Sephardic Rabbinate of Ontario is located at the Sephardic Kehila Centre, 7026 Bathurst St., Thornhill; phone 905 669 7600, fax 905 669 6243 and e-mail [sephardic rabbinate@shaw.wave.ca].

Rabbi Assayag is the chief rabbi of the Abir Yaakob Congregation.

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U.S. fears Israel planning Lebanon escalation

By DAVID MAKOVSKY
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The United States is worried that Israel is preparing an escalation in Lebanon, including the possibility of launching attacks against Syrian targets in Lebanon, should Hezbollah fire any Katyushas at northern towns, U.S. officials say.

Defence Ministry officials refuse to confirm the possibility of strikes at Syrian targets in Lebanon, but admit that the United States had discussed a possible deterioration due to developments with Hezbollah.

The source of American concern is the upcoming elections in May, and the needs of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government to regain political momentum after it has fallen behind in the polls. Washington also remembers that an Israeli government launched operation Grapes of Wrath on the eve of the 1996 elections.

After a spate of inner cabinet meetings in recent weeks, the cabinet issued a statement, two weeks ago, that it would hit any target in Lebanon if Israel is attacked.

In seeking to persuade Israel to avoid escalation in Lebanon, the United States has made its concerns known to Jerusalem in the last couple of weeks on at least four different occasions.

On Friday, U.S. special Middle East peace envoy Dennis Ross raised the issue with foreign minister Ariel Sharon during their meeting in New York, and there were at least three communications with Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who [illegible] ambassador to Israel Edward Walker, Ross and State Department Assistant Secretary for Near East Affairs, Martin Indyk.

Avi Benayahu, Mordechai's spokesperson, said, "Defence minister Mordechai does not want escalation in Lebanon. But Israel has told the United States and others that Lebanon holds the potential for deterioration which could impact on the entire region. Therefore, all sides must act with caution. Israel cannot tolerate the recent conduct of Hezbollah."

U.S. officials are concerned that Mordechai could come under mounting pressure inside the Likud, before a party list is compiled next month, to act with haste in Lebanon as a way of garnering support inside the hawkish party.

Mordechai, meanwhile, continues to deny reports that he is holding onto the Defence Ministry portfolio out of fear that if he resigns, Netanyahu would launch an adventurous course in Lebanon.

MK Azmi Bashara of Hadash-Bilad said Syrian President Hafez Assad told him last month in Damascus that Israel may seek to hit Syrian targets in Lebanon, but believed this would not change the underlying political situation in Lebanon. It remained unclear how Syria would retaliate in the event of an Israeli air strike.

Terrorist Abu Nidal reported in Iraq

By DOUGLAS DAVIS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LONDON — Fearful that he may be handed over to a Western government, a Palestinian terrorist said to be responsible for killing or wounding 900 people in 20 countries has moved from Egypt to Iraq, according to news reports here.

Quoting diplomatic sources, the *Guardian* newspaper said Abu Nidal fled to Baghdad from a Palestinian hospital in a Cairo suburb, where he had been receiving treatment for leukemia.

Now 61 and reportedly dying, Jaffa-born Sabri al-Banna adopted the nom de guerre Abu Nidal when he joined the Palestine Liberation Organization. After a meteoric rise through the group's hierarchy, he broke with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in the early 1970s to oppose the possibility of a negotiated settlement with Israel.

Later, as head of his own Fatah Revolutionary Council – once described by the U.S. State Department as "the most dangerous terrorist organization in existence" – he was, at times, backed by Iraq, Syria, and most recently, Libya, where he had lived until arriving in Cairo last July under a false name and carrying a Tunisian passport.

Since 1974, Abu Nidal's death squads have struck at Israeli, Jewish and western targets, as well as at PLO officials who were regarded as moderate.

Among Abu Nidal's most recent high-profile attacks were the simultaneous gun-and-grenade attacks on the El Al passenger counters at Rome and Vienna airports in 1985, and the assassination of the PLO intelligence chief in1991.

Abu Nidal is believed to have moved to Iraq in mid-December and is reportedly being treated in one of the lavishly equipped clinics reserved for Saddam Hussein and his inner circle.

Arab sources were quoted as saying the Libyans, already facing western pressure over Libya's refusal to extradite two bombing suspects from the 1988 Pan Am 103 crash in Lockerbie, Scotland, wanted to find another country where Abu Nidal could spend his final days. And the Egyptians sought to end an embarrassment for President Hosni Mubarak.

"It is entirely credible that he is in Iraq," said a veteran Middle East analyst. "Saddam doesn't forget a friend, just the same way as he doesn't forget an enemy."

Abu Nidal served as PLO representative to Baghdad in the 1970s.

He is thought to have feared that Egypt would succumb to the sort of pressure that led Sudan to hand over the international terrorist known as Carlos the Jackal, who was seized in 1994, taken to France and convicted of murder charges.

Abu Nidal's organization, broken by internal feuds as its leader became increasingly enfeebled, is no longer considered an active terrorist threat.

Cultists worry British authorities

Continued from page 1

Some of the cult members maintain contact with their families, but mask their whereabouts by communicating only via e-mail.

Miller is said to have extracted substantial sums of money from his followers. Two reportedly handed over a business to him, and he also acquired a major share in a construction company, which he ran with two other followers.

Miller and his wife Marcia were the subject of bankruptcy proceedings in October 1997. He is said to owe tens of thousands of dollars in taxes, as well as debts to a string of Denver radio stations that ran his advertisements.

He is reported to have informed his creditors that they should be happy to serve God.

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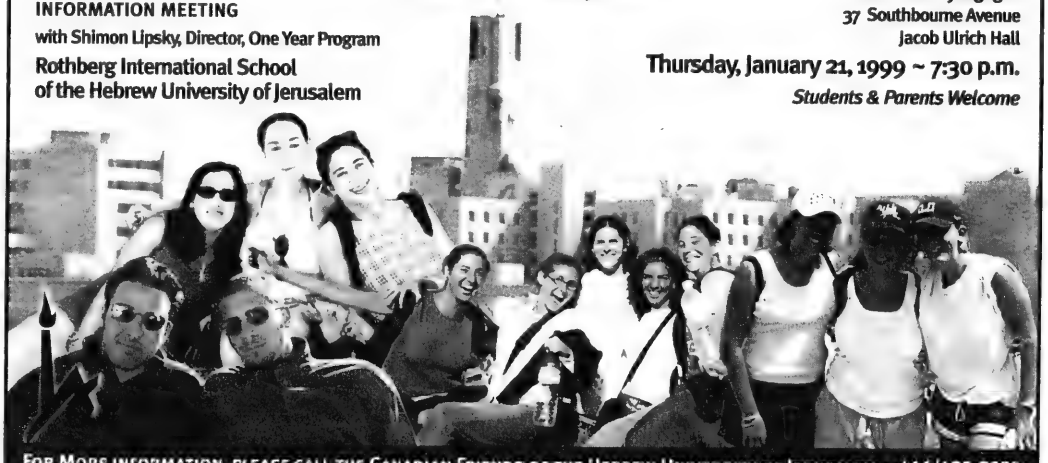
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Israel Election Notebook

May 17

• Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's former right-hand man, Avigdor Lieberman, launched an immigrant-rights political party, called Israel, Our Home, which pledges to limit the power of the Supreme Court and to cut back the police force. Political observers described Lieberman's populist rhetoric as dangerous. Netanyahu distanced himself from the the attack on the Supreme Court.

• Dan Meridor, who left the Likud party to challenge Netanyahu and former army chief of staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, acknowledged that they had not yet decided who would lead their new centrist party, but agreed to work together regardless of the decision.

• The man known as the prime minister's mentor, Moshe Arens, said he would run for head of the Likud party if there was enough grassroots support for his candidacy.

• Netanyahu is bringing Israel to the brink of disaster, Lipkin-Shahak charged in announcing his own candidacy for prime minister.

• Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon downplayed expectations that he may challenge Netanyahu for the leadership of the Likud party. He said he is working "to get more unity in the Likud party and the national camp."

• The Likud party launched its election campaign with a scathing attack upon Ehud Barak. Party officials taunted Barak to reveal his true agenda, which they described as total capitulation to the Palestinians. Officials made no reference to the prime minister himself nor to any candidates other than Barak.

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ROUGH RIDE

Former IDF chief of staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak received a rough reception while campaigning for Prime Minister in the outdoor Hatikvah Market in south Tel Aviv. The market is traditionally a bastion of Likud support. Lipkin-Shahak was threatened and was on the receiving end of bits of tomato, chicken and fruit thrown at him by irate shoppers. One man was arrested and charged with incitement following Lipkin-Shahak's foray into "enemy" territory. [Isranet photo]

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by Lucille de Saint-Andre

The Week in Israel

Jan. 4

• Two Jewish women were wounded when gunmen opened fire on a van travelling between Kiryat Arba and Hebron.

• The U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv reopened after being evacuated amid warnings of a possible terrorist attack.

Jan. 5

• Seven Israeli contractors submitted bids for construction of housing on Har Choma. The government plans to award the contract to one contractor within the next two weeks, and hopes construction of the first of the planned 1,025 houses can begin within a matter of months.

Jan. 6

• Faulty intelligence was to blame for a recent air attack in Lebanon that led to the deaths of a Lebanese woman and six of her seven children, according to an Israeli military inquiry. Intelligence photos of the site were outdated.

• Hezbollah gunmen detonated a roadside bomb as an Israeli was en route to an army base in southern Lebanon. One Israeli soldier was seriously wounded.

• Israel wounded several Lebanese civilians in a raid on suspected Hezbollah targets in south Lebanon. Meanwhile, Israel said it had killed a top Hezbollah bomb expert last week.

Jan. 7

• The Supreme Court ordered religious affairs minister Eli Suissa to explain why he was blocking religious councils that include non-Orthodox members from meeting. The court order was issued after Suissa called on the Haifa religious council, which includes a Reform and a Conservative member, not to hold a scheduled meeting this week.

• Israel issued deportation orders against three more members of a Denver-based doomsday cult. It was unclear when they, along with 13 other cult members, would be deported.

Jan. 8

• Prime Minster Benjamin Netanyahu announced that he plans to raise the inflation target prior to the elections from the current target of four percent to between five and seven percent.

Files from the JTA and Ha'aretz

Pluralism minefield

Continued from page 1

• Conversions: Orthodox parties in the Knesset are attempting to revive the conversion bill after the Jerusalem District Court recently ordered the Interior Ministry to recognize as Jewish 23 people who underwent conversions performed by Conservative and Reform rabbis.

The bill has been redrafted to incorporate the Ne'eman committee's proposals. But leaders of the liberal movements say this undermines the spirit of the compromise, which was meant to avoid legislation codifying Orthodox control over conversions.

The ruling is being appealed to Israel's Supreme Court, which is considered likely to uphold it. But recognizing the potential for further discord, Hanan Porat, chair of the Knesset's Law Committee, said he would ask the Supreme Court to postpone hearing the appeal until after Israel's May 17 national elections.

• Religious councils: In another piece of legislation prompted by a court ruling – this time from the Supreme Court – Orthodox legislators, last month, won support in the first of three Knesset votes on a bill designed to bypass the high court's decision requiring the government to appoint Conservative and Reform representatives to municipal religious councils.

The "bypass bill" requires every member of a religious council to abide by rulings of the Orthodox Chief Rabbinate. Reform and Conservative leaders are furious, saying the bill mocks the court's ruling.

The Knesset Law Committee postponed the second and third votes on the bill by the full legislature. But at the same time, the Chief Rabbinate ordered local religious councils not to convene as long as Reform and Conservative members take their seats.

The ongoing pluralism battle dates back to Israel's founding.

The 1948 Declaration of Independence defined Israel as a Jewish and democratic state. But the failure to agree on a constitution has left ambiguities that persist until today.

Israel's Law of Return, has historically been the source of the problem. The law was amended in 1970 to define a Jew, for the purpose of receiving citizenship, as "one born of a Jewish mother or who has converted."

The "Who is a Jew" issue took on greater urgency in the mid-1980s, when Shas, a haredi party, secured control of the Interior Ministry and tried to prevent those converted by the Reform and Conservative movements abroad from being registered in Israel as Jewish.

A landmark ruling in 1989 required the government to register anyone converted abroad as Jews, including those converted by Reform and Conservative rabbis.

For the liberal Jewish movements, the struggle has always been a matter of principle. They want to know that the Jewish state fully recognizes Diaspora Jews, the bulk of whom are Conservative or Reform.

Since the 1989 ruling, the Reform and Conservative movements have repeatedly turned to the courts.

But these court decisions infuriated the Orthodox, who accused the movements of trying to breach the "status quo," a set of principles on religion and state that were agreed to by the Orthodox and David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister.

[illegible] agreements he forged before taking office in 1996, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised his powerful Orthodox allies he would push through the conversion bill.

April 1997 marked a turning point. Going to the Supreme Court to obtain recognition of conversions performed in Israel, the Orthodox parties pushed through the first of three votes on the conversion bill, sparking a severe crisis of confidence between Diaspora Jewry and Israel.

In June 1997, both sides agreed to freeze all court petitions and legislative moves while the Ne'eman committee explored possible solutions to the crisis.

Israeli Newspapers frequently reported the intricacies of the debate. Moderate Orthodox groups backing the Ne'eman Commission sprouted. More and more Knesset members began to support the campaign for religious equality.

But the liberal movements say the Orthodox leadership never really embraced the compromise, and has even stepped up anti-Reform and anti-Conservative rhetoric.

The cautious optimism of last year, when the committee issued its compromise, is now a distant memory.

In New York last week, leaders of the Reform and Conservative movements warned that legislative efforts to circumvent the recent Israeli court decisions threaten to damage the emotional and philanthropic ties between North American and Israeli Jewry.

They called on Diaspora Jews not to support candidates in the upcoming Israeli elections who back the Orthodox legislative efforts.

Here in Israel, the rhetoric has also been sharp.

"There is always room to go back on the path of compromise," said Rabbi Uri Regev, director of the Reform movement's Religious Action Centre in Israel.

But, Shlomo Benizri, an influential Shas Knesset member said, "There can be no compromise."

Regev and Benizri agree, however, that the Ne'eman committee's goals were overambitious.

This being the case, both Regev and Benizri think the only way to avert disaster may be to try to forge a technical solution, such as abolishing the line listing nationality on Israeli identity cards.

This would render the need to register converts as Jews a non-issue. But for a new solution to be found, the various streams must be willing to talk – a daunting task, given all the overheated rhetoric.

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Honor urged for envoy who saved thousands

By DOUGLAS DAVIS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LONDON — A British diplomat, who saved as many as 10,000 Jews from the Holocaust, deserves official recognition from Israel, according to a senior British Jewish leader.

Lord Janner, head of the London-based Holocaust Educational Trust, said Frank Foley should be designated one of the Righteous Among Nations by Jerusalem's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, to recognize Foley's efforts to rescue Jews from Nazi Germany.

And based on evidence that is only now emerging, Foley could enter the history books as one of the great equal to Oskar Schindler, Raoul Wallenberg and the Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara.

As director of the British passport office in Berlin during the 1930s, Foley freely handed out visas to Jews in Germany and sheltered several in his home, Janner said in an open letter to Yad Vashem officials.

Middle-aged, with round, owlish glasses framing a face topped by a balding head, Foley did not cut a particularly heroic figure in 1930s Berlin.

But he was more than he appeared to be: Far from his public role as a gray paper-pusher, Foley fulfilled his true mission as the Berlin station chief for British intelligence until the outbreak of World War II.

Foley used his power and influence as British passport control officer in Berlin [illegible] work – to help German Jews immigrate to Britain and its colonies, including Palestine.

Unlike Schindler, whose industrial enterprises benefited from the Jews he saved, or Wallenberg, who operated under diplomatic protection, Foley received no financial reward nor did he enjoy diplomatic immunity.

Born in 1884, Foley was a veteran of World War I. Fluent in German and French, he was recruited to Britain's MI-6 intelligence agency, where he rose to the rank of captain.

By the end of World War II, Foley had compiled a prodigious record of achievement. He had convinced scores of German spies to become double agents, organized the operation that saved Norway's gold reserves from being looted by the Nazis, and persuaded leading German scientists not to pass on essential data about atomic and rocket advances to their Nazi superiors.

Foley was also a principal interrogator of Rudolf Hess, Hitler's deputy, who flew to Britain in a bizarre attempt to strike a peace deal when the war was already lost. Foley also recruited a high-level Soviet spy who, for years after the war, continued to feed Britain information on Soviet espionage.

But it was the rescue – at great personal risk – of German Jews that will be Foley's legacy.

The remarkable story is told in *Foley: The Spy Who Saved 10,000 Jews*, by British journalist Michael Smith, which will soon be published in Britain.

According to Smith, Foley "ignored all the rules to help Jews to leave the country, sometimes demanding to be let into concentration camps to get them out, occasionally hiding them in his own home, and using his Secret Service skills to provide them with false papers and passports."

Among those who sought shelter in Foley's apartment was Rabbi Leo Baeck, the charismatic head of the Association of German Rabbis, who used the venue to brief foreign journalists on the increasing persecution of the Jews in the Third Reich.

The question that baffled Benno Cohn, then chair of the German Zionist Organization, and his colleagues in the Zionist movement, was why Foley should demonstrate such commitment at such high personal risk to save Jews.

Personal risk

"He told us he was acting as a Christian and that he wanted to show us how little the 'Christians' who were then in power in Germany had to do with Christianity. He detested the Nazis and looked on their political system – as he once told me – as the rule of Satan on earth," Cohn said in the book.

Foley's work in Berlin, said Smith, was "a stupendous act of humanity, borne not out of political necessity but out of a moral imperative: Thousands of Jews came to the little office on Tiergartenstrasse, frightened, panicky and desperate for help.

"In the tiny office, they found a tiny staff grappling with a blizzard of paper, and at its centre, a small, round man in spectacles. He did not let them down."

Foley's wife Kay, recalled that he worked without a break from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., personally handling as many applications as he could, assisting his staff, and giving advice and comfort to those who were waiting for their applications to be processed.

Eventually, the line outside the office was a mile long. As Kay Foley observed in the book: "Some were hysterical. Many wept. All were desperate. With them came a flood of cables and letters from other parts of the country, all pleading for visas and begging for help."

As conditions worsened for Jews in Berlin, Foley took greater risks by allowing some Jews, including Baeck, to live in his home at [illegible] ingstrasse 56.

Between 1933 and 1939, tens of thousands more people received visas than should have, given a strict interpretation of the rules according to Hubert Pollack, one of the Jewish workers trying to get Jews into Palestine.

Even after he locked up his office on Tiergartenstrasse for the last time on Aug. 25, 1939, Foley continued to help Jews escape. During the first week of the war, Youth Aliyah certificates that he had signed were used by the U.S. Embassy to send hundreds of Jewish children to safety in Scandinavia and, through the Italian port of Trieste, to Palestine.

"He carried out thousands of rescues when one can be enough to qualify," Janner wrote to Yad Vashem. "He risked his own life and position, and did not seek any remuneration for his actions."

Paula Quirk and her family, who live in London, owe their survival to Foley. She feels "very strongly that the English people who helped never got the credit they deserved. Foley, in his modesty, never told people how much he did."

Frank Foley died in 1958. Was it simple modesty that prevented him from discussing his role in 1930s Berlin? Why has his story remained unknown for so long?

According to Smith, Foley's association with British intelligence inhibited him from discussing the activities he performed while in the service.

"He was not allowed to talk to people when he came back to Britain," said Smith. "His life in Berlin had to remain secret."

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Mikhail Gorbachev lays a wreath while attending a meeting of the Peres Centre for Peace. [Isranet photo]

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Influenza virus returns for the winter season

TORONTO — What is the flu? Influenza, commonly known as the flu, is a virus according to Dr. Allison McGeer, microbiologist and infectious disease consultant for Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto.

Viruses are single-celled forms of life that are smaller than bacteria and can only survive in plant or animal cells. The virus lives by finding new cells to attack, and outlives a person's immune systems by changing its composition into new strains to survive.

"Viruses enter the body either when you breathe in droplets that someone sprays out when they sneeze or cough or when you have contact with an infected person's face or hands," says McGeer.

"You could probably get it from picking up someone's tissue, if you pick up a loaded one and don't wash your hands before you touch your face. You won't, however, get it from touching elevator buttons or telephones.

"The virus affects the cells that line your nose, into your throat and lungs. You develop an immune response and cells move in to kill the virus. You make a bunch of cells that go into the area, and fluid comes with them, making you swell up, giving you a stuffed up nose. When the cells attack the virus, they release chemicals which can cause fever and aches and pains."

For most people the virus is stopped in the head area, but for people with weaker immune systems, the virus can spread to the lungs and to other areas of the body, says McGeer.

The virus itself can cause serious pneumonia and it makes older people and those with weak immune systems much more susceptible to pneumonia caused by bacteria, she adds.

"Each year one in six Canadians – one in three in households with children – get the flu, which generally lasts for about a week. Most people have fever, a cough and a general feeling of being sick and many people also have stuffy, runny noses, headaches, sore throats, muscle aches, and feelings of chilliness, she says, noting that while the fever is usually gone in about three days, the other symptoms last a week on average."

Commenting on the contagiousness of the flu, McGeer says, it is likely transmitted before one gets sick. "Maybe early on when you feel ill but you're not sure what it is. After three or four days you're not shedding much of the virus.

"When the flu is very active you're going to get it from someone (if you're not vaccinated). There's no point in blaming co-workers or family. If you don't get it from one person you'll get it from someone else."

To avoid getting the flu, she recommends that anybody at risk of serious illness, that is, anyone over the age of 65 or who has a chronic illness, get the vaccine.

She also advises anyone who takes care of or lives with a person who is at risk, to get vaccinated as well, to avoid infecting someone else. "In addition, anyone who doesn't want to get influenza or to pass it on should be vaccinated. The vaccine is safe and very effective in healthy adults."

She stresses that people need a new flu shot each year because each vaccination is tailored to battle the known virus strains in circulation.

New viruses may hit hard in their first year because vaccines aren't designed to fight them, McGeer says. "The good news is last year's new virus, Sydney A, is countered by this year's shot."

Because influenza is a virus, antibiotics are not an effective treatment, she says. "There's not much you can do once you've got it. Consumption of a lot of liquid and pain killers are the best treatment. The important thing is to get vaccinated for it."

McGeer warns that children should not be given aspirin to treat the flu. Aspirin can cause the flu to develop into Reyes Syndrome, which attacks the kidney, liver and brain and can be fatal, she explains. Acetaminophen should be used instead, she says.

When asked about seeking medical help, McGeer says that people are the most ill during the first two to three days. "After this, you should see a doctor if you start to feel much worse, if the fever comes back or gets higher, or if you get pain and have difficulty breathing.

"The flu can set you up for other complications. It can give asthmatics heart problems or for people over 60 it can open the door for pneumonia to set in, which could become fatal."

The flu season starts sometimes between mid-November and February and lasts seven to 10 weeks, McGeer says. She predicts this winter's flu season in Toronto will start in January.

Parainfluenza Type 3 is a virus which is different from influenza, she notes. "Although it can cause fever, cough and cold symptoms like influenza, the illness is usually less severe than influenza. If an adult gets it, they are likely to get a slight fever, but not the heavier symptoms of the flu. Many people don't miss work because of it."

Both influenza and parainfluenza viruses can give children an illness called croup, McGeer says. "This infection of the upper airways can give children a barking cough and wheeze when they breathe."

TULIP BULBS DELIVERED

Chana has been hospitalized in the cardiology department at Shaare Zedek Medical Center since November's terrorist bombing in the Machane Yehuda market. Many people have come to visit her, among them representatives of Friends of Israel from Holland. They presented her with tulip bulbs. The Dutch Friends have donated 50,000 tulip bulbs to Israel, in honor of the Jubilee celebrations.

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Health

Developing a positive model for aging experience

By FRANCI ANN WILLIAMS
Special to The CJN

I want to share with you my own experiences and feelings about aging. Like many of us, my fear of aging, death and dying has increasingly dominated my consciousness the older I have become.

Every new wrinkle was a cause of alarm and depression. Every name forgotten was a sign of failing abilities. Will I still be attractive to my partner? How will I feel about my sexuality? Will I be a burden on my children?

Our society drives and perpetuates this fear continually, by offering very limited opportunities to offset this extremely negative view of getting older. We are bombarded by images of youthfulness, health, thinness, and economic production. We are told that the answers to aging lie in plastic surgery, aerobics, drugs and dieting. The "anti-aging" industry is worth billions, and growing.

We are never told to celebrate our age or to take pride in every birthday as an accomplishment, as a source of achievement. And we are certainly never told that our later years hold important challenges and responsibilities – with the possibilities of more meaningful and fulfilling roles than we may have ever had in the past.

Rarely do we see images of an enlightened concept of aging. In fact, the two models of aging are firstly, one of disease, frailty, uselessness and dependence; and secondly, one of older people who act and look young – called "successful aging." Both are extremes, and both stereotypes.

Thomas Cole points out in *The Journey of Life* that the successful aging model gives priority to physical health as the plan to salvation, but leaves out the spiritual dimension. He says that modern gerontology treats aging as a problem of social engineering to be solved through technological means. This one-sided drive to alter, reverse, or somehow control the biological process of aging actually impoverishes its meaning. So-called positive aspects of aging turn out to be disguised efforts to restore youth, rather than attempts to appreciate growing old as an important and fundamental part of human existence.

As a social gerontologist, I am trained to fix things that go wrong. That's important, but nowhere in my training has the art of aging, the creativity of aging ever been alluded to.

From this position of despair, I discovered a new perspective on aging, a revolutionary paradigm that has not only offered me a positive direction, but also opens up the aging experience to be a transformative one, of living a life of joy, meaning, service and love. In short, to become more of who we are – our authentic selves – rather than society's expectations of who we should be.

Following Cole, Mark Gerzon, writes in *Listening to Midlife*, that we must not become casualties of the anti-aging epidemic. "The virus of aging slowly, is itself aging us. We are getting old trying to stop it. It is our responsibility to live a deeper truth: that aging has meaning. Old is not a dirty word."

In elderhood, we can derive our identity more from the level of *being*, rather than doing. As we become more contemplative, we can rely less on finding self-worth through our performance/status in the work world. Gradually, we find another dimension opening up in which our identity comes, not from what we do, but from what we are, from being rather than doing.

In lives dedicated to inner growth and development, our physical appearance ceases to be as important.

"Spiritual eldering" offers a new model of aging whose goals are to reclaim and transform our elder years from our socialized notions of aging as useless to valued, from empty and alienated to involvement, fulfilment and meaning. Spiritual eldering seeks to reverse society's ageist attitudes so that we may live our older years as vital, dynamic and useful, complete human beings. And this is a radical departure from the successful aging model that perpetuates the "young at any cost and at any age" perspective.

Based on Rabbi Zalman Schachter Shalomi and Ronald Miller's book, *From Age-ing to Sage-ing: A Profound New Vision of Growing Older*, (Warner Books, 1995) spiritual eldering is a psycho-spiritual model of development that enables older people to complete their life journey, harvest the wisdom of their years and transmit a legacy to future generations. The Spiritual Eldering Institute in Philadelphia offers strategies, suggestions, exercises and philosophies for this renewal. Spiritual Eldering Workshops initiate and prepare us for the work of being an elder.

Elders or sages draw on growth techniques from modern psychology and contemplative techniques from the world's spiritual tradition to expand their consciousness and develop wisdom. Sages express this wisdom as consecrated service to the community. In turn, this fills their lives with meaning.

Then what are elders? According to Reb Zalman, they are wisdom-keepers who have an ongoing responsibility for maintaining society's well-being, and safeguarding the health of our ailing planet. They are pioneers in consciousness, people who practise contemplative arts from our spiritual traditions to open up greater intelligence for their late-life vocations. Using tools for inner growth, such as meditation, journal writing, and life review, elders come to terms with their mortality, harvest the wisdom of their years, transmit a legacy to future generations and prepare for death. Serving as mentors, they pass on the distilled essence of their life experience to others.

Eldering implies that we take active responsibility for our destiny in old age, living by conscious choice rather than social expectation.

In Jewish tradition, our older years are particularly a time of quest for a life of meaning. This message is embodied in the concept of mitzvah. Through mitzvah, or religious obligation, the older Jew can achieve a profound sense of self-worth and social value.

Abraham Joshua Heschel suggested that it is through being obligated that one truly exists. Older adults who believe that they are still obligated, see themselves engaged in the central human task of tikun olam: repairing and redeeming the world through observing the mitzvah. In turn, this practice shows them that their actions matter, that they can transcend the narrow confines of their current lives, which may have been influenced by the debilitating messages from the culture around them.

Thus, spiritual eldering affirms and nurtures the potential of elders, encouraging and teaching them to become more aware of the wisdom from their life experience, and to use this wisdom for the benefit of themselves and others. There is a special purpose to this stage of our life cycle which is unique and different from the other stages.

And I, like Betty Friedan, (*The Fountain of Age*) began this quest with my own denial and fear of age. For Friedan it ends with acceptance, affirmation, and celebration.

I'm not quite there yet, but I do look forward to every birthday with gratitude and pride, and yes, a lot more fun too.

Franci Ann Williams is a specialist and consultant on issues of gerontology.

New detection strategies help fight cancer

By JAMES PASTERNAK
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — New approaches to early cancer detection could put real meaning into the word cure, says leading American cancer researcher Dr. David Sidransky.

He was in Toronto recently to receive The Alton Ochsner Award Relating Smoking and Health, presented by the American College of Chest Physicians. The award is accompanied by a cheque for $15,000 (US).

Early detection strategies, he says, are for those who have "failed in primary prevention, such as people who smoke, or may have had cancer in the past," Sidransky says. Early detection is enhanced when doctors can identify the smallest possible lesion that they can possibly detect."

At this point, Sidransky says, the cancer "is almost entirely, completely curable."

These advances in early detection have taken place at the Head and Neck Cancer Research facility at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where former Canadian Dr. Barry Trink also works.

Much of the research focuses on the understanding that cancers are driven by genetic changes. Research has shown that "it takes a variety of genetic mutations in the DNA of a cell to become a full-blown cancer," Sidransky said.

Sidransky says his approach allows for a much closer look at lesions on the body that are minimally abnormal. Generally speaking, he says, such lesions would have been left alone by the medical profession in the past.

"In the bodily fluid, for example, we can detect the first cancer cells that are coming off a lesion at the point where they are still very small, and can be cured.

Work in genetics, he says, allows for the identification of genes that are necessary for the progression of the cancer cells.

Sidransky's work is seen as a major step from past approaches.

"They didn't know what to look for. They saw red or white lesions, but they had no idea which ones were going to progress. They understood the pathology, but the pathology wasn't very good at telling them what was going on," says Sidransky, whose major breakthroughs are in the field of smoking-related cancers, predominantly in the head and neck, throat, voice box and lungs.

"This is all a consequence of the molecular revolution, which is about 10 years old."

Sidransky offers cautious optimism as to how the average patient should interpret new discoveries.

"You have to be a little bit careful…The majority of the work that this award is based on is really all laboratory pre-clinical work and some clinical work."

In general though, patient education and awareness is increasing. "Patients now are becoming increasingly adept, especially through the Internet, at being able to understand things that are coming forward. And from that point of view, patients should be aggressive, and should bring those things forward to their doctors…It may precede a physician's knowledge by a year or more sometimes.

"Also, patients must listen to their doctors, and work to understand whether their situation fits the various clinical tests that are being conducted. They may not be candidates," says Sidransky.

Breakthrough transplant medicine

By MICA SCHNEIDER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

WASHINGTON — Patients in need of tissue and organ transplants are one step closer to receiving laboratory-produced replacements, as a result of a breakthrough made by a team of American and Israeli scientists.

In January, the scientists became the first to extract human embryonic stem cells – the parent cells of all tissues in the body – and the first to trigger continual cell division. If programmed correctly, this cell division will develop into human tissues and allow scientists to create, from a petri dish, anything from human heart muscle to bone marrow and skin.

The advance is expected to benefit transplant medicine, drug discovery and basic developmental biology. Doctors may use it in the future to treat victims of heart disease, diabetes, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, spinal cord injuries and some kinds of cancers.

"Although a great deal of research needs to be done before these cells can lead to human therapies, I believe that in the long run they will revolutionize many aspects of transplant medicine," said James Thomson, a developmental biologist at the University of Wisconsin at Madison and the head of an international research team that published news of the scientific breakthrough in the Nov. 6 issue of the journal *Science*.

Joseph Itskovitz, an Israeli in-vitro fertilization specialist and a member of the medical faculty at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, joined Thompson's collaboration efforts two years ago and provided the study with embryos and research assistance.

Advertising Feature

LifeStyle

New Year's Resolution - I'm Tired Of Being Single!

For Toronto's premier and most unique dating service January is traditionally one of the busiest months of the year. That's the word from Rob Singer, founding President of The Jewish Singles Registry (JSR). After all the company parties, singles dances, and New Year's Eve parties people are tired and fed up says Singer. "By this time they begin asking themselves whether there is a better way to meet people." This is where the JSR comes in.

The JSR has been leading the way in the Toronto Jewish singles scene for over six years now. Members get to select for themselves who they would like to meet by viewing hundreds of profiles (all of which include photographs) and in some cases there are also voice personal messages. Members need only to inform JSR staff who they are interested in meeting and from there plans are set into motion to get the pair together.

PERSONAL SERVICE IS THE JSR'S FORTE

It's the personal service that sets the JSR apart from other services. Members can count on Registry staff for support, opinions, advice, and feedback. Some members on the other hand prefer to go it all alone, knowing full well that help is there if they need it. At the JSR the member customizes how the service will work for them. A large number of JSR couples are now engaged and married thanks to the dedication and recommendations of staff.

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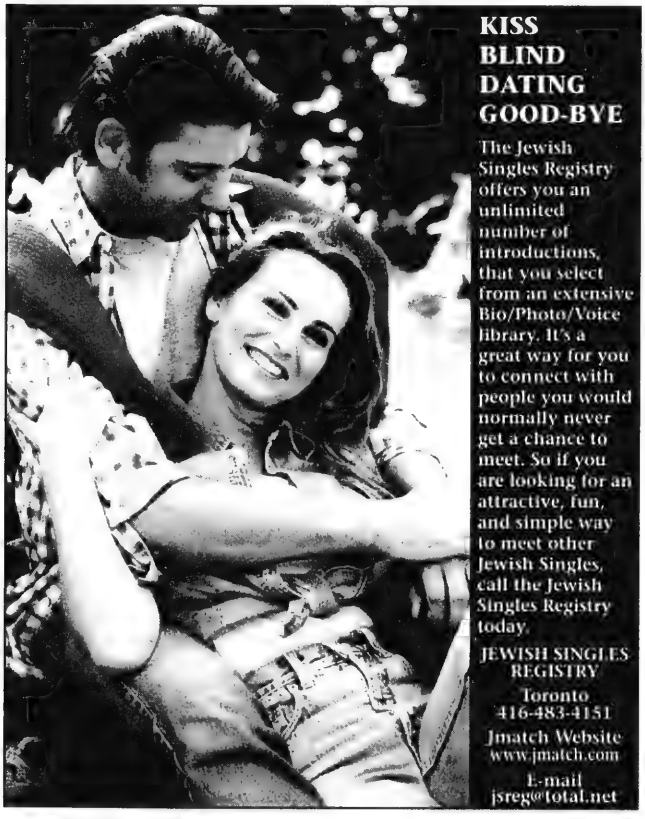
Jmatch, The Jewish Interactive Dating Service has taken the Toronto Jewish singles scene by storm. Working with the JSR, Jmatch has quickly gained notice as being one of the fastest growing Jewish dating services in Toronto. Visitors can now log onto the site, and after filling out a brief questionnaire gain access to profiles of over 1200 Jewish singles world wide from the comfort and convenience of their own home or office computer. Hundreds of Toronto singles have already registered with www.jmatrch.com. It's convenience, ease of use and 24 hour a day accessibility make it one of the most popular services of its kind. Joining the JSR includes FREE membership to Jmatch.

THREE MORE ENGAGEMENTS

"Three more couples have recently announced their plans to walk down the aisle" reports Singer. "We have many more couples in serious relationships at the moment so be prepared to hear about diamond rings being purchased in the near future, setting the tone for an exciting 1999.

Let the JSR help you start the new year on the right track. Call the JSR at **(416) 483-4151**, e-mail them at **jsreg@total.net**, or log onto the Jmatch site at **www.jmatch.com.**



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Studio 2 and Diplomatic Immunity host

Steve Paikin blissed out at TVO 'dream job'

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Steve Paikin is sitting pretty.

The perky 38-year-old Toronto broadcaster has what he regards as "the dream job."

He co-hosts *Studio 2* and hosts *Diplomatic Immunity*, TVOntario's highly regarded current affairs programs.

On these shows, broadcast daily and weekly respectively, Paikin has the freedom to roam far and wide and to probe the issues of the day with passion and intelligence.

When he is co-hosting *Studio 2* with Paula Todd, a woman who combines beauty with brains, he delves into political, social and economic matters, touches on cultural trends and discusses the latest developments in the world of sports.

When he is hosting *Diplomatic Immunity*, he and his panel of experts, examine and analyze international affairs.

"This is what I had been waiting to do," he said. "This what I had been preparing for."

What he means is that his position at TVOntario is the culmination of a career that began in print journalism at *The Hamilton Spectator* and segued into private radio and public television in Toronto.

Before joining TVOntario in 1992, Paikin – an arts graduate of the University of Toronto (U of T) and the recipient of a master's degree in broadcast journalism from Boston University – served an apprenticeship as a summer intern at the *Spectator*.

Until then, he admitted, he was hardly interested in general news, rarely read the front page of a newspaper, and almost exclusively confined his reading to the sports section.

After a three-year stint as a city hall reporter for CHFI radio, he joined the CBC. He was a general reporter, a Queen's Park correspondent, a host of news and current affairs programs on *Newsworld* and the anchor of *CBC at Six*.

Once in a while, he filled in for Knowlton Nash on *The National*. "That was really cool. I anchored *The National* on the night the Soviet Union died."

For all the opportunities he had at the CBC, Paikin hungered for something more, a job where he could exercise his intellectual curiosity, transcend cursory headlines and give free rein to his effervescent personality.

He found what he wanted at TVOntario. He was hired by none other than its president, Peter Herndorff, who recently announced he was quitting.

"It's the kind of a place where, if you've got a good idea and it's not outrageously expensive, they let you do it," said Paikin, the father of three sons.

Shortly after coming aboard, he produced an award-winning documentary, *Return to the Warsaw Ghetto*, which he describes as his proudest achievement (and which will be aired on the Women's Channel on Feb. 21).

Last September, he and a colleague, Dan Dunsky, talked *Studio 2*'s executive producer, Doug Grant, into turning its regular foreign affairs segment into a fullblown show, *Diplomatic Immunity*, whose panelists include Janice Stein, a professor at the U of T and Richard Gwyn, a columnist for the *Toronto Star*.

Paikin usually does not stray too far from TVOntario's headquarters in midtown Toronto, where he works out of a small corner office adorned with family photographs and occasionally rattled by a passing subway.

But from time to time, he leaves town. Last year, for instance, he turned in a story on Kirkland Lake's Jewish community and its old cemetery, and covered a strike at a gold mine in Red Lake. During his rookie year, he went to the Balkans, which has been convulsed by ethnic strife since the early 1990s.

Paikin firmly believes that no where else but at TVOntario could he be pursuing this eclectic journalistic agenda.

"Yes, it's a unique job. It simply doesn't exist at any other network in Canada. It combines hard and soft journalism, documentaries in the field and out and out kibitzing."

To prepare for interviews, Paikin spends his days reading and consulting contacts. He and Todd, a lawyer by training, pitch ideas to Grant. He defers to Grant's judgment. "If they left it up to me, I'd be doing one-hour features on the Hamilton Tiger Cats!" joked Paikin, a self-professed sports nut.

Born and raised in Hamilton, Paikin is the oldest son of Larry and Marnie. His father, who was in the steel business, buys and sells railway cars and locomotives, and his mother, whom he calls a "super woman," is a former president of the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra and of the board of Southam newspapers. Paikin's brother, Jeff, is a home builder in Burlington.

Paikin gravitated toward journalism after considering teaching. In his freshman year at university, he discovered U of T Radio. He covered hockey and football, and loved it. "That's when the light bulb went on. That's when I decided I wanted to be a broadcast journalist."

He doesn't know what the future holds in store. "I have no five-year plans. I work day to day." But this much seems clear: Paikin is blissed out at TVOntario.

Steve Paikin

Travel Talk

BY BILL GLADSTONE

The Gumputz apartment at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum at 97 Orchard Street. The apartment is set up the way it looked in 1878. The Gumputzes were a family of German Jews.

EAST SIDE TENEMENT A HISTORIC MONUMENT

An Orthodox Jewish garment presser from Lithuania, Abraham Rogarshevsky was only 45 years old when he succumbed to tuberculosis in July 1918. He died at home, surrounded by his family in their tiny three-room apartment on New York's Lower East Side.

Although there was nothing particularly remarkable or historic about Rogarshevsky – no more than there might be about any ordinary person chosen at random – the apartment where he drew his last breath has been turned into a permanent shrine to his memory.

The Rogarshevskys lived at 97 Orchard St., a rare and perhaps unique example of a 19th-century tenement building known to have survived into modern times. Ten years ago, the six-storey building was transformed into the Lower East Side Tenement Museum.

Recently the Rogarshevsky apartment was transformed into a permanent exhibit called Sitting Shiva with the Rogarshevskys, which will be seen by tens of thousands of visitors each year.

In 1929, the landlord closed off the five upper floors of 97 Orchard St. rather than comply with a city bylaw requiring costly improvements to the plumbing and ventilation. Until 1981, various businesses operated legally on the ground level of the building while the many small apartments upstairs languished in the dust and darkness.

The building was rediscovered in the mid-1980s by two New York City historians, Ruth Abram and Anita Jacobson.

"We had been looking for months for a place to have a tenement museum," says Abram. "We had given up because the 1929 law meant that landlords all over the city had torn down, renovated or gutted their buildings."

Until they found 97 Orchard St., Abram had been all but convinced that such once-common tenements, which she calls "urban log cabins," had disappeared entirely from the metropolitan landscape.

Chartered in 1988, the Lower East Side Tenement Museum offers local walking tours, exhibits, dramas and slide shows, as Abram, its founding director, seeks funds to restore its upper floors.

Flashlight in hand, she shines a light up the dark and creaky staircase. Upstairs, the light reveals a maze of small rooms with multiple layers of peeling wallpaper, mantleshelves coated in dust, and cobwebs hanging from the ceilings.

Unquestionably, the atmosphere is spooky and surreal. Abandoned in a corner of one room is a small tin truck, a child's wind-up toy from the Victorian era. On a doorjamb of another room, a former resident, apparently a tailor, has pencilled a sartorial enumeration of shirts, vests, jackets, trousers, blouses, dresses and skirts. At least three apartments were used as sweatshops.

In suite after grimy suite, the flashlight pierces the gloom of more than half a century, revealing subtle, almost antebellum flourishes in the decor. The building was erected in 1863, the year Lincoln was assassinated.

"This is a pre-Old Law tenement, and it's certainly rare. It was built before the Old Law of 1879, before there were any laws on the books regarding building construction. It hasn't been touched since the 1901 law requiring toilets, indoor water, airshafts and ventilating windows," Abram explains.

Roughly 7,000 people from 20 nations lived at 97 Orchard St. Although Jews comprised the largest groups of residents, many non-Jewish families of Irish, Romanian, German, African and other ethnic backgrounds lived in the tenement.

So far, four apartments have been restored as authentic period exhibits. They belonged to the Confinos, a Sephardi Jewish family from Turkey; the Gumpertzes, a family of German Jews; the Baldizzis, who were Italian Catholics; and the Rogarshevskys.

One apartment has been purposely left untouched to highlight the extreme dilapidation into which the building had fallen. On the ground floor, a detailed model of the building shows slice-of-life pastiches of numerous immigrant families at various moments of history.

Much information about former residents came from genealogists, who used census records, ship's passenger lists and naturalization documents to piece together biographical details about the resident families. Visitors are sometimes astonished to discover that their own ancestors are mentioned in a list of known former tenants.

Two months ago, President Bill Clinton signed a congressional bill designating the museum as a national historic area. It is the only tenement to be preserved in the United States.

Adults, $8. Advance bookings recommended. 212-431-0233.

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE.

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Guidebook examines New York's eclectic architecture

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

To the occasional visitor, the vast metropolis of Manhattan seems all of one piece, as though it sprung into being all at once, with no evolution whatsoever.

Travellers wishing to gain a better sense of the architectural background and history of this great American metropolis should consult *The Architectural Guidebook to New York City* (Peregrine Smith, 1998) by Francis Marrone with photographs by James Iska.

As one of the world's great cities, New York is a major architectural proving ground, possessing an extraordinary diversity of extremely worthy and unworthy experiments that alternately grace or haunt the streetscape.

Marrone's guidebook gives us better perspectives on many of these buildings than the cramped perspectives to which we are often limited.

What is Manhattan but a collection of architecture? Marrone celebrates the best pieces of this collection, and denigrates the more unfortunate additions. For instance, she declares the Waldorf Astoria, on Park between 49th and 50th, as "New York's grandest hotel by far." Alternately, she scorns the former Pan Am Building on Park Avenue: "If for no other reason than its bulk, this is a loathsome building."

Marrone does not hesitate to kick certain sacred cows of modernism including the spiral-shaped Guggenheim Museum: "The central point of the Guggenheim is that it totally ignores its setting." The Lincoln Center, meanwhile "made no sense in the 1960s (and)... makes no sense now," yet still wins her begrudging admiration.

Marrone points out the everyday glory in buildings like the New York Public Library and the Grand Central Terminal, which are situated several blocks apart along Fifth Avenue.

Noting the high stucco ceiling, large arched windows and fine furnishings of the library's Main Reading Room, she calls it "the best room in New York."

Virtually every building of note in Manhattan (and Brooklyn), whether of Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Romanesque Revival, High Victorian, Italianate, Beaux-Arts, Art Nouveau or Art Deco design, is included.

Also included are numerous Judaic landmarks, including the 92nd St. Y ("as important a cultural institution as New York possesses" and the Central Synagogue at Lex and 55th ("a stately presence on an otherwise drab stretch of Lexington Avenue").

While readers will not always agree with Marrone's perceptions and sometimes sketchily expressed opinions, her guidebook should help visitors see the bustling streets of New York with new – and more appreciative – eyes.

Jewish angst in 1937

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — *It's All True*, by Jason Sherman, is a good play for theatre lovers, particularly those who like a strong Jewish angle.

After all, the writer of *The Cradle Will Rock*, which was the inspiration for Sherman's play, was Marc Blitzstein; and the 1937 era it invokes on Broadway is full of Jewish angst.

Thus, two of the four protaganists are Jewish, including actor Howard da Silva (played by Martin Julien). In response to a query about why so many Jews compose music, da Silva acidly observes that besides acting as money lenders, Jews need a hobby to fill their time.

It's All True almost, but not quite, kills the illusion that *Cradle Will Rock* was locked out of a Broadway theatre becaue it was pro-union and anti-capitalist.

Instead, Sherman's thesis is that it was the egos and emotions of the actors and the producer (John Houseman) and the director (Orson Welles), rather than the political currents, which were at fault.

It led to Blitzstein's play being staged in another theatre without elaborate sets, and with the actors speaking and singing from their seats in the audience, and a lone piano player, to avoid vetos by the musicians' union and Equity.

This near brilliant ensemble production, directed by Richard Rose, is not claimed by playwright Sherman to be all true. But even if one wonders if Blitzstein was really a homosexual, and wrote *Cradle Will Rock* as an apology to his dead wife, the thrust of the play, a co-production of Necessary Angel and Tarragon is valid. It runs in the mainspace until Feb. 7.

This critic thinks Tom McCamus should have played Blitzstein as more of a sharp New Yorker, the quality that imbued Julien's performance as da Silva. Was da Silva's championing of the rights of workers, an essential element of *The Cradle Will Rock*, really undercut by his dalliance with cast member Melody Johnston?

This is a point that theatre historians may well argue, especially those who think that Washington decided to withdraw funds from the project because it was so anti-capitalist.

Whether you agree with Sherman's version or not, the acting of Victor Ertmanis as Welles, Johnston as Olive and Eva Blitzstein, Tamara Bernier as the stage manager and Welles' wife, and Richard Binsley as Houseman, in addition to those already mentioned, make *It's All True* worth seeing.

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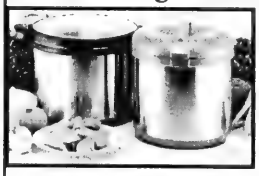

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The CJN is pleased to announce the third annual Passover Literary Supplement. We therefore invite the authors and poets among our readers to submit their works to us. We are looking only for works of fiction or poetry that explore Jewish themes.

The works must be original and previously unpublished. The fiction cannot be longer than 1,500 words. We must receive your works ***no later than February 26, 1999*** at *The CJN*, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, Ontario M3B 3K4. If you want us to return the submissions, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Otherwise, we will be unable to do so.

The editor.

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SLUSH
the 'zine for success-challenged writers
Number Two December 1998
iF SHaKeSPeaRe Was AliVe toDay.....
One day I'm going to be a famous writer! I can feel it!
You're gonna feel something else if I don't get my burgers, Billy Boy! And put your damned hair net back on!
INSIDE: THE SLUSH DENNIS BOOK DOES INTERVIEW!

JEWISH LIFE IN THE MIRROR OF SONG

Yiddishland Cafe: The Workmen's Circle presents *A Jewish Life in the Mirror of Song*, a Yiddishland Cafe evening featuring a program of Yiddish folk songs reflecting the Jewish culture of pre-war eastern Europe. Singers **Miriam Eskin** and **John Botten** of the **Jewish Folk Choir** are accompanied by **Nina Shapilsky** on piano. Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m., 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Doors open 7 p.m. Tickets $12 in advance, $15 at the door. 635-0720 or 787-2081.

* * *

Glorious Gershwin: The Royal Conservatory of Music celebrates the works of composer **George Gershwin** and his contemporaries in a concert on Jan. 21, 8 p.m. *Porgy and Bess* and the original two-piano version of *Rhapsody in Blue* are among the works featured.

A corresponding lecture, hosted by the CBC's **Rick Phillips**, focuses on Gershwin's life and music, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets to the concert are $15 and $10. Tickets to the lecture are $10 and $8, or half price if bought with concert tickets. Royal Conservatory of Music, 273 Bloor St. W. 408-2824.

* * *

Theatre Notes:

• Dora award-winning theatre director **Jordan Merkur** (*Bent, Assassins, Passion*) directs a production of *My Mother Said I Never Should*, starring **Jennifer Phipps**, Jan. 15 to 31.

Described as "warm, funny and engaging," the play, which premiered in Manchester 10 years ago, explores the lives of four generations of British women, set against the enormous changes of the 20th century. $16-$22. Alumnae Theatre, 70 Berkeley St., Toronto. 366-7723.

• **Jason Sherman's** *It's All True* opened last week at the Tarragon Theatre, and runs until Feb. 7. The play focuses on a labor dispute surrounding a real-life worker's opera, *The Cradle Will Rock*, directed by **Orson Welles**, that was scheduled to open in a New York theatre in 1937. Although the play-within-the-play was closed for political reasons, it did eventually go on, thanks to some brilliant improvisations. $21-$26. 531-1827.

• *The Song*, a play about love, sex and the soul's journey, was inspired by the biblical Song of Songs, says playwright-director **Adam Nashman**. An accountant, troubled after the death of his wife, is visited by Rabbi Akiva and King Solomon. The play is produced by Theaturtle, a theatre company committed to producing "Jewish-inspired new works that speak to the soul."

Featuring **Deborah Hay** and **Alon Nashman**. Theatre Passe Muraille, 16 Ryerson Ave. Feb. 13 to March 7. 504-7529.

• The Bloor JCC presents a reading of **Adam Nashman's** *The Song* (described immediately above). 750 Spadina Ave. Mon. Jan. 18, 8 p.m. 924-6211.

• Burning Passions Theatre, a new Toronto-based venture dedicated to producing women-centred works, is seeking submissions. For details contact **Laurel Smith** or **Jen Cohen**, 651-4514; e-mail tasc@ web.net.

• Stage Centre Productions presents *The Government Inspector*, by **Nikolai Gogol**, now until Jan. 23 at Fairview Library Theatre, North York. Adults $16. 299-5557.

* * *

In the Spotlight: Feeling depressed from too many rejection letters, Toronto freelance writer-editor **Bev Katz Rosenbaum** recently teamed up with illustrator **Patricia Storms** to produce *SLUSH*, a new satirical 'zine (magazine) for writers.

The December issue pokes fun at many aspects of the writer's often-depressing profession, with cartoons about young writers before and after writer's school, and a comical article on Deconstructing the Rejection Letter. The cover shows what William Shakespeare would be doing if he was alive in the 1990s: He'd be slinging burgers at a greasy spoon.

If you're a "success-challenged writer in desperate need of a publication that will make me laugh [and] make me feel less alone," consider subscribing to SLUSH, which comes out in hand-drawn, foolscap format every two months. $20/year. For subscription details, phone 545-0700.

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CJN Purim Art Contest

It's time again for our fifth annual **Purim Art Contest** .

Who can enter: Children in grades 1 to 6 inclusive are eligible. The children of *CJN* employees are not eligible.

Prizes: The judges will choose one drawing from two different students in each grade. These "winning" drawings will be published in *The CJN* on February 25. In addition, each of the 12 children whose drawings have been selected will receive a cheque for $25.

How to enter: You may submit as many drawings as you want. However they should not be too small nor too large. Please paint or draw bright, bold, colorful pictures. You may use markers, crayons, paint or pencils. Please send us your name, address, phone number, age and grade along with your drawings.

You may mail or deliver your drawings to: CJN Community Contests, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ontario M3B 3K4. If you want us to return the pictures to you, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Otherwise, we will be unable to do so.

The contest closes at 5 p.m. on Friday, February 11, 1999. We will undoubtedly receive many wonderful submissions from children all across the country. But only 12 of the drawings will be chosen as the "winners." The judges will base their decisions on a number of factors such as: the use of color, the imaginative quality of the drawing and the way it tells an aspect of the story of Purim. The judges' decisions will be final. The chances of winning depend upon the number and quality of submissions received.

How the Winner will be announced: The children whose pictures are chosen will be notified by telephone before the start of Shabbat on Friday, February 18, 1999.

When the prizes will be awarded: The "winning" pictures will be published in *The CJN* of February 25, 1999. Have fun and good luck.

Any litigation respecting the conduct and awarding of a prize in this contest may be submitted to the Régie des Loteries et courses du Québec.

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* * * * *

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15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Bath./Finch, lge. family home, avail. immed., 4 bdrm., 4 bths., good for family w/teenagers, close to subway. Call after 5pm, 416-633-8386.

Bath/Lawrence, lovely 2 stry., 3 bdr. home, 4 appl., gar., sunrm., bsmnt., avail. Feb. 1. $1600/mo & util. 416-364-1063.

Clanton Park area, lge., 4 bdr., newly reno'd. 905-660-1919.

Viewmount Ave., 3 bdrm., 3 bth., new kit., kosher, 7 appl., fin. bsmt., great backyard, walk to subway, school, shuls. Avail Feb. 15. $2300/mo. 787-9356.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

Tridel's 265 Ridley (Avenue Rd & Wilson), 2 bdr., panoramic city view, sec., conv. to shopping, restaurants, schools, 401 & subway, $269,900. 782-0581. No agents please.

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Bath./Steeles - lux 2 + 1 bdrm., sun rm., l/p, pkg., $1450/mo. all incl. March 1. 416-414-3956.

40 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE/ RENT

Bathurst/Steeles - Primrose 2 lux. 2 bdr. apts. One w/balc., one w/lge. sol., 24 hrs. sec., pool, tennis, etc. $174,900 and $182,900. (Possible short term rentals at $1395 & $1495/mo.) Leave message at 739-0105 and your call will be returned.

75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

Bath./Baycrest,spac. bsmt apt, new kit & bth, exc loc. n/smkr, n/pets. $500/mo. 782-2102.

Bath/Briar Hill, spac. 1 bdrm. + den, CAC, dishwasher. Feb. 1. $1065/mo. 785-4669, 769-4158

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Very lg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrms., ample closets, some 1½ baths & 2 balc., roof, laundry, ravine setting, pool, ind. pkg., 6 apts. per flr. From $900.
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Young family wishes to rent reno'd or new cottage. Orillia to Gravenhurst. Child friendly sandy beach. 416-256-1987.

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

Miami, on beach, 1 bdrm. condo from Feb. 1 - Mar. 15. $1550 US. 416-785-1856.

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1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments available.
Large bedrooms, Sabbath elevator,
indoor pool. From $1,100/mo.
Hydro included.

Call 416-663-8662

240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Afternoon Hebrew School looking for teachers. Send resume to CJN Box # 7138.

Enthusiastic, creative teachers required for progressive Downtown Jewish Day Schools for September 1999. SK Junior teacher, Grade 2-3 team teacher for Day School; Hebrew teachers for Community School. Teaching certificate & Judaic studies background required. Relevant experience is an asset. Submit résumé plus 3 references & their phone #'s to: Joan Schoenfeld, c/o Bloor JCC, 750 Spadina Ave., Toronto, M5S 2J2 or Fax: (416) 924-0442.

Orthodox Elementary Day School in Vancouver, Canada seeks teachers and principal. Fax resume in confidence to 604-876-6153.

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Cleaning lady avail. with refs. Call early evenings. 784-3533.

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Nannies, live-in/out, full/part-time, in-home elderly care, FT, PT, RN's, nurses aides, cleaning. Bonded,refs. **416-224-9907** *NUMBER 1 DOMESTICS.*

Nanny, nice Jewish lady seeks work with a nice Jewish family. Hrs. negot., pref. am. Exper., refs. Call Kati at 416-968-6781.

255 DOMESTIC HELP WANTED

Live-in housekeeper, exp., friendly with initiative, cooking, Thornhill. 905-731-4072, eves.

Nanny/Hskpr, P/T Mon.-Thurs., 3:30-8pm,Bath./Egl. Must speak Hebrew. Call Shelley 402-8379.

257 HEALTHCARE AVAILABLE

Nurses Aid avail. to care for elderly. Refs. Call 416-249-9205.

Very resp. HCA avail. to take care of elderly. Joan, 626-2348.

259 SENIORS

Retirement Resident Placement Service for Jewish Seniors.
For information, contact Tamar Rosenblum Placement Co-ordinator **(416) 330-6469**

Looking For The Perfect Senior Care? Sincere, exp., quality senior caregivers, HCA, nurses avail. F/t, P/t. Bonded, refs. **Call # 1 Domestics. 416-224-9907.**

260 BUSINESS PERSONALS

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264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bernie & Mary-Fran Zeldman are happy to announce the engagement of their son, **Allan (Aron)** to **Sarah**, daughter of Mr. Jerold Krupnick and Ms. Sherrie Krupnick of New York.

Gail & Harvey Branicky are thrilled to announce the engagement of their daughter, **Melissa** to **Mitchell Dubin**, son of **Rhoda & Jerry Dubin** of Montreal. Proud grandparents are Sam Branicky, Towie Dwosh, Sophie & Jack Dubin and Bella & Irving Patoff.

264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

KOJOKARO/LEICHNER

Doreen & Jacob Kojokaro and Ruth & Harry Leichner are thrilled to announce the engagement of their children, Naomi Susan and Joshua Benjamin. Excited grandparents are Shandel & Joe Reichman.

265 PEOPLE SEARCH

WANTED

Information to the whereabouts of the **Gardiner Family** who owned a furniture store in Toronto (1950's) called **"Hudson Furniture & Clothing"**.
2 children - Melanie & Barry
Contact: **Mike Pelzer**
519-471-9522
fax: **416-443-1619**

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Your mother will just adore me! SJF, 29, tall, slim, attractive and outgoing has a great smile and a warm heart. CJN Box #7137.

*** CJN Boxes for Personal Companions Wanted ads are valid for 30 (thirty) days only (from 1st publication date). Replies must be received within this time frame in order to be forwarded to the correct CJN Box #.**

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

SJF 35. Medical prof needs attention. If you enjoy skiing from the highest mountain and sailing the ocean blue or perhaps riding into the sunset on an elephant, drop me a line. Chemistry is my strongsuit so please send me a photo.CJN Box 7136

SJF, working hard & playing hard has made the first 32 years of life captivating. Enjoying an untraditional business, crossing high seas and cooking up a storm, has shaped my zest for life and spirit for adventure. Take a walk on the wild side. Send me your schpeil. Photo too please. CJN Box # 7135.

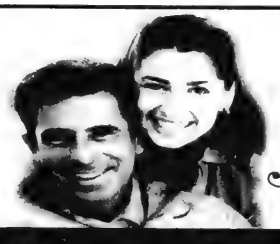
SJM, 31, looking for female companion. I have many interests & enjoyments. Please feel free to reply. CJN Box # 7132.

Early 40's widow w/17 yr. old son, slightly physically challenged would like to find male companionship, 43-48, young Israel, Modern Orthodox background. CJN Box # 7124.

Replying to a Companion ad with a CJN Box Number?

Address your mail to:
The Canadian Jewish News
1500 Don Mills Rd.
Suite 205
North York, Ontario
M3B 3K4
Box # _____

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED



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Brought to you by the Canadian Jewish News

Women seeking Men

A RARE GEM
Single mom of a teenage son, youthful with brown straight shoulder length hair, brown eyes, non smoker, kind, sincere, fun to be with. Seeking a male to share my life with AD#1791

LET'S HAVE COFFEE
Single female, 38, dark hair, blue eyes, nice smile, school teacher, love children, family and friends are very important, enjoy movies, theater, dining & dancing, very communicative. Seeking a well groomed male with similar interests. AD#1794

LOOKING FOR MR. RIGHT
Single female, 43, 5'5", 155lbs, short brown hair, green eyes, tan complexion, European background, stylish, classy, full of life, enjoy working out. Seeking a tall male, with a great personality and a good sense of humour. AD#1795

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish mom, 41, have 2 teenagers, attractive, intelligent, compassionate, honest, selfless, employed, independent. Seeking a single Jewish male, non-smoker, emotionally and financially secure, honest, sincere, 40-45, single dads OK! AD#1786

HEALTH ORIENTED
Single Jewish female, professional, humorous, easy going, enjoy movies, dancing, socializing. Seeking a male, 55+, established, intelligent, who enjoys a healthy lifestyle. AD#1788

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single female, 35, 5'4", brunette, slim, attractive, sensitive, intelligent, romantic, enjoy theater, movies, travel, reading, the outdoors, long walks by the ocean. Seeking a male, 33-43, intelligent, handsome, financially secure, employed, professional, good communicator, romantic. AD#1758

FABULOUS 50'S
Single Jewish female, reformed, 50ish, pretty, university graduate, have 3 married children. Seeking a male to help me enjoy life and make 1999 a special year. AD#1790

GOOD LISTENER
Single Jewish female, 38, professional, warm, sincere, intelligent, good listener. Seeking a male who is honest, playful, open, romantic, and family oriented. AD#1778

FAMILY VALUES
Divorced Jewish female, 55, pretty, warm, sincere, thoughtful, friendly, outgoing, with a good sense of humour and family values. Seeking a male, 50-62, with family values AD#1780

TEACHER
Single Jewish female, 38, dark hair, blue eyes, teacher, good communicator. Seeking a family oriented male, who is down to earth, kind, good communicator, enjoys working out and taking care of himself. AD#1781

NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNING
Divorced female, attractive, fit, warm, caring, intelligent, non-smoker, enjoy movies, dining & dancing. Seeking a male, 55+, easy going, fit, & professional. AD#1785

NO GAMES PLEASE
Single female, 31, 5'8", blue-green eyes, dark hair, professional,no baggage, outgoing, fun to be with, have a zest for life, and a love for learning. Seeking a male, who enjoys theater, dining out, travelling, with traditional Jewish values. AD#1751

LET'S HAVE COFFEE
Single female, Hungarian background, attractive, slim, variety of interests. Seeking a male, 56+, who enjoys music, art, movies, and Chicken Poprekash. AD#1752

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single female, 49, widow, bubbly, easy going, level headed, down to earth, with traditional Jewish values, keep a nice Jewish home. Seeking a male to share her life with, with a good sense of humour, self-employed or employed, down to earth, for long term relationship AD#1754

INTELLIGENT
Single Jewish female, 35, attractive, petite, fit, easy going, enjoy hiking, camping, canoeing, movies, good conversation, museums. seeking an attractive male, with a great sense of humour, intelligent, who enjoys outdoor activities. AD#1759

BEAUTIFUL BROWN EYES
Single Jewish female, attractive, brown eyes, shoulder length brown hair, youthful looking, 5'5", single mom of 1 teenage son. Seeking a single Jewish male, traditional values, established, fit, kind, sincere, tall, professional, with a zest for life. AD#1765

FABULOUS 40'S
Single Jewish female, late 40's, widow, funny, warm, passionate, down to earth, enjoy long conversations, walking in the rain, dancing the night away, movies, theater, dining in and out. Seeking a Jewish male, capable, down to earth, active, sensual, sincere. AD#1766

LET'S HAVE COFFEE
Single female, 50, attractive, 5'2", blond hair, professional, active, enjoy the theater, travelling, reading. Seeking a male, kind, & well established. AD#1865

BOTMITZFAED
Single female, 48, 2 kids & 2 cats, non-smoker, enjoy the outdoors, jazz, the arts. Seeking a male, 46-54, non-smoker, honest, health oriented, with a heart and brains, and saychel, for an understanding and caring relationship. AD#1768

Questions ??? 416-236-6644

Men seeking Women

FUN LOVING
Single Jewish male, 33, easy going, fun loving, enjoy outdoor activities, movies, long walks, camping. Seeking a female, 25-38, with similar interests AD#1777

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single Jewish male, 6', handsome, athletic built, love sports and keeping fit, artistic, with traditional values. Seeking a Jewish female, who is ready to make a commitment and start a family, who enjoys life and has old fashioned values. AD#1809

OLD FASHIONED
Single male, mid 30's, old fashioned, sensitive, stubborn, romantic, enjoy cuddling, outdoor activities, movies, camping. Seeking a female, 30-35, with similar interests. AD#1762

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single Jewish male, 36, 5'7", professional, traditional values, warm, fit, and fun. Seeking a Jewish female, late 20's to mid 30's, down to earth, creative, spontaneous, well grounded, with a good sense of humour. AD#1771

LET'S GO FOR COFFEE
Single Jewish male, 32, professional, 180lbs, self employed, own his own business, fit, enjoy all aspects of life, movies, dining and dancing, travelling, working out, motor cycling. Seeking a Jewish female, very down to earth, non-smoker, strong morals and values, clean and neat. AD#1774

LET'S CONNECT
Single male, 19, seeking a female, tall, slim, loving & caring for a meaningful relationship. AD#1814

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, early 50's, down to earth, tall, slim, caring, easy going, professional, enjoy movies & quiet times. Seeking a Jewish female, 39-49, warm, sensitive, and health conscious AD#1718

EASY TO LOOK AT
Single white male, young looking, late 50's, blue eyes, brown hair, medium built, financially secure, down to earth, great sense of humour, enjoy the outdoors. Seeking an attractive female, caring down to earth, trim figure, of any age. AD#1720

GOOD CONVERSATIONALIST
Single Jewish male, 6', slim, attractive, brown hair, blue-green eyes, have a B.A., enjoy cooking, travelling, movies, dining out. Seeking a Jewish female, 30-34, who is well read. AD#1730

LIKES LAUGHS & OUTDOORS
Divorced Jewish male, 29, brown hair, blue eyes, professional, enjoy outdoor activities. Seeking a female with good sense of humour, caring, & kind. AD#1787

CALL ME
Single male, 32, professional, fit, enjoy motor cycles, travelling, moves, working out, life. Seeking an attractive female, down to earth, fit, who also has a zest for life. AD#1733

COMPANIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 55, professional. Seeking a non-smoking, Jewish female, 50-60, with traditional values, who enjoys the theater, dancing & dining. AD#1710

SEEKING NICE LADY
Single male, 18, enjoy movies, dancing. Seeking a single female with similar interests. AD#1670

TIME WAITS FOR NO ONE
Single male, 45, conservative looking, enjoy country drives, art auctions, have a business degree, stock market investor and analyzer. Seeking a lady, no need to be slim, for serious relationship. AD#1681

MY KIDS TAUGHT ME WELL
Single male, 40, ready to get into life again. Seeking a special lady to share life with. AD#1779

ROMANTIC AND CARING
Single white male, 56, self-employed, businessman, enjoy movies, music, travel, good conversation, quiet times. Seeking a female, compassionate, loving, attractive, sensitive, to be his special lady. AD#1784

ACTIVE JUNIOR SENIOR
Single male, mid 60's, 5'6", non-smoker, Anglo-Jewish background, enjoy music, theater, outdoors, travel, public affairs. Seeking a semi-dependent, warm, educated, outgoing, caring lady, 50+. AD#1690

DON'T MISS OUT
Youthful Jewish senior, 65+, semi-retired, 5'7", 180lbs, blue eyes, thoughtful, sincere, reliable, romantic, affectionate, humorous. Seeking a special lady to share love, understanding, and friendship, 50-64. AD#1676

HONEST
Single Jewish male, 39, 5'10", 160lbs, fun, fit, handsome, athletic, financially and emotionally secure, honest, professional, 2 university degrees, blue eyes, light brown hair, enjoy outdoor activities, reading, movies. Seeking a female, fit, attractive, independent, fun loving, with similar values and interests. AD#1679

FRIENDSHIP
Single male, 5'7", 180lbs, semi-retired, blue eyes, sincere, thoughtful, easy to talk to, romantic, reliable, dependable, humorous. Seeking an attractive female, 50-64, that is slim, trim in body and mind. AD#1653

A NEW BEGINNING
Young looking male, 53, 5'9", 180lbs, professional, successful, healthy, enjoy long walks, good food, dancing, theater, movies. Seeking a female for partnership. AD#1654

To renew your ad call 416-236-6644

280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Basketball Players Wanted, in their 30's & 40's one night per week at Forest Hill Collegiate. Great fun and good exercise! Call Michael 416-991-3399 for more info.

305 ARTICLES WANTED

I will buy your coins, stamps, gold, silver, diamonds, watches & antiques **for cash. 605-1640**

315 CARS FOR SALE

Turn you old car into renewed hope. Donate your used car to benefit Jewish special education and receive maximum tax credit.Free towing.787-1101.

330 OBITUARIES

ADESSERMAN, Sarah - on Dec. 24, 1998, late of 210 West 89th St., Apt. 10M.
ADLER, Grete - on Dec. 26, 1998, late of 1035 Eglinton Ave.W., #405
BLUGERMAN, Annette - on Dec. 26, 1998, late of 155 Admiral Rd.
SMALL, Bernard - on Dec. 26, 1998, late of 177 Brickstone Circle.
WOLFE, Sydney - on Dec. 27, 1998, late of 29 Avenal Dr.
MONAS, Lillian - on Dec. 28, 1998, late of 4300 Bathurst St., #1108.
POLLAK, Tania - on Dec. 28, 1998, late of 76 Thornridge Dr.
LEVY, Phyllis - on Dec. 29, 1998, late of 14 Cummings Crt.
LYONS, Anne - on Dec. 29, 1998, late of 2121 Bathurst St.
COHEN, Asher - on Dec. 31, 1998, late of 3560 Bathurst St.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

PANCER, Rose - on Dec. 30, 1998, late of 880 Lawrence Ave. E.

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL

330 OBITUARIES

OPPENHEIM, Peter - on Dec. 23, 1998, late of 26 Holsworthy Cres.
FISCH, Lenke - on Dec. 24, 1998, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
CORNBLUM, David - on Dec. 25, 1998.
FINE, Benjamin - on Dec. 25, 1998, late of 100 Canyon Ave.
PARDO, Luna - on Dec. 25, 1998, late of 28 Prue Ave.
SCHNALL, Ella - on Dec. 26, 1998.
GEWARTER, Eliasz - on Dec. 27, 1998, late of 175 Hilda Ave.
GREENSPAN, Mira - on Dec. 27, 1998, late of 33 Wilmington Ave.
LASCAR, Samuel - on Dec. 27, 1998, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
COOPER, Harry E. - on Dec 28, 1998, late of 17 Farleigh Cres.
GOLDENBERG, Rose - on Dec. 28, 1998, late of 645 Castlefield Rd.
MARLOW, Freda - on Dec. 28, 1998, late of 100 Canyon Ave.
CHARNEY, Ruth - on Dec. 29, 1998, late of 80 Antibes Dr.
HAYEEM, Abraham - on Dec. 29, 1998.
ISENBERG, Albert - on Dec. 29, 1998, late of 100 Canyon Ave.
LAPIDUS, Sarra Esfir - on Dec. 29, 1998.
MANSON, Manny - on Dec. 30, 1998.
OBERMAN, Ben - on Jan. 1, 1999, late of 575 Old Orchard Grove.
SHERMAN, Max - on Jan. 1, 1999, late of 75 Graydon Hill Dr.
MROZ, Felicia - on Jan. 2, 1999, late of 222 Goulding Ave.
DE **SWAAN, Stella -** on Jan. 3, 1999, late of 550 Cummer Ave.
GOREN, Morris - on Jan. 3, 1999, late of 81 Palm Dr.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

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Israel & the Jewish World

France addresses wartime role

By ELIAHU SALPETER
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

The Jean Matteoli commission, charged with identifying property seized from French Jews during World War II, will soon publish its second report.

The new report will focus on approximately 12 million francs, as well as large amounts of jewelry and other valuables confiscated from Jews at the Drancy transit camp on their way to Auschwitz.

The property was handed over to the government's Bureau of Deposits and Consignments (Caise des Depots et Consignations); most of it was later transferred to the French treasury.

Pierre Saragoossi, himself a Holocaust survivor, is in charge of confiscated property at the Bureau. Speaking with the weekly *Tribune Juive*, he revealed that his office has 27,000 receipts for Jewish property from the Seine district alone.

Serge Klarsfeld

The government is holding about half of the listed property because the owners or their heirs have not petitioned for its return.

Later this month, the Matteoli commission will publish a list of 7,400 cases from districts throughout France, which only represents a minor portion of the money and property taken from French Jews.

A small portion of this property was transferred to Germans, but most of it stayed in French hands.

According to the first report of the Matteoli Commission, issued last January, 62,400 cases of confiscated land property and businesses (taken from about 90,000 Jews) have been identified so far in Vichy government archives and in the archives of the General Commission for Jewish Questions, which operated during the German occupation.

Last month, a committee investigating allegations that the city of Paris is still holding a large number of real estate properties belonging to Jews, reported that just 1.3 percent of all property transferred to the city during the war belonged to Jews, and that there were only "a few isolated incidents" in which the city did not pay compensation to Jewish property owners.

Several weeks ago, Jewish organizations held talks in New York aimed at consolidating a global strategy for the return of stolen Jewish property in 15 countries.

French representatives at the meeting requested that the World Jewish Congress – which is leading the struggle – show restraint in dealing with France in order to best meet its goals.

"You must understand that this is a [special] French problem," said Henri Hajdenberg, an administrator of CRIF (the umbrella organization representing French Jews). Hajdenberg stressed that educating the French people about their World War II past takes precedence over compensating Jews for confiscated property.

The appeal for a moderate approach toward France is motivated by two current trends in French politics and society: the French have only recently begun to come to terms with their country's behavior during the German occupation and the French right wing has grown more extreme, as can be seen in the strength of Jean-Marie Le Pen's National Front party.

The famous Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld, who was also part of the French delegation in New York, spoke openly about "anti-Semitism's deep roots in France.... It is a French problem and we need to deal with this complex situation."

His words reflect Jewish sensitivity to public opinion. French Jews appear wary of the impact of heavy pressure on France to return Jewish property.

They expressed concern that the fight over property could overwhelm and obscure the human tragedy of the Holocaust.

Jean-Marie Le Pen

This fear has increased in light of recent cracks in the French myth cultivated for more than 50 years, that the vast majority of French people actively resisted the Nazi oppressor and that only a small minority cooperated with the Germans.

It's not easy for the French to let go of this myth, which is an essential component of their self-image. The theft of Jewish property during the war is substantially at odds with the heroic national self-image.

This sensitivity is clearly expressed by Professor Shmuel Trigano of the University of Nanterre, in the title of his study, *France Faces its Past – French Jews Face an Uncertain Future*, which was published by the World Jewish Congress.

Trigano emphasizes that the current questions about the fate of Jewish property are tied to the soul searching by the French in the '90s concerning the period of German occupation.

Approximately 75,000 Jews from France (including about 40,000 who did not hold French citizenship) were killed during the Holocaust. Many of these Jews were turned in by French clerks and policemen who collaborated with the Germans.

But it must also be noted that 75,000 French Jews were saved from destruction "thanks to the aid of various sectors of French society," writes Trigano. The fate of the Jews in France during the Holocaust was determined by both the scope of the French Resistance and the extent of French collaboration with the Nazis.

The Jewish community became an integral part of French society after the war, but the public perception of the connection between "the Jews," "the immigrants," and "the foreigners," threatens to wreck this integration, according to Trigano.

"Moreover, the extreme right's anti-Semitism and hatred of foreigners effectively identifies the Jews with the immigrants.... The public debate over the memory of the Holocaust has created an ideological and symbolic connection between the Holocaust, the Jews, the immigrants and the socialists....

"Le Pen's National Front is skillfully exploiting the identification of Jews with immigrants. Behind the hostility toward immigrants from North Africa lies hostility towards Jews.

"France's political future is uncertain. The menace from the extreme right is real and is increasingly becoming the axis around which political life is organized.... Objective circumstances call into question whether the model of Jewish identity, established after World War II, will continue to exist."

Present developments may be accompanied by two parallel processes. The Jewish community may split (along religious-secular lines, as well as among the religious themselves), spelling the end of the representative body of all French Jews – the Consistoire, as it has been known since the time of Napoleon.

Instead, it would become just one of various Jewish factions. More assimilation could also occur. Most Jews are inclined to identify themselves as "French Jews" in the 19th-century meaning of the term - "which could lead to the disintegration" of French Jewry, Trigano concludes.

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Dundas teen twice named school's top athlete

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The baseball season wrapped up a long time ago, but that doesn't mean Jeremy Paikin has put his glove and bat away for the winter.

Not by a long shot. When you're one of the best players in the province, and NCAA Division I schools have scouted you as a scholarship student, it's best to keep your skill levels up, Paikin figures.

So, several times a week, Paikin heads to the Etobicoke training facility of the Ontario Blue Jays, the select team operated by the Major League club for youngsters 18 and under. There, he works on his batting and defensive skills, getting ready for the spring season, which begins in March.

When he's not in a batting cage swinging for the fences, Paikin, 18, might be found working out in a gym, or on a volleyball court practising his spike, or on the hardwood shooting hoops, or on a tennis court practicing his volley.

Paikin is a six-sport athlete – it used to be more – who is so good he's twice been named athlete of the year at his school, Parkside High, in Dundas, Ont.

He's also being honored for his athletic achievements at a B'nai Brith sports celebrity dinner in Hamilton.

At six foot one, 175 pounds, he's got the size and ability to excel in a number of sports, but he's chosen baseball, followed closely by basketball, as his favorites.

Playing for his school, Paikin, a second baseman, hit a mind-boggling .720 last season, the highest in school history. But it's with the Hamilton Cobras of the Junior Intercounty League (the baseball equivalent of major junior hockey) that he's really made his mark.

The calibre of ball is as high as it gets in Canada for people his age, and it attracts its fair share of major league scouts. Playing as an underage player (most participants are 19-21), Paikin hit slightly over .330, and he led his team in fielding percentage (98 percent) in 65 games played.

Broadcasting confidence even in a telephone interview across the miles, Paikin said his average was even better in the second half of the season, once he adjusted to the faster pitches and better curve balls Intercounty pitchers can throw at you.

Paikin guestimates he hit .400 from mid-season onwards, while the league's batting champion, a 20-year-old, hit .412. And that guy plays for a NCAA Division I team during the winter, he pointed out.

Put it all together and Paikin is confident he's going to be heading south next year on a baseball scholarship. The only question is where.

He's already received several enticing offers from Division I schools, but finding the right fit is key, he said. Through friends and from personal experience, he's learned that some schools are little more than baseball factories, churning out excellent players but stressing baseball to the detriment of their academic futures.

Paikin, who boasts a 95 percent average, and who has his sights set on a career in medicine, isn't interested in taking basket-weaving courses so he can have more time to devote to baseball.

"My first ambition is a career in medicine, while remaining in athletics," he said.

More specifically, he's aiming at orthopedic surgery so he can stay in the world of sports by working with athletes facing hip and knee problems, he said.

For Paikin, sports are a natural outlet. "I play them because I love them. I love playing them hard... I've always been pretty competitive." From age 6 to 14, he played AAA hockey, the highest level for his age group, but gave it up for other sports.

Jeremy Paikin

Basketball, in particular, became his winter sport of choice. "I decided my build, my personality fit better with basketball than hockey," he said.

On his school team, he switches between shooting guard and small forward.

He shoots 61 percent from the field and averages 18.9 points per game.

Three years ago, he travelled to New Jersey for the hoops competition at the JCC/Maccabi Youth Games. Hamilton didn't send a basketball team and Toronto's was full, so he ended up playing for New Jersey.

Paikin admits that going into the tournament, he figured he'd dominate: "I didn't believe there were so many good Jewish athletes. I'd always been such a minority, the only Jewish guy on these teams."

He didn't dominate. Instead, he was impressed with LA's team and with a forward on Philly against whom he had a running battle all game long.

His other favorite sport is volleyball, but he doesn't have the time to devote to the sport to elevate him to a higher level, he concedes.

Rounding out his athletic endeavors are tennis, co-ed volleyball and track and field, sports he just enjoys playing.

Parkside's volleyball coach, Dan Thomson, called Paikin "one of my top players. He's a definite team leader."

Though volleyball isn't Paikin's number one sport, he brings a winning attitude to the team.

"He's focused and driven," Thomson said. "He likes to do well and he works hard so he can do well. He's definitely a great guy to have on the team."

When you add together all practices, games and time preparing in the gym, Paikin devotes about three to four hours a day to his sports, six, sometimes seven days a week.

Sometimes, that pushes school projects to the wee hours of the night, but that's something he's willing to put up with.

"I know these are sacrifices I have to make," he said. "My goal is to get a scholarship at a good U.S. university so they can pay for me to go to school there."

Jewish athletes have ties to 'Fighting Irish'

By HARLAN ABBEY
Special to The CJN

BUFFALO — In recent years, three American Jewish high school stars attracted college coaches in droves.

One was a big, strong-armed quarterback from Fieldston School in New York City, Gus Ornstein, who was also an outstanding baseball player.

Another was a powerful football lineman, Mike Rosenthal, from Penn High School in Granger, Ind.

The third was Doug Gottlieb, a six-foot point guard from Tustin, Cal., who set a state record for assists and showed the basketball savvy expected in a family whose father was a college coach and whose older brother is an assistant coach.

Unlike most other Jewish athletes who enrol in Ivy League colleges, the trio all chose Notre Dame, the Catholic university whose athletic success has overshadowed its academic reputation for nearly 90 years.

Only one of the three remains at the South Bend campus: Rosenthal, the six-foot-seven, 300 pound offensive tackle.

As one of the his team's co-captains, he led the Irish, rated 16th and 18th in the nation by the two leading polls, against Georgia Tech in the Gator Bowl in Florida on Jan. 1. Rosenthal was one of three Jewish football players appearing in season ending bowl games.

A senior, Rosenthal is rated one of the top offensive linemen in the nation and probably will be drafted high by a NFL team. He was chosen a preseason All-America by two publications and is considered a leading candidate for the Outlined Trophy, which goes to the nation's best offensive lineman. The Associated Press named him to its second team All-America recently.

Five years ago, Ornstein was a promising freshman QB for Notre Dame, throwing a touchdown pass against Navy in the only game in which he saw action. Unfortunately, with so little playing time, it was a virtual wasted year of athletic eligibility.

As a result, Ornstein moved to Michigan State, and after sitting out a year as a transfer scholarship athlete, he started one game and was a backup during a two year stay in East Lansing, throwing for three touchdowns.

This fall, he wound up at Rowan University in Glassboro, N.J. and finally got a chance to show his ability.

Ornstein threw for 2,998 yards and 18 touchdowns in leading the Profs into the Division III championship game, the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl in Salem, Va.

Rowan lost to four-time champion Mount Union (Ohio) College, 44-24, as Ornstein completed 17 of 40 passes for 200 yards and a touchdown, but was sacked seven times.

For the season, Ornstein completed 226 of 394 passes for 3,198 yards and 19 touchdowns.

He and Rosenthal could wind up swapping Golden Dome memories at the NFL rookie combine in Indianapolis, because Ornstein's arm and six-foot-four, 229-lb frame is still considered "major league" by many scouts. He also is considered major league in baseball as a switch-hitting first baseman.

In 1994, Ornstein was drafted by Seattle in the 20th round and drafted again, in the 40th round, by San Diego in 1997. He now is property of the New York Yankees.

The third "Jewish Fighting Irishman," Gottlieb started at point guard for the basketball team three years ago as a freshman.

He too transferred after one year, played in the Maccabiah Games while sitting out a junior college and moved into the starting lineup at Oklahoma State University (OSU)last season. Gottlieb directed the team to a 21-5 record, averaging 6.9 assists (an OSU record) and 5.4 points per game, making honorable mention on the Big 12 All-Star team and being named "conference newcomer of the year."

This year, the Cowboys are ranked in the top 20 teams in the nation, and the 6-1 team leader already has set a school record with 18 assists in one game.

The Inside Back

Mission: Shekalim in action

By JORDAN MAX

DECEMBER 2018 (JMA) — The first Israeli UJA mission to North America recently returned from its successful, groundbreaking visit.

Last Laugh

Its threefold mandate was to see where its shekalim went, to gain insight into the current quality of Jewish life in North America, and to strengthen it through promotion of Israelism and Jewish education.

To aid its cultural goals, the mission was staffed by a crack team of Jewish Agency analysts, cultural interpreters and political party apparachik. Accompanying the mission, the "Golden Oldies" Naomi Shemer-Yoram Gaon tour played to sold-out audiences of baby boomer seniors.

According to the mission leader, Foreign Affairs Minister Dana International, the mission had its roots 20 years earlier at the 1998 General Assembly (GA) of UJA Federations meeting in Jerusalem, where GA delegates first heard of the start-up of an Israeli version of the UJA/UIA program, including a call by then-prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu for Israel to take the lead in providing Jewish education for the Diaspora.

As the years passed, Israel became economically self-sufficient and refused to take any more tzedakah from the shrinking Diaspora. This feat was made even more possible by the 2015 signing of the 12th armistice between the People's Republic of Palestinia Arafatia and Israel.

Members toured the vast North American landscape of current and former Jewish life. Those delegation members who agreed to be interviewed had mixed reviews of the current state of North American Jewry.

Visiting summer camps for overprivileged children, delegates observed the sad predicament of children forcibly deprived of MTV, Nintendo and shopping malls for the entire summer, who were now being compelled into sharing accommodation, exercising and enjoying country air.

The delegation offered tips on soccer and basketball, organizing campers into numerous political, religious and social organizations, and assistance in setting up a coalition Campers Council and holding frequent elections. Israeli Jewish education was stressed, based on the central values of *dollarim*, materialism and "just feeling Jewish."

Delegates who had visited religious camps reported they had been delighted to learn how to daven and to bensch after meals, and stated that they would possibly consider participating in a minyan, should the need ever arise.

One of the most moving moments came on the visit to the Museum of the Lost Tribe of American Jews in Washington, D.C., where delegates laid wreaths made of bagels and cream cheese in memory of American Jews lost to apathy, intermarriage and assimilation.

Many delegates were brought to tears while touring former Jewish centres, day schools and synagogues, which had become virtual ghost towns in only a few generations.

In the political sphere, delegates had the privilege of meeting with U.S. President Bill Gates, Vice-President Jerry Springer (whom delegates fondly remember as playing a pivotal role in mediating the Final Israeli-Palestinian Peace Accord), and various members of the Senate, whom they lobbied to protect the American-Jewish way of life.

Israeli mission members were surprised to learn that such a large population as the United States had only two national political parties. In the House of Representatives, mission staff led workshops on parliamentary decorum and learned the ins and outs of impeachment proceedings.

In joint planning sessions with local federations, who were now receiving Israeli UJA shekels, delegates reported they now enjoyed telling their new "partners" how to spend their hard-earned money.

The only embarrassing moment in the mission occurred when some of the more opinionated activists of the Israeli delegation broke away to visit Native American reservations, and held a press conference to register their criticism of American human rights violations by the resettlement of indigenous peoples, the poor treatment of minorities, and exclusionary immigration policies.

For many mission members the highlight was the opportunity to stay for Shabbat with real North American Jewish families. Stories are still circulating about the wonderful shopping and all-you-can-eat restaurant experiences, baseball games and lavish bar/bat mitzvah parties. A few delegates even reported they went to synagogue and experienced an authentic Shabbat with their adoptive families.

Plans are under way for next year's mission which will target wealthy Israeli machers and visit nationally protected Jewish enclaves of Lakewood, Toronto, and Crown Heights.

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1 1/4 cup red lentils
1/2 cup white rice
1/3 cup vegetable oil
1 large onion, chopped
6 cups vegetable stock
1 tblsp ground cumin
1 tblsp olive oil
salt and pepper to taste

Soak lentils and rice in water. In large pot saute onion in hot vegetable oil and add the vegetable stock, bring to a boil. Add drained and rinsed lentils & rice to the boiling stock. Boil 15 to 20 minutes. Add rest of ingredients. Makes 8 servings.

About Teens

Dear Karilani,

I recently had a difficult assignment to complete in history. I researched many books in the library, searched the Internet and interviewed many people. I made two rough drafts and edited this paper to death before I finished my final copy. I don't think I've ever put so much work into one assignment.

I handed in my paper with confidence and pride, knowing I would get a good mark. I got it back graded C+, and I was upset. I know the mark has nothing to do with the paper. The teacher really dislikes me. I have caused a bit of a stir in the class in the past, and our personalities have clashed. Should I say something about my grade? I don't want to make things worse, as final exams are just around the corner. What should I do?

Unhappy in History

Dear Unhappy in History,

Conflicts with teachers are always awkward, because it is necessary to deal with the issue at hand while maintaining respect for the teacher. You must decide yourself whether you should speak to your teacher about your mark. However, here are some points to keep in mind.

You worked extremely hard on this project and put in a lot of time and effort. You believe that your report was very good, for you handed it in with "pride and confidence," and that the mark should reflect more of the work that was put into it.

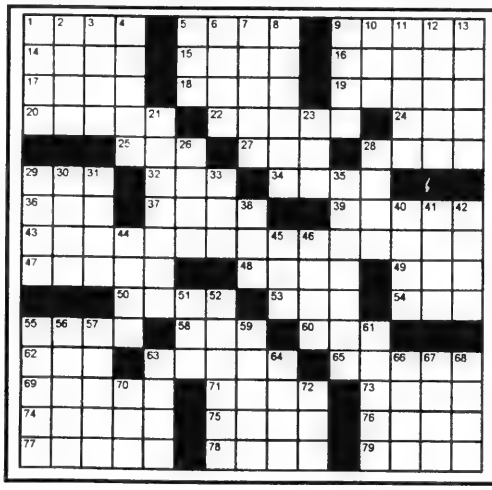
A second point is that no teacher has the right to give a mark on a project based on the student's behavior in class. Furthermore, a discussion with your teacher about a mark should not affect your exam mark. That would be unprofessional and unjustified.

If you are still undecided, we suggest going to the guidance department. The staff there may give you other options. For example, they may speak to the teacher themselves, or have another teacher in the history department mark your paper again.

If you are hesitant about going to guidance, consider going to another teacher with whom you feel more comfortable and talking to him or her about your dilemma.

In every case, remember to stay rational. The conflict you have with your teacher is an obstacle you must overcome. In terms of your report, do what you think is honest and fair.

Karilani is a composite name for three girls, who are close friends and in Grade 11 in Toronto.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

The Canadian jewish news

Across

1. Those people
5. Staffs for Moses
9. Artist Max
14. Home to Nero
15. Magic Carpet base
16. Meshugge
17. Lag B' __
18. Jordanian Mount
19. Nebbishes (Eng.)
20. King of Israel
22. Broke the eighth
24. Never
25. Haman or Amalek
27. Mt Hermon activity
28. Shikker stops?
29. Soon
32. Writer Levenson
34. Noah's rainbow
36. Shikker's choice?
37. Einstein specialty
39. Desert cool spots
43. Biblical story (3 wds.)
47. Puppeteer Lewis
48. Tref shortening
49. Air Org.
50. Town in Israel
53. Dike
54. Mems (Eng.)
55. Comedienne Rivers
58. Tu B'Shevat need?
60. Sabin's milieu
62. Gershwin
63. JPSA founder, Cyrus
65. Be'er Sheva region
69. Abram's brother
71. Esau
73. Bloody river
74. Yom Kippur must
75. Not on Shabbat
76. 107
77. Strauss' jeans
78. Olympic medallist Arad
79. Jacob grabbed Esau's at birth

Down

1. Torah tones
2. Koufax's target
3. Valley (Heb.)
4. Saul's oldest daughter
5. Like David from Saul
6. Bialik writings
7. Released in Jubilee Year
8. Baby __
9. Kedem or Schapiro offering
10. Ashdod to Jericho (dir.)
11. Table tennis champ
12. Witch's dwelling
13. Observes Shabbat
21. Baal Shem Tov following
23. 52
26. Man Ray art style
28. __ B'rith
29. Pointers
30. Eilat, old style
31. Shoe maker
33. Orthodox minyan
35. Anarchist Emma
38. Anti-Semitism fighters
40. Snug
41. Village of Simeon
42. Political party
44. Shushan
45. Zilpah's boy
46. Sabin vaccine
51. Coach Auerbach
52. Mystery writer
55. Holywar
56. Emulate Abba Eban
57. Ithamar's Dad
59. Medes
61. Pray after eats
63. Issachar city
64. Borne
66. Tzedakah
67. Holocaust voice
68. Leah's mask?
70. "__ Maamin", Wiesel work
72. Radioman Allen

This puzzle is the work of Kathi Handler of Waterbury, Connecticut. (This week's answers are on page 31.)

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This Week

National

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Maccabi World Union faced hostile reception in Knesset committee room. *Page 6*

Toronto man sentenced for promoting hate against Muslims. *Page 16*

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Searching for perfection: A guarantor of the survival of our people. *Section B*

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David Buchbinder leads local Yiddish revival. *Page 36*

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Shevat 5, 5759
Havdalah: 6:02

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Former SS man admits past

Will testify to ease 'pangs of conscience'

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — A former Nazi officer, who allegedly killed concentration camp inmates in cold blood, is scheduled to go on trial in Germany this spring, thanks to the testimony of a Montreal professor, who served in the Waffen SS.

Adalbert Lallier, a professor at Concordia University since 1960, was an eyewitness to the apparently wanton gunning down of at least five and possibly seven inmates of Theresienstadt, in April, 1945.

Having immigrated to Canada in 1951, Lallier had never hidden what he had witnessed. He had told the British, who held him as a prisoner of war at war's end, and the Americans with whom he later worked in resettling refugees, he said.

However, based on his recollections, it appears that both the British and the Americans were too eager to put the war they'd won behind them, and too concerned with the new threat of communism to do anything about the atrocities Lallier had witnessed.

It was only when Steve Rambam, a New York private investigator, came to Montreal in 1997 and urged anyone with knowledge of Nazi war crimes to come forward, that Lallier saw a chance to finally ease his "pangs of conscience," he said.

Rambam conducted a four-hour videotaped interview with Lallier, 73, a French Huguenot raised in Hungary. After being alerted by Rambam, the German consulate here invited the professor to give his testimony to Germany's war crimes commission.

Lallier has since travelled twice to Stuttgart – first in April, 1998 for a preliminary meeting with police, and again last August to be interviewed by the presiding judge. Lallier has been told the trial will begin in April or May, and he expects to spend at least a week in Germany testifying.

"They found the man alive and prospering in Germany. I was told he had been tried once before, but let go because of lack of witnesses," Lallier said.

According to Rambam, Julius Viel was brought to trial in 1964, but the sole testimony, an eyewitness account by another SS member, was not corroborated. Lallier's coming forward has been "critical" in having the case reopened, Rambam said.

Continued on page 28

CAMOUFLAGED IN THE ROUGH
This IDf soldier trains his rifle on an imaginary enemy in the horizon. He belongs to the "K-9" unit which specializes in commando, anti-terrorist warfare. *[Israel Sun–IDF photo]*

'A lesson in understanding'

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Prime Minister Jean Chrétien will spend a full day touring the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp in Poland this weekend accompanied by Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) president Moshe Ronen, the son of a Holocaust survivor.

Chrétien's visit to the site on Jan. 24 will be the first ever paid by a Canadian prime minister.

"The prime minister is very eager to do this," Ronen said in an interview, after receiving a special invitation by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

"He understands the importance this has for the Jewish community. It will be very well received."

He also saw the visit as, "an opportunity to memorialize and to educate...a lesson in sensitivity and understanding."

Ronen, 40, who became CJC president last May, said he was contacted by the PMO's director of operations, Paul Sparkes, before the new year, and was invited to be an official member of the Canadian delegation.

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Canada, Israel and the U.N.
Please see page 9.

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Arafat set to delay declaration of independence — please see page 29

The News in Brief

CANADA

Oil License Granted

CALGARY — Valiant Resources Ltd., a Calgary-based petroleum exploration company, has recently acquired licences to explore over 250,000 acres of land in Israel's Megiddo Valley, in the southern Galilee. Reports have shown that up to five billion barrels of oil could be accumulated. The company is expected to begin drilling operations in the coming weeks.

ISRAEL

Poland to Reconcile?

JERUSALEM — Poland is ready for a "new chapter" in its relations with the Jewish people, the nation's president said during a visit to Israel. Aleksander Kwasniewski said Warsaw is trying to enact legislation that would govern the status of former concentration camps in his country. Such legislation could end a dispute prompted by the recent erection of hundreds of crosses at the site of the Auschwitz camp.

Appeal of Shabbat Ruling

JERUSALEM — Israel's attorney general has appealed a recent court ruling allowing a kibbutz store to operate on Shabbat. Elyakim Rubinstein launched the appeal after the court ruled in favor of Kibbutz Tzora, located on the outskirts of Jerusalem. The ruling drew strong protests from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and leaders of Israel's religious political parties.

WORLD

Jews Mount Campaign

NEW YORK — A liberal U.S. Jewish group is urging American Jews to flood the Israeli embassy in Washington with phone calls to oppose any bills in the Knesset that would invalidate conversions performed by non-Orthodox rabbis and counter efforts by non-Orthodox representatives to serve on local religious councils. "It's time for American Jews to tell the Israeli government exactly what we are: Jews," the New Israel Fund said in an ad in the *New York Times*.

Censure Clinton: Rabbis

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate should censure President Bill Clinton but not hold a trial that could lead to his removal from office, a group of Jewish and Christian religious leaders urged in a letter to the Senate. Leaders of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Rabbinical Assembly, which represent U.S. Reform and Conservative rabbis respectively, were among those signing the letter.

Records on Nazis

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton has created a working group to make all classified U.S. records relating to Nazi war criminals available to the public as soon as possible. Several cabinet officials, including Defence Secretary William Cohen and Attorney General Janet Reno, were named to the group.

Rabbi Indicted for Murder

CAMDEN, N.J. — A grand jury in New Jersey has indicted a rabbi in the 1994 murder of his wife. The indictment alleges that Rabbi Fred Neulander hired someone to kill his wife because he was worried that their impending divorce would disclose his adultery. The rabbi is charged with murder and conspiracy to commit murder. He pleaded not guilty to the charges and remains free on $400,000 bail.

Record Tours of House

AMSTERDAM — A record number of visitors toured the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam last year. More than 822,000 people visited the house where the teenage diarist and her family hid from the Nazis, a 16 percent increase over 1997. Officials attributed the increase to publicity surrounding the recent publication of newly discovered pages from Frank's diary.

Security Considered

FRANKFURT — Police in Berlin are considering installing video cameras at five Jewish cemeteries, following an attack on a former German Jewish leader's grave last month. The move is among several security measures authorities are weighing following the bombing of the tombstone of Heinz Galinski, the immediate past president of Germany's Jewish community.

Mass For Fascist

ZAGREB — A Roman Catholic mass was recently conducted here to honor the memory of Ante Pavelic, the leader of the State of Croatia during World War II. The Ustasha government of Croatia collaborated with Nazi Germany, and carried out a program of genocide and forced conversion of Serbs, Jews and Gypsies. Efraim Zuroff, Israeli director of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, called the religious services "a mockery of the victims, an insult to the survivors...and all those who opposed his brutal regime. Such services will only encourage those who seek the rebirth of the Ustasha fascist ideology espoused by Pavelic and his cohorts. They represent the antithesis of democracy and human rights."

'Watergate' Hits Barak's Campaign

WASHINGTON — Did opponents of Israeli Labor Party leader Ehud Barak stage a Watergate-style break-in at the Washington offices of a U.S. polling firm working on his campaign for prime minister?

The question gripped Israel last week after burglars snatched confidential files and petty cash from Greenberg Quinlan Research Inc., which was hired as an adviser to Barak.

The firm described it as "a sophisticated break-in of a suspicious nature." District of Columbia Police and the FBI are investigating the incident.

Authorities said the burglars broke through an air conditioning vent on the roof of the Capitol Hill office, tore through the ceiling, disabled an alarm system and then opened a door, possibly to let others in.

Greenberg's firm provided no details about what was stolen, saying only that it appeared some of its international political work may have been targeted. In Tel Aviv, a Labor Party spokeswoman said materials pertaining to Barak's election campaign were stolen.

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Canada, Israel join to help Guatemalan disabled

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Two non-governmental organizations (NGOs), a Canadian and an Israeli one, are celebrating Israel's 50th birthday by embarking on a joint venture to help the war-shattered people of Guatemala.

The project will see the Canadian organization assist in the physical rehabilitation and community integration of people disabled during Guatemala's long civil war while the Israeli NGO will train the war's victims to become economically self-sufficient.

The joint project brings together the International Centre for the Advancement of Community Based Rehabilitation (ICACBR), located at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., with the Development Studies Centre (DSC) in Rehovot, Israel. The project will be financed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and its Israeli counterpart, Mashav, an agency of the Israeli foreign ministry.

Still in its preliminary stage, the program originated with an idea by Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy, according to Benjamin Abileah, a senior advisor at Mashav. "He suggested that for Israel's 50th anniversary, Canada and Israel would mark it by doing a joint project of assistance in a developing country. This appealed to us very much."

Two senior ICACBR officials recently reported about the project at a meeting of the executive of the Canada Israel Committee, the Jewish community's pro-Israel lobby group. They spoke to *The CJN* afterward.

Malcolm Peat, executive-director of ICACBR, said representatives of the two NGOs travelled to the Guatemalan provinces of Quiche and Coban in late November to scout locations for the project and to meet with potential Guatemalan partners. Once preliminary evaluations are complete in about four months, work will begin on establishing at least two community programs, he said.

Canadian clinicians and educators will travel to Guatemala to assist in rehabilitation. They will also meet with the families of those disabled as well as the broader Guatemalan public to educate them about the skills retained by the injured and better integrate them into the community, said Lorna Jean Edmonds, administrative officer for ICACBR.

Many Guatemalans, including skilled and educated people, were injured during the conflict. Unlike those born with disabilities, who often are marginalized at a young age, these people have recently been thrust into a victimized group. There is now an opportunity to work with these people to raise awareness in Guatemala about others who suffer from disabilities, she said.

The role of the DSC is to help in the economic recovery of the disabled, said Dafna Schwartz, the organization's director general.

"Israel has a lot of experience, unfortunately, with disabled people, mostly from the army," Schwartz said in an interview from Israel. "We have a lot of experience integrating them into economic life again and getting them back as productive members of society.

"That's the basis of the cooperation between Israel and the Canadian side."

Schwartz said the DSC has specialized in economic development throughout Africa and Asia for more than 30 years. It holds courses for professionals in host countries and often local educators are brought to Israel for further training before returning to their home countries to manage programs.

The Israeli-Canadian connection and the credibility they bring to the project should loosen the purse strings of Guatemalan development banks to help fund local business initiatives, Peat said.

For the time being, Mashav's involvement in the program is slated to last two years, said Abileah, who served as consul-general in Toronto from 1987-89. Approximately $100,000 will be allocated to the venture in its first year.

Compensation slashed for Hungarian Jews

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Jews of Hungarian birth and descent in Canada are outraged that Hungary's government has slashed compensation to Holocaust survivors and relatives of victims by a whopping 90 percent.

"It's nonsense...a shame," said Dr. Alexander Schreiber, head of Toronto's large Hungarian Jewish community.

Earlier this month, Hungary's parliament voted to cut one-time payments to survivors and relatives

Continued on page 5

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From the editor's desk

Polished, but still poison

It has been my policy not to respond to articles unfairly critical of Israel, or of significance in some other way to the debates surrounding Israel that appear in the press, magazines or in other journals. There are simply too many of such pieces around. To concern myself with rebutting or commenting on all of the ones brought to my attention would leave little time or space to write about other subjects.

That policy however, has built-in exceptions.

There are certain articles, the publication of which raise such important issues, that they must meet with a response.

Two weeks ago, one such piece appeared in the *Sunday New York Times Magazine*. It was an essay by Edward Said, entitled *The One State Solution: why the only answer to Middle East peace is Palestinians and Israelis living as equal citizens under one flag*.

Said is a renowned author, scholar, professor from Columbia University who has a wide following in literary and cultural circles. A superb and skilled writer, he is, and has been for many years, one of the leading anti-Israel polemicists in the world.

Said was born in Jerusalem in 1935. He and his family fled the city in 1947, dispossessed from their home by the war thrust upon the Jews of Palestine, and by the Jews' determination that their nascent state would not die at birth.

He is vehemently opposed to the Oslo peace process. He has scorned it in harsh terms as a sellout by the PLO leadership, of historic Palestinian aspirations to return to their homes.

As a result of the Oslo signings, he has become a vocal opponent of Yasser Arafat, for whom he had always been the foremost western apologist and propagandist, and of the Arafat-led Palestinian National Council.

The article is a signature piece of writing on Israel by Said, short on history, long on half-truths, replete with elegant phrasing and polished words, but a dangerous poison nevertheless.

There are two alarming aspects to this most recent piece: its message and its vehicle.

Said urges readers to agree with him that the only viable, long-term solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is to dispense with the Oslo process and replace it, somehow, with a newly minted, bi-national, single state where Jews and Arabs will live together.

In effect, he advocates the dissolution of the present-day State of Israel.

But he does so in such gentle and refined language, relying heavily on familiar, western, democracy-laden concepts, sounding so impeccably modern and reasonable, that one hardly notices.

"The beginning is to develop something entirely missing from both Israeli and Palestinian realities today: the idea and practice of citizenship, not of ethnic or racial community...In a modern state all its members are citizens by virtue of their presence and the sharing of rights and responsibilities.

"Citizenship, therefore, entitles an Israeli Jew and a Palestinian Arab to the same privileges and resources. A constitution and a bill of rights thus become necessary for getting beyond Square 1 of the conflict, because each group would have the same right to self-determination, that is the same right to practice communal life in its own way, perhaps in federated cantons, with a joint capital in Jerusalem, equal access to land and inalienable secular and juridical rights. Neither side should be held hostage to religious extremists."

Couched in the ennobling credo of "citizenship" with its attendant "rights"-oriented terminology, Said's thesis would naturally sound appealing to sophisticated western audiences. It is all the more so, because he carefully travels through assiduously-crafted, Israel-associated, apartheid imagery before arriving at his seductively simple conclusion: equal rights for everybody – Israelis and Palestinians – in one non-Jewish, non-Muslim state.

There is not room in this column to comment upon the many clever devices Said uses in presenting his case. His plea is to high western values and sensibilities of morality, justice and compassion. Who among us would spurn such fundamental values?

His sensibly sounding pleading though, is a construct of half-truths, distortions and gross omissions of fact. But the pleading is only half the danger.

The other half lies in the fact that it was published, without editor's comment or annotation, in that most credible of all credible publications, the *New York Times*, and therefore by association, stamped with the imprimatur of reasonableness and viability.

A new, younger generation of readers, formulating their own ideas about the "tiresome" conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians, will now read Said's proposal. Among them, of course, are many Jews familiar with the terminology of citizenship but unfamiliar with the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

It is our responsibility to try to ensure that they do, indeed, become familiar with that history.

Only that way, will they be able to resist the Said seduction, his lifelong dream of doing away with the State of Israel.

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THE FLAG FLUTTERS IN SUNSHINE
Sharon Salsberg Ezrin shows her enthusiasm during her recent visit as part of a delegation from Toronto to the UJA Federation-assisted day-care centre in Kfar Gvirol in Israel. [Bill Kassel photo]

Hungarian cuts affect Canadians

Continued from page 3

of Jewish Holocaust victims. The plan, part of this year's government budget, reduces the payments by more than 90 percent – from $4,500 to $140 (US) per person.

Hungary's 100,000-strong Jewish community has called the move unconstitutional and asked the country's highest court to review it.

An estimated 25,000 Hungarian Jews worldwide could be affected, including thousands in Canada.

William Kosaras, editor of *Menorah*, a Toronto-based Hungarian-Jewish weekly newspaper, said many of his readers are upset and concerned at the development.

"It's a shame...more than a shame," he said.

Kosaras said a letter-writing campaign is being organized in Toronto and Montreal to implore Canadian, American and world Jewish leaders to help. Letters will be sent to Canadian parliamentarians, to U.S. Congressman Tom Lantos (a Hungarian Jewish Holocaust survivor) and to Edgar Bronfman, head of the World Jewish Congress.

Kosaras scoffed at Hungary's official explanation for the drastic cut – that it can't afford more. He said the country has earmarked over 20 billion forints (roughly $90 million) to celebrate its 1,000th anniversary as a nation this year and next.

There are roughly 10,000 Jews of Hungarian birth in Canada, he said, mostly concentrated in Toronto and Montreal. He said thousands in this country could be affected by the reduction in payments.

Andrew Lendvay, a Toronto travel agent and leader in the city's Hungarian Jewish community, said he has helped process over 2,000 claims from about 350 people in Toronto so far.

He called the dramatic reduction in payments discriminatory, pointing out that in 1992, the Hungarian parliament passed a law giving $4,500 per person in compensation to heirs of victims of the Communist regime. After opposition from Jewish groups, the law was modified in 1997, adding the heirs of those who died between 1938 and 1945 to the list of those entitled to compensation.

Last week meantime, Peter Feldmayer, president of Hungary's Jewish community, said thousands of Hungarian Holocaust survivors are eligible for German compensation following the discovery of long-lost records.

The records, recently discovered in the basement of a Budapest municipal building, prove that about 6,000 people who had applied for German life annuities were survivors of Nazi concentration camps.

— With files from JTA

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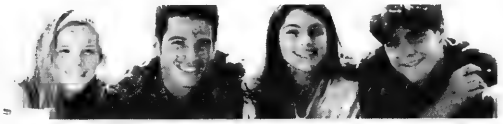

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Salomon defends actions of Maccabi World Union

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — It's been a rough 18 months for Roy Salomon and other senior officials of the Maccabi World Union (MWU). Two weeks ago in Israel, was no exception.

In a Knesset committee room, Salomon and two other MWU executives faced a hostile reception, and what Salomon termed a "staged protest," concocted to attract maximum media coverage.

The occasion was a committee hearing into the bridge collapse at the opening ceremonies of the 1997 Maccabiah Games, in which four Australian athletes were killed and dozens injured, some seriously.

Since that tragic event, Salomon and the MWU have been fighting a rear-guard action against the MWU's critics, defending the organization's conduct after the collapse, and attempting to deflect calls for the resignation of the organization's chair, Uzi Netanel, and president, Ronald Bakalarz.

The committee hearing was the most recent occasion for Salomon, president of Maccabi Canada and co-chair of MWU's North American Confederation, to sit in an uncomfortable hot seat.

The committee chair, Micha Goldman, opened the meeting by calling for the resignations of the MWU officers – a position senior MWU officials flatly reject. The chair had already gone on record voicing his opinion that the two should step down. That was quickly followed by a parade-in of three Maccabi athletes who turned in their medals.

Roy Salomon

The MWU representatives countered by pointing out that the committee chair appeared to pre-judge the issue without hearing their side, Salomon said.

The chair's remarks prompted him to set aside his prepared statement, and speak off the cuff, discussing the tragedy.

"We again expressed our concern and pointed out we...did everything we possible could to ease the [Australian] families' burden," he said.

In the aftermath of the tragedy, Maccabi personnel visited victims in hospital, made travel arrangements and provided "as much assistance as we could," he added.

Salomon also went into detail about the good work accomplished by the Maccabi organization, pointing out it is active in 57 countries, and serves as many Jews' main link to Israel and Judaism.

"I think we give our young athletes pride in their Judaism, and we bring hundreds of people to Israel who would never have come otherwise."

Salomon told *The CJN* that two Maccabiah Games officials have resigned in the wake of the bridge disaster – the chair of the game's organizing committee and chair of the opening ceremonies committee.

"I tell you, we see nothing that they've done that is wrong." The resignations, he continued, "were like taking moral responsibility."

Critics of the MWU, particularly the families of those killed and injured in Australia along with two major Australian Jewish organizations, have urged the top MWU officials to take responsibility for the tragedy, and resign.

Meanwhile, the Knesset committee hearings were scheduled to continue while a criminal case involving the chair of the organizing committee, an engineer and three contractors continues at a snail's pace. The case is expected to continue until May or June, and the decision will follow likely in the fall, Salomon said.

In other developments, Maccabi Australia has announced it will participate in the 2001 Maccabiah Games, while Australian members of the MWU who had resigned their positions have returned to the fold, Salomon said. "They wouldn't have done so if they didn't feel the right things were being done," he said.

Grant enables BJE to hire staff

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — A $100,000 grant from the Saul F. Wagman Fund has enabled the Jewish Board of Education (BJE) to hire a part-time consultant to coordinate family education programs in synagogues and Hebrew schools.

The grant, which was earmarked for education, was allocated through UJA Federation, says Elaine Fogel, communications associate for UJA Federation.

"Studies show that retention of Jewish education is stronger when families participate together in programs," Fogel says.

"When parents and children participate in Jewish programs together, they encourage each other to participate in Jewish rituals at home."

Synagogues and schools participating in the family education program include Temple Solel, Temple Sinai, Temple Kol Ami, Temple Har Zion, Holy Blossom Temple, Temple Emanu-el, Oraynu, Beth Tzedec, Shaar Shalom and the Downtown Jewish Community School.

The grant, says Fogel, helps the schools and synagogues expand existing programs or create new ones.

Anne Glickman, the family education coordinator with BJE who supervises the program, set up a resource centre, and says she is available for consultation. "Family education is a good way to demonstrate how Jewish observance can enrich a family."

The schools and synagogues have offered programs on such topics as Shabbat, family genealogy, ethical dilemmas and holidays, she says.

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Atrocity must meet with punishment

"An unspeakable atrocity, a crime very much against humanity, horrendous and very, very serious... It looks like it was done by people who have no value for human life." Those were the words spoken last weekend by William Walker, the head of the Kosovo Verification Commission, a special committee established three months ago by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to oversee the troubled truce in Kosovo, the mostly ethnically Albanian province within Serbia trying to assert its independence from Yugoslavia.

Walker was referring to the massacre and grisly slaughter of some 45 people, all of them ethnic Albanians, whose mutilated bodies were discovered by journalists and foreign "peace" monitors, strewn like foul detritus into a stenching heap of human corpses in a mud-soaked hillside gully near the town of Racak in Kosovo.

Associated Press reported that some of the dead were found with their eyes gouged out or their heads smashed in. One victim was decapitated. Among the victims was a young woman and a 12-year-old boy. Most, however, were old men. All of them were non-combatants.

The savagery and sheer inhuman brutality of the attack numbed the senses. By all accounts, it was perpetrated by Serbian police with the backing of the Yugoslav armed forces.

The number of people killed at Racak was the highest in a single attack since the Oct. 12 peace agreement brokered by the United States with Yugoslavia. However, the fighting has escalated in recent days, and it appears the truce is shaky indeed.

One day before the discovery at Racak, at least 15 "Albanian" Kosovans were killed and two British peace monitors were shot at and wounded by Serbian Yugoslav forces.

Last month, Serbian border guards killed 36 rebel fighters as they tried to smuggle weapons into Kosovo from neighboring Albania.

According to the *New York Times*, as many as 2,000 people, mostly ethnic Albanians, have been killed since the Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic began an offensive one year ago to try to crush rebel militants and to reinforce government control of Kosovo, whose population is 90 percent ethnic Albanian.

Milosevic grudgingly agreed three months ago to the truce, only under the threat of military intervention by NATO air forces. In the wake of this latest ghastly disregard of that truce by the Yugoslav leader, that threat should be renewed. In recent days, NATO leaders have been meeting to plot new strategy against Yugoslavia. That strategy must be but one component in a firm, multi-component response by the civilized world that includes bringing the actual murderers to trial as war criminals, publicly pressuring the government of Yugoslavia at the UN, and resorting to a proportionate use of force.

The government of Canada has a role to play in fashioning that response. We commend External Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy for summoning the Yugoslav ambassador last weekend. But a summons to the Yugoslav ambassador to hear the government of Canada express its outrage should only be the beginning step, to be followed by more persuasive concrete steps.

Thus when Canada assumes a seat at the Security Council table, it must be at the forefront, seeking to impose an appropriate UN response to the brazenness of the Yugoslav government.

Atrocity must always meet with punishment. Nothing less could ever be acceptable today, more than a half century after the world decided upon rules to deal with "the people who have no value for human life," and who commit the "unspeakable."

WISDOM OF THE AGES

"Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me?'" *Parshat Bo*

Dry Bones
MOSLEM CRAZIES AND JEWISH CRAZIES...OKAY. BUT NOW AN INFLUX OF CHRISTIAN CRAZIES?!!
RELAX. LOOK AT THE BRIGHT SIDE.
THE BRIGHT SIDE?
THE MILLIONS OF HINDUS HAVE SHOWN NO INTEREST IN JERUSALEM.
NOT YET!

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McGuinty's support for Jewish education important

Joseph Adler's letter, "Smiles aside, opposition to Jewish school help continues," (*CJN*, Jan. 7) inappropriately takes to task provincial Liberal Opposition leader Dalton McGuinty, claiming McGuinty's expression of support for school funding was misleading.

The point that Adler misses entirely, is that for the first time in recent memory, a leader of one of Ontario's major political parties has gone on-the-record stating that *he has no ideological opposition to ensuring public funds support Jewish day schools.* This public acknowledgement of support comes at a time when the provincial government, under a new funding formula, is completely responsible for the funding of education in Ontario. While Canadian Jewish Congress understands that politicians often say many things, especially near election time, such statements from party leaders philosophically supporting the funding of Jewish day schools, are a necessary first step in achieving our goal under these new circumstances.

As well, Adler should realize that when a provincial party leader such as McGuinty addresses the executive of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, we welcome him into our home, the Lipa Green Building – the living room for Ontario's Jewish community. We treat our guests with respect, while at the same time, ensuring that they are fully aware of all our concerns, be it funding for our Jewish day school system, anti-racism initiatives or the need to ensure that our social safety net remains secure.

Keith M. Landy
Chair, CJC, Ontario Region

Supplementary schools needed to fill gap

Re: Report on value of supplementary schools (*CJN*, Nov. 19).

Supplementary schools are directly connected to the larger Jewish community, usually through affiliation with a synagogue, sometimes through a Jewish community centre, or other community organization. Research carried out by the Council for Initiatives on Jewish Education demonstrates that supplementary schools can be excellent when they receive strong support from their sponsoring organization and that organization's leadership.

We agree that all things being equal, more Jewish education is better than less. However, the reality is that significant numbers of Jewish families are unable to send their children to Jewish day schools or choose not to for a variety of reasons. These children deserve the best "supplementary" Jewish education possible.

A strong Jewish identity and a strong community stand on the pillars of family, synagogue, and both formal and informal Jewish education.

Joan Schoenfeld
Chair
Supplementary School Principals Council

Two views on Ashkenazi pronunciation

I wish to disagree with columnist Bruce Elman's assertion (*CJN*, Dec. 24), that the use of Ashkenazi Hebrew pronunciation promotes Jewish disunity. Jews of European origin, who use this form of the language in study or prayer, are simply complying with the halachic requirement to follow the minhag (custom) of our ancestors. This requirement has the effect of preserving the many beautiful and ancient traditions that we have all inherited from our grandparents and great- grandparents.

In my opinion, Jewish unity does not mean that we must all adopt one homogenized set of practices at the expense of long-standing customs. It means that we can and should follow different paths, as long as we have a common goal.

Andy Rechtshaffen
Toronto

***

Bruce Elman's column raises significant issues. I prefer to daven Ashkenazi myself; it is part of the heritage of Ashkenazi Jews, and you have to admit it has "taam." However, much of what is taught as "Ashkenazi" Hebrew today is something else altogether. It uses the accentuation and all or most of the vowel sounds of Israeli Hebrew, and retains from Ashkenazi tradition only the "s" in place of "t" (for a tav without a dagesh). As such, it is an attempt at a new hybrid standard different from the Israeli one, and this is indeed highly political. The popularity of this hybrid (used, for example, in the new ArtScroll siddur with transliteration) is a small, but disturbing symptom of how the anti-Zionist ideology of fairly marginal religious groups has penetrated into the Orthodox mainstream and beyond.

Justin Lewis
Toronto

Dictionary may include glatt kosher in list

The *Oxford English Dictionary* is being thoroughly revised and updated. Among the words and phrases on a recent "appeals list" is glatt kosher. If any *CJN* reader has a *written example* of this in use prior to 1973, we would appreciate it if you could get in touch with the OED, Oxford University Press, Great Clarendon St., Oxford 0X2 6DP; e-mail oed3@oup.co.uk or with me at Dept. of Second Language Education, McGill University, 3700 McTavish, Montreal, Que., H3A 1Y2, 514-398-5946.

Prof. Lise Winer

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Perspectives

Canada, Israel and the UN

By BRIAN MORRIS

This month, Canada will begin its two- year term as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

Canada's election to this prestigious position is a testament to the high regard in which our country is held by the international community. It is a reputation built upon decades of Canadian participation in peacekeeping missions around the world; in offering vital humanitarian assistance, most recently in Honduras and Nicaragua; and in providing leadership in such accords as the land-mines treaty and the treaty establishing the International Criminal Court. All Canadians can be justifiably proud of these achievements.

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy has set a high goal for Canada on the Security Council, declaring that this country's "voice... will strengthen the UN's ability to respond to the myriad global security issues facing the world today."

Beyond this, its membership on the Security Council affords Canada the opportunity to further promote a long-standing goal of its foreign policy, namely fundamental structural reform of the United Nations system – to make the world body more efficient and professional by stemming its predilection toward excessive politicization. Nowhere is such fundamental reform more necessary than in the UN's treatment of Israel.

During much of the Cold War, the United Nations was used as a forum for superpower rivalries, wherein the Arab and other Third World blocs invariably lined up behind the Soviet Union. Typically, Israel became a victim of this bloc-vote behavior. With the Security Council neutralized by the United States veto, the focus of anti-Israel animus shifted to the General Assembly and to specialized agencies, such as the United Nations Human Rights Committee, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization, UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Labor Organization (ILO).

These agencies and special UN conferences passed, annually, disproportionate and one-sided resolutions against the Jewish state. With the passage in November 1975 of General Assembly Resolution 3375 – the infamous "Zionism is racism" resolution – the United Nations reached its lowest point where Israel and general fairness and honor are concerned.

Following the collapse of the former Soviet Union in the late 1980s, and with it the end of the Cold War, and even more so, after the strong backing among Arab states for the UN-sanctioned multinational operation to evict Saddam Hussein from Kuwait in 1990-1991, an important change seemed to emerge in the UN's traditional hostility towards Israel.

The repeal in December 1991 of Resolution 3379 was one key indication of this change. However, this turned out to be a shift in appearance only. The "new world order" did not result in the promise of fairer treatment of Israel at the UN.

True, between 1992 and 1995 there were some noticeable efforts to "normalize" Israel's status in the UN and other international forums.

External Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy last year during his visit to Israel in the wake of the "Meshal affair." To Axworthy's right is Canada's Ambassador to Israel David Berger. To his left is Israel's Ambassador to Canada David Sultan.

The credentials of Israeli delegations were no longer routinely challenged; Israeli experts were elected to UN specialized commissions; and Israel began to be called upon to co-sponsor General Assembly resolutions and participate in UN committees. Still, Israel's status at the UN remained sui generis. Due to the continuing refusal of the Arab and Muslim countries to permit Israel to join the Asian regional group, Israel has been the only member state barred from being nominated for election to major UN committees, including the Security Council.

By late 1995, there was evidence of a return to a less hospitable, if not overtly hostile, atmosphere affecting Israel's treatment at the United Nations. Israel was subjected to unfair and one-sided criticism by the General Assembly and by the secretary-general for its military actions against Hezbollah in southern Lebanon in April 1996. (The criticisms completely ignored violent Hezbollah provocations, including the firing of Katyusha missiles at towns in northern Israel from positions dangerously close to Lebanese villages.)

Kofi Annan
UN Secretary General

Moreover, the General Assembly resumed its biased and unconstructive interventions in disputes affecting the bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. For example, the General Assembly complied with Palestinian demands to convene a series of unwarranted and discriminatory extraordinary "special emergency sessions" in reaction to the announcement by Israel of plans to build residential housing on Jewish-owned land in the Har Choma district of Jerusalem.

In addition, while rejecting growing pressure to have the status of the Palestinian observer delegation upgraded to a "near-state" level, the General Assembly, through its actions and statements, often accorded a non-state actor, the PLO, more privileged treatment than that accorded to a full member state, Israel.

The disproportionate attention devoted to Israel-related matters at the General Assembly and in UN functional agencies, both in absolute terms and relative to more immediate threats to international peace and security elsewhere in the world, epitomized all that remains terribly flawed in the United Nation's attitude toward Israel.

Unfortunately, Canada's efforts to use its influence to encourage a fairer treatment of Israel by international organizations, has been hampered in recent years by the inconsistent and incomplete application of this country's own Middle East policy. For example, Canada has long declared its strong opposition to "any move to suspend or expel Israel from the United Nations or its specialized agencies."

Yet, Canada voted in favor of a July 1997 General Assembly resolution that included a provision suggesting economic and political sanctions against Israel, the net effect of which would have been to leave Israel even more isolated than usual at the United Nations.

By consistently voting in favor of annual General Assembly resolutions declaring as illegal "all Israeli actions in occupied east Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory, especially settlement activity," Canada is contradicting another core component of its Middle East policy: to "oppose all attempts to prejudge the outcome of [Arab-Israeli peace] negotiations by one-sided resolutions in international fora."

How can Canada help shape positive reform at the United Nations and simultaneously facilitate a more fair and even-handed treatment of Israel at the United Nations?

First, it can use its influence as a member of the Security Council to end Israel's isolation at the United Nations. Since the Arab and Muslim states refuse to admit Israel into the Asian regional group, Canada should join forces with other democratic nations to encourage Israel's entry into another suitable geographic group, such as the Western European and Others Group (WEOG).

Second, Canada can work to prevent passage of polemical, one-sided and counter-productive resolutions against Israel. To be sure, it is the responsibility of Canada and other Security Council members to comment and pass resolutions on issues of international import, including issues affecting Israel and the Middle East peace process.

But it is also incumbent upon them, to ensure that the treatment of Israel in such resolutions is proportionate and fair-minded, and designed to contribute to the pursuit of direct negotiations.

Too often, UN interventions in the Arab-Israeli peace process have failed to meet this basic test, often working at cross-purposes to ongoing diplomatic efforts brokered by the United States.

Third, Canada should encourage its fellow Security Council members to distinguish between real crises that are immediate threats to international peace and security, and non-crisis disputes such as those that have arisen in the context of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

After all, what is a more immediate threat to global peace: a political dispute between Israel and the Palestinians over the right to build on a barren piece of land on the outskirts of Jerusalem, or Saddam Hussein's (and Iran's) continued pursuit of weapons of mass destruction? (to say nothing of continuing discord in Kosovo, Myanmar, Rwanda, and the Indian subcontinent; humanitarian crises in Central America and sub-Saharan Africa; financial turmoil in the Far East and Russia; and the threat of international terrorism?)

The point is not that Canada and the Security Council should ignore issues affecting Israel and the Middle East peace process, but rather that they be dealt with in their proper perspective.

Early in its tenure on the UN Security Council, Canada might be expected to assess the legitimacy of a Palestinian move to declare statehood unilaterally in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as well as a Palestinian demand for immediate admission to full United Nations membership.

The challenge for Canada will be to deal with these issues in a manner that is consistent with the core principle of Canada's policy towards the Middle East peace process.

This means that permanent settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute can only be achieved through direct bilateral negotiations between the parties themselves, rather than through provocative unilateral actions. A Palestinian unilateral declaration of independence (UDI) that occurs outside the Oslo peace process will cause violence, undermine the process of Arab-Israeli reconciliation, and harm global strategic interests in the Middle East and beyond.

Canada's ability to encourage its Security Council colleagues to oppose a Palestinian UDI on its own merits, and without being swayed by the anti-Israel bias that has traditionally pervaded the UN system, will be an important test of this country's diplomatic acumen as it enters the new millennium.

Brian Morris is national chair of the Canada-Israel Committee.

Opinions

Verbal crossfire can be deadly

Even at the quietest of times, political debate and rhetoric in Israel are often nasty. Not surprisingly, the onset of a new national election campaign has already taken such discourse to more volatile levels – and the country doesn't even go the polls for another four months!

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

In such a highly politicized, divided nation, where little is laid back in the political sphere except the dress code in the Knesset, the verbal crossfire can be deadly. Literally. The murder of Yitzhak Rabin in 1995, after many had branded him a traitor and accused him of endangering Israel's security, made tough talk a particularly loaded issue.

Incitement is still very much in the news. Last week, Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon voiced alarm over the intensity of verbal abuse at the start of the election campaign. "If we carry on like this," said Tichon, "who knows what might happen in the future?"

Tichon was reacting to a recent spate of violent verbal threats against prime ministerial candidates Benjamin Netanyahu, Ehud Barak and Amnon Lipkin-Shahak. The candidates themselves didn't help matters much by uttering their own harsh denunciations of their rivals. Most controversial was Shahak's comment: "Netanyahu is a danger to Israel and is leading us to disaster!"

Those are fighting words, but such invective is not confined to the political arena. To be sure, the general level and tone of dialogue in this country are anything but dignified. Israelis have a great deal to learn about how to talk to one another. When they open their mouths, too often it's up front, loud, rapid-fire, in your face, combative, strident, with lots of histrionics. Nothing plays like an argument in Israel, and daily life here is full of it, especially where politics is concerned.

Recently, on the *Erev Hadash* TV program, Likud cabinet minister Yehoshua Matza and Labor MK Yossi Beilin were invited to discuss the press conference given that day by Shahak, in which he announced his candidacy for prime minister. Both strongly criticized Shahak for different reasons, before squaring off against each other over the respective records of the Netanyahu and Rabin/Peres governments. Tempers flared as Matza and Beilin, sitting next to each other in the studio, took off their gloves for a no-holds-barred verbal slugfest over whose party and leader constitute a greater danger for Israel's future. The host was hard-pressed to get a word in edgewise.

All year round, even when there is no election campaign, venom flows virtually every day in the media on the many current affairs programs in which politicians, pundits and assorted other guests confront each other over the latest headlines. Monday nights are especially rambunctious.

That's when each of the two main television channels devotes 90 minutes of prime time to lively roundtable political talk shows.

Last week, on Channel 1's *Politica*, also broadcast live on radio, host Yaacov Achimeir convened a distinguished panel of Knesset members and professors, in part to discuss where freedom of expression ends and incitement begins. There was little consensus, especially over Shahak's statement about Netanyahu.

At the same time on Channel 2's *It's All Political*, host Dan Margalit and his permanent panelists were joined by various Labor and Likud MKs to review the opening salvos in their parties' highly aggressive ad campaigns.

True to form, the initial sense of decorum quickly gave way to a cacophony of dispute, this time over which party was more guilty of hate-filled rhetoric.

Both programs remind me of a similar show on French television called *Droit de Réponse* that was highly popular when I lived in Paris in the 1980s. One time I was invited to take part in the program. As a guest, I was asked to be at the studio an hour before the broadcast. Within minutes of my arrival, the production staff made sure to offer all participants generously large glasses of wine or liquor. The objective was clear: to loosen tongues ahead of showtime. It worked liked a charm, helping make for an extremely heated, animated debate. It's a safe bet that no such drinks are needed for guests appearing on *Politica* or *It's All Political*.

Many people I know can't stand these programs because of the inevitable screaming and mud slinging. I may not savor the mean-spiritedness that pervades many of the discussions, but I do appreciate the engaged, informed discussions of the issues of the day affecting Israeli society. More troubling is that I often can relate almost equally to both sides of the argument.

Political deadlock continues

Israeli voters will go to the polls on May 17, about one year earlier than originally planned, but in terms of the big picture, not much is likely to change. The two basic pathologies that have plagued Israel for many years – the paralysis caused by the division of the country into two evenly split blocs, and the absence of qualified political leaders – will probably continue.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

Since the early 1980s, national elections have ended in a virtual tie. In 1984 and 1988, the results were "too close to call," and this led to the national unity governments. In 1992, the Labor-left bloc, under the leadership of the late Yitzhak Rabin, won by a very small percentage and formed a government dependent on the cooperation of Shas (the Sephardi religious party). In 1996, Netanyahu defeated Shimon Peres by less than 40,000 votes in the first direct election for prime minister, and the Likud-based coalition had a shaky majority in the Knesset. The small parties with narrow agendas held the balance of power, and neither Rabin nor Netanyahu had a strong mandate to govern. As a result, decisions on critical national issues were bound to be contested by half the population.

In order to overcome these deep divisions, Israel needs leaders who will be able to bridge gaps and define a consensus on political and religious-secular issues. The first part of the election campaign has provided more evidence of the prolonged leadership crisis. Netanyahu's divisive governing style, more than his policies, has alienated many former supporters. As a result, his party is sharply divided, and Dan Meridor and Benny Begin have left to form their own parties. After polls showed that he had strong support, former defense minister Moshe Arens reluctantly decided to stand against his former protégé within the party.

However, Netanyahu maintains a loyal following and control of the party machinery, and is still the front runner.

In contrast to 1996, the chances that Netanyahu or any other candidate will win outright in the first round are very slight, and there will probably be a run-off, to be held two weeks later. If Netanyahu wins the Likud contest, his opponent will probably be Labor party leader Ehud Barak, or perhaps the leader of a new centrist party. But despite all of the talk and publicity hype, the effort to create a centrist party has gotten off to a slow and perhaps fatal start.

To be successful, this party must provide an alternative to the stand-off that has characterized the relationship between the two major political and social blocs. However, the two candidates who see themselves as potential leaders cannot even agree on who should head the party. Recently-retired IDF chief of staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak led the polls before he declared his candidacy, despite his lackluster and passive role as chief of staff.

However, his standing fell dramatically after he launched a personal attack on Netanyahu (after calling for a more civilized political discourse), and he indicated support for major concessions in negotiations with the Palestinians and with Syria. Voters who view these negotiations warily, but who are disquieted by Netanyahu's personality and his more extremist allies, were already turned off by Shahak.

At the same time, Dan Meridor is seen as too "soft" for the demanding job of prime minister, and also has a record of hostility to religious groups. This is a major handicap, as a centrist party and candidate will have to draw votes from some of the religious community (modern Orthodox and traditional Sephardim are the most likely), as well as from the secular Ashkenazi middle class. (Another aspiring centrist candidate, former Tel Aviv mayor Roni Milo, is so anti-religious that he can be ruled out.)

As a result, the standing of Labor party leader Ehud Barak has increased. Like Shahak, Barak was the commander of the IDF (the fact that many of the major figures in the campaign are ex-generals is illustrative of the leadership crisis), and he made a number of mistakes in the transformation from military to civilian life. However, Barak seems to have learned from these mistakes, and has also distanced himself from the more enthusiastic supporters of the "peace process" in the Labor party, such as Shimon Peres and Yossi Beilin. (The fact that Uri Savir, another architect of the failed Oslo process, is supporting Shahak, will help Barak place himself as the true centrist candidate.) If Shahak is viewed as nothing more than an even more inexperienced version of Barak, the latter will emerge as the main challenger to Netanyahu.

With the elections still four months away, there are likely to be many ups and downs. However, the deadlock in Israeli politics will probably continue, and the winner will be able to claim only the narrowest of mandates.

Getting rid of old perceptions

By this time, anyone who knows about Israel and its neighbors, is aware that there is no love lost between Arabs and Israelis. Both sides contain extreme factions who believe that a solution to the problem can lie only in the total removal of the other side from the land in contention. These attitudes preclude, of course, any kind of real peace.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

There are also groups, particularly in Israel, who work to create a climate of friendship and mutual appreciation. These are very small, idealistic enterprises, but their organizers hope that out of such small efforts will eventually come large results.

On the Internet, I read a little while ago an article from the *International Herald Tribune* entitled, *Building Business Bridges*, sponsored by the New Israel Fund and by London's Marks & Spencer department store.

The following was reported: "Nine management trainees at Marks & Spencer are like any other aspiring business students: young, ambitious and eager to acquire the skills, experience and contacts that form the foundation of a successful career.

"But there is one key difference that sets them apart: The trainees are a mixed group of Jewish and Arab Israelis, and their presence here is an attempt to use a business to build bridges across ethnic and religious divides.

"For Avivit Peretz, a 26-year-old from Tel Aviv who works for a maker of computer-based teaching products, the three-month training program provided her first real interaction with Arab Israelis. 'I like the idea of Jews and Arabs learning together,' she said.

"For others, the program allowed them to build on their own experience of working in a mixed environment. Ihab Kashow, an Arab with accounting and business degrees, runs a small-business consultancy with a Jewish partner, and lectures at the Centre for Jewish-Arab Economic Development in Israel.

"The program, the first of its kind, is sponsored by the company, the Centre for Jewish-Arab Economic Development and the New Israel Fund, a Washington-based foundation that promotes economic development and Jewish-Arab equality.

"'Basically, the group here is nine individuals, not five Arabs and four Israelis,' Kashow said. 'That's the best thing we achieved here.'

"'We are all here together,' Peretz said. 'we're trying to bring that feeling back to Israel, and grow flowers from it.'

That won't be easy. The group admitted they were not exactly representatives of the broad spectrum of opinion in Israel. And while they appeared comfortable to return as ambassadors for peace and talked of establishing a charitable organization to sponsor Jewish and Arab interaction, they acknowledged they would face an uphill battle against historical mistrust and animosity.

Faith Khazin, a social worker from the Arab village of Rama, said she believed attitudes would change only with time. "We can't get rid of all the stereotypes, the prejudices we have internalized since we were born," she said. "The big thing will be to educate our children differently, without all of the diseases that we have."

The Kirshner File

Israel's talks with Syria became bogged down

Three years ago in March, following Syria's refusal to condemn a rash of devastating Palestinian suicide bombings in Israeli cities, Israel suspended peace negotiations with Syria. Today, the talks remain in a state of suspension, caught between Syria's demand that they be resumed at the point where they were interrupted, and Israel's position that they be restarted without preconditions.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

The Syrian view, set down by President Hafez al-Assad and chief negotiator Walid Mu'allim, holds that Israel, in August 1993, agreed to withdraw from the Golan Heights to the "lines of June 4, 1967."

Syria's interpretation is supported by, among others, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Orly Azulay-Katz, an Israeli journalist who wrote a biography of Shimon Peres, *The Man Who Could Not Win*, in 1996. She claims that Rabin gave President Bill Clinton a promise that Israel would cede the Golan in its entirety to Syria in exchange for full peace.

According to this account, Rabin and Clinton agreed that this proposal would be passed to Syria as an American initiative. In the wake of his conversation with Rabin, Clinton instructed his associates to produce a "non-paper" summing up the matter.

Shortly after the publication of Azulay-Katz's book, the newly elected prime minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, was asked to comment on the matter. Netanyahu replied: "He (Rabin) spoke of a hypothetical possibility, provided that the Syrians meet a series of conditions which in fact – they had not."

Several months later, in January 1997, the Israeli press published a heretofore secret letter from Warren Christopher, the U.S. secretary of state, in which he stated that he did not regard the "non-paper" as legally binding.

The controversy lingers on, and now Itamar Rabinovich – a Tel Aviv University Middle East scholar, a former ambassador to the United States and Israel's chief negotiator at the 1992-96 bilateral negotiations – steps boldly into the morass with a sober, credible book, *The Brink of Peace* (Princeton University Press).

The Brink of Peace, which essentially concurs with Christopher's and Netanyahu's interpretation of events, not only dissects the complex, on-again, off-again talks, but provides a useful potted history of Israel's sporadic negotiations with Syria since the 1948 War of Independence.

As Rabinovich reminds us, Syria – which regards itself as the "beating heart" of Arab nationalism – has always been a tough adversary. Syria boycotted the 1949 Rhodes conference attended by all other Arab combatants, and when Israeli and Syrian negotiators finally met to thrash out their disputes, the sparks flew.

It is also worth noting that the Syrians waited five years until they grudgingly accepted United Nations Resolution 242, adopted by the Security Council in 1967. And when the time came to sign the June 1974 Golan disengagement pact, Syria authorized an Egyptian general to act on its behalf. Syria, too, railed against Egypt's rapprochement with Israel, partly because the Israeli government was unwilling to make more than cosmetic territorial concessions on the Golan.

Syria, therefore, placed itself beyond the pale of the peace process from 1975 until 1991. In that momentous year, when the Gulf War broke out and Syria committed troops to the anti-Iraqi coalition, Assad embraced Madrid. He did so because the Soviet Union, Syria's patron and arms supplier, was imploding, and there was thus an urgent need for Syria to improve its mercurial relationship with the United States. To that end, he decided to enter into direct talks with Israel.

As Rabinovich tells it, the first phase of Israel's negotiations with Syria was hardly fruitful. Neither Yossi Ben-Aharon nor Muwaffaq Allaf, the Israeli and Syrian negotiators, came to Washington to look for the middle ground. Syria insisted that there could be no progress unless Israel agreed in advance to a complete withdrawal. Israel, in accordance with Yitzhak Shamir's credo that Israel could not cede the Golan, offered Syria "peace-for-peace."

The two positions, of course, were irreconcilable. And the gap was compounded by a tense and unpleasant atmosphere among the negotiators and by mutual demonization.

A Rabin appointee, Rabinovich stepped into the minefield in July 1992, after the fifth futile round. He soon discovered that Rabin and Assad exerted an enormous influence on their respective countries' approach to the negotiations.

Wary of Syria, Rabin doubted whether its concept of peace and Israel's security interests on the Golan could be reconciled. But after being informed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that Syria was seriously interested in peace, he changed course. Nevertheless, Rabin proceeded slowly and cautiously.

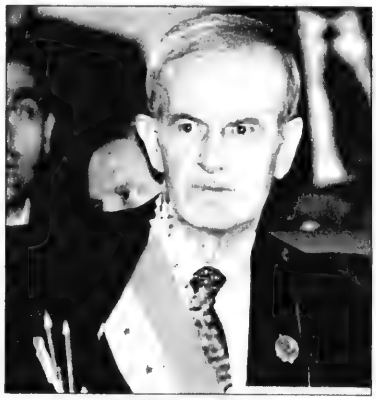
Assad, in the words of a Lebanese politician who knew him well, regarded any concession as "an unnecessary gift," and would not "let himself be constrained by limits or conditions set down by others." In addition, Assad was deliberate, mindful of the smallest details and suspicious of Israel's motives.

With Rabin's approval, Rabinovich made his debut at the talks by informing his Syrian counterparts that "peace for peace" was no longer Israel's strategy. The gambit was designed to impress upon the Syrians that Israel was prepared to seek a settlement based on "an element of withdrawal."

Eventually, Rabin formulated a policy from which he would not deviate: "The depth of a withdrawal will reflect the depth of peace." Syria's stance was "total withdrawal for total peace."

Israel proposed, and Syria rejected, ideas for a protracted withdrawal period and the leasing or exchanging of territories.

Syria, in turn, realized that no agreement was possible without a component of normalization. Yet, much to Rabin's disappointment, Assad refused to consider confidence building measures to enhance mutual trust. Nor was he ready to call off Hezbollah attacks against Israeli troops in southern Lebanon. He was, as Rabinovich notes, a great believer in combining "diplomacy with pressure."



Hafez al-Assad

Furthermore, Assad's conception of peace and security rankled Rabin. Viewing Israel as a rival, if not an enemy, he believed that an accord should not serve to enhance Israel's military and economic advantage over the Arabs.

Peres, Rabin's successor, wanted to conclude a swift agreement predicated on economic cooperation. Yet Assad was uneasy with Peres' boldness and creativity. More importantly, he rebuffed his overtures for a face-to-face meeting, and, bowing to Iran, continued using Hezbollah as a deadly surrogate in southern Lebanon.

In conclusion, Rabinovich claims that, in spite of golden opportunities which presented themselves in August 1993 and November-December 1995, Israel and Syria were never close to reaching a breakthrough.

Assad was not interested in an Israeli package deal for a limited first withdrawal linked to a comparatively long period of normalization. And his response to security arrangements indicated that an arduous bargaining process lay ahead. Rabin, meanwhile, was reluctant to countenance a full pullback.

Rabinovich believes that Assad really sought peace, but is still puzzled why he failed to take the crucial steps that could have brought about such an historic agreement.

It remains a conundrum.

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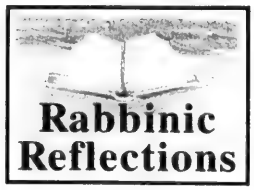

No place like home

By RABBI CHAIM STEINMETZ

In the movie *The Wizard of Oz*, Dorothy, who has found herself in the frightening and bewildering land of Oz and desperately wants to return home, recites over and over again, "There is no place like home, there is no place like home," and she is transported home to Kansas. I don't know whether Frank Baum, the creator of *The Wizard of Oz*, was thinking of the Book of Exodus when he wrote his books, but "There's no place like home" is one of the great themes of the beginning of Exodus.

A couple of examples of this theme are: We are told that Jacob comes to Egypt, "himself and his home." The midwives who refuse to murder Jewish children are rewarded with houses. Moses' father, Amram, is described as a man from the house of Levi. Several of the plagues invaded Egyptian homes – the plagues of the frogs, the wild animals and the locusts.

Those servants of Pharaoh who fear God are spared the plague of hail if they brought their livestock into their homes, and in the plague of the first born, the Egyptians first-born were killed in their homes, and the Jewish homes were passed over.

The theme of home occurs in relation to the Passover sacrifice as well. The Jews are told that the Passover sacrifice is meant to be a lamb for eating in the home. The blood of this sacrifice is to be put on the doorposts and lintel of the home.

Why is the theme of home emphasized? Because having a home and freedom are connected. The one place every person has true liberty is in his home, his castle, where he and his family rule. Outside of the home there may be bosses, clients and others who stake a claim to our efforts. Inside the home is a place where there is no boss, no taskmaster, no ruler.

However, a slave cannot claim to have a true home. He is owned by another, and his home can be invaded whenever the master wants to claim his chattel, the slave. In this context, we can understand why the Torah emphasizes that the plagues entered the Egyptian homes.

The fact that the plagues made the Egyptians feel insecure in their own homes was meant to give them a taste of slavery, to experience what they were doing to the Jews.

That the Jews could turn to their home for security from the plague of the firstborn on the night of Passover indicated that they were rulers of their homes, tasting freedom for the first time. It is for this reason that much of the Passover ritual revolves around the home, because that is where the beginnings of freedom take place.

There are a lot of conclusions one can draw from this theme. It can be seen as a lesson in human rights, on how the right to privacy is a fundamental freedom. It can be understood as a lesson in family relations, on how a proper home environment is crucial for personal dignity. It can also teach us how religion begins at home, how we cannot leave God at the synagogue, because it is at home, our place of true freedom, that our personality truly shines. And probably, all of these conclusions are correct, for "there is no place like home."

Shabbat Shalom.

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz is the spiritual leader of Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem in Montreal.

A special yishar koach

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Today, another *yishar koach* to the individuals who make the Jewish Highway a special place to visit.

You really have to hand it to Mark Burt to create a novel Web site, The Sefer Torah Recycling Network **[http://www.i2.i-2000.com/~strnetmb/storah.html/]**. In December 1994, the divorced accountant from Philadelphia was attending a singles' evening.

Instead of meeting his basherte, Mark found himself playing matchmaker.

He heard about the Israeli town of Bat Ayin, which needed its own Torah scroll. Five months later, the town had its own Torah, thanks to Mark's efforts and the generosity of an American yeshiva. Now through his Web site, Mark continues to play shadchan between towns which no longer have a use for their Torah scrolls, and communities in Israel looking for Torahs. Four Torahs have already been matched and four other matches are in the works.

There is no shortage of great Jewish cooking and recipe sites on the Web. But how can you ignore one called Marilyn, The Mishuganah Cook? **[http://members.xoom.com/spartica/]** More than just a place for food, you're invited to, "Come, sit down, take a glasele tey and come kibbitz, schmooz, rest, and grab a couple of recipes to go. Perhaps we'll even make a shidduch or two... nu, would that be so bad? Stranger things have been known to happen!"

It's a game played every day by Jews around the world, and now it has come to a keyboard near you. Thanks to Jewish geography **[http://www.jewishgeography.org/]**, you may now be able to track down that long-lost friend or roommate. Registration is free, and there are already over 3,000 listings. Hey, now you'll finally be able to find Joseph-Ramiro Macias-Peretz in Monterrey, Mexico, or Lucy Tammam in Bournemouth, England.

Unlike some of the large and impressive sites like Virtual Jerusalem **[http://www.virtualjerusalem.com/]** or the Jewish Communication Network **[http://www.jcn18.com/]** or Shamash **[http://www.shamash.org/]**, Jewish World Review **[http://www.jewishworldreview.com]** relies on much more modest resources. From his home in Brooklyn, Binyamin Jolkovsky has been publishing, editing and fighting for the survival of his lively news digest for the past two years. Regular contributors include historian Rabbi Beryl Wein (on the holiness of Eretz Yisrael), Jonathan Mark (Jewish comic book heroes) and Dr. Laura (Don't use other people's misfortunes to build your self-image).

Finally, I want to express my sorrow on the recent passing of Rabbi Yosef Kazen. The chassidic rabbi was a pioneer of the Jewish Internet and creator of the groundbreaking Chabad-Lubavitch in Cyberspace **[http://www.chabad.org]**. Even before the Internet, Rabbi Kazen explored the use of computer bulletin boards in his efforts at outreach. His passion grew to embrace other members of his family and thousands of fans around the world **[http://www.chabad.org/yyk/zaleski.html]**. He even used the Internet to help organize a Passover service on a boat near Antarctica.

Rabbi Kazen's work was profiled in the book and Web site, *24 Hours in Cyberspace* **[http://www.cyber24.com/]**, and in a feature titled Swords into Plowshares: Spreading Judaism at the Speed of Light **[http://www.cyber24.com/htm2/4_45.htm]**.

At a time when some rabbis forbade the use of the Internet, Rabbi Kazen saw things differently: The Internet is a "fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy that swords will be turned into plowshares. The network was created as a Cold War military system; now it's for worldwide education."

May his memory and work be a blessing and a comfort to his family.

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a television producer in Toronto with an interest in the Internet. He can be reached at [mdm@inforamp.net].

Jewish Life

Why Americans pray

***Powerful Prayers*, by Larry King (with Rabbi Irwin Katsof) (St. Martin's Press, $31.99).**

Books
Bernard Baskin

Bill Moyers tells a story about his years as press secretary in the Lyndon Johnson administration. One afternoon he joined the president for lunch at the White House and was asked to say grace. As he began, Johnson interrupted and started yelling, "I can't hear you! Speak up!"

Bill Moyers looked at the president and said, "I wasn't talking to you."

To whom was Moyers talking? Does God hear prayers? Does He answer them? If so, how? Do generals pray before they go to war? Do world leaders pray before making crucial decisions? Can prayer change natural laws? Are prayers of psychological help?

These and similar difficult and complex questions are at the heart of this timely and inspirational book on how and why influential Americans pray.

In 1997, King was challenged by his daughter: "You are always having conversations with powerful people. Why not ask them about their prayers?"

King responded by calling on Rabbi Irwin Katsof, an old friend, to serve as his spiritual mentor and advisor. The rabbi is executive vice-president of the Jerusalem Fund of Aish HaTorah, described as an international educational organization dedicated to the preservation of Jewish religion and heritage.

The answers that King received make for a full array of approaches to the mystery, power and variety of prayer.

Allan Dershowitz, noted defence attorney and teacher at Harvard Law School replied, "I can't believe that God would want us constantly to treat him like a king. I also don't believe God will punish you if you question Him. I don't want to make analogies between myself and God, but my favorite students are the ones that question everything I say, all the time. So my God is a God who is prepared to engage in a dialogue and not just one-way praise."

Shimon Peres confessed, "Whenever I go to a Holocaust memorial, or when I go to the cemetery and see the young people lying there, I feel that all our prayers failed. So I know that not all prayers will be answered. Yet, in spite of this revolting feeling, I remain a great believer. I think our whole life would be extremely tough without believing and without praying. I know the Jewish people could never exist without prayers. What keeps us together is not our land and not our army for the last 2,000 years. What keeps us together is prayer."

Actor Kirk Douglas tells the story of a poor, childless, blind Jew who prayed daily at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. One day he heard the voice of God, "I will answer your prayer. What do you want most? I will give you only one thing." Finally, after much agonized thought, the man came to this conclusion: "Dear God, grant me just one thing, the joy of seeing my children eating off gold plates." This one prayer, if granted, would give him sight, children and wealth.

When Ed Koch, mayor of New York City, had his stroke he was visited in the hospital by a rabbi who helped him repeat a prayer in Hebrew. Later, he was visited by Cardinal O'Connor, who asked if Koch would like a prayer in the Hebrew language. Koch replied, "Your Eminence, I already took care of the Hebrew, so could you just do the Latin."

Several of the responses emphasize the need for prayer in order to be reminded from time to time of essential values and ideals. They say, in many ways, that prayer can keep these ideals vividly alive, because it is enriched by a thousand emotional chords, by well-loved words hallowed by the piety of one's ancestors, by the beauty of music more eloquent than speech,

Continued on page 14

Iraqi Jews remembered

Guest Voices

By RAMZI LOYA
Special to The CJN

Jan. 27, 1999 marks the 30th anniversary of the death of nine Iraqi Jews, who were falsely accused of spying for Israel.

In the early hours of Jan. 27, 1969, an Iraqi revolutionary court, specially formed for this purpose, announced its verdicts and condemned 15 people to death by hanging. Among them were the nine Jews.

The very short trials were staged, and there was no chance for the accused to defend themselves. The court appointed its own lawyer to defend them.

The victims were hanged in a Baghdad jail and their bodies were suspended in a public square.

That morning, the people of Iraq woke up to the sound of marches from Radio Baghdad, announcing that the spies had been executed and their bodies suspended in the Tahrir Square in the heart of the city.

There was live radio broadcast and television coverage all day from the square. The day was declared a holiday. The radio called workers and students to attend the "festival" at the square. Buses were provided free of charge. The people were rejoicing, chanting and clapping in a hysterical manner.

The crowd was estimated to be 200,000 and the celebrations continued until evening. President Ahmad al-Bakr, who approved the hangings, came to the square to enjoy the celebrations.

The government-controlled television showed 11 men suspended on scaffolds. Their faces were uncovered, and a large sign was tied to each body indicating the name and the words "spy" and/or "Jew."

One Jew was taken by plane to the city of Basra, where he was hanged on the same day. His body was suspended in the same manner in a square in that city, with similar jubilations.

Before the hanging, an official contacted Chief Rabbi Sasson Kadoorie, who used to make false statements that the Jews in Iraq were enjoying full freedom. Rabbi Kadoorie was asked to send somebody to the jail on the eve of Jan. 27, to recite prayers with the condemned Jews.

It was said that while standing in front of the gallows, the victims were crying, and insisted that they were innocent. It was also said that while the reader was reciting Shema Yisrael, some prison guards shouted at him, threatened him with their rifles and ordered him to say the prayers in Arabic instead of Hebrew.

The events in the square were videotaped and shown on Baghdad Television for several nights, instead of the late night movies.

While the people were rejoicing, Jews stayed inside their homes in fear, and most of them fasted the whole day. Some elderly men ventured out and went to the local synagogue in the evening to pray.

Two days after the hangings, the bodies of the eight victims were buried secretly in the Jewish cemetery under the eyes of the security police. Their families were not allowed to attend the burial.

Subsequently, a few more Jews were hanged on similar charges, but their bodies were not displayed. Others were tortured or murdered, either in jails or in their own homes.

After several years of terror, which began with the Six Day War, the government realized that these actions were no longer useful for propaganda purposes, since the whole world condemned them.

The government started to relax some of the rigid and discriminatory rules against the Jews, and in the end, it allowed them to leave the country.

It would be a great mitzvah if all synagogues observed this anniversary by holding memorial services, on the 8th of Shvat, for all the Iraqi Jewish victims and for those who died on this day, 30 years ago: Charles Horesh 44, David Dellal 20, David Ghali 23, Ezra Zilkha 51, Fouad Gabbay 30, Hiskail Saleh 21, Naim Helali 19, Sabah Dayan 30 and Yaakob Namurdi 38. May their blessed memories live forever.

Ramzi Loya lives in Toronto.

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Jewish Life

Israel's electoral system differs from Canada's

Diplomatically Speaking
Jehudi Kinar

As it has been decided that new elections for the Knesset and for the position of prime minister shall take place on May 17 this year, I expect that many people will phone the consulate to obtain more information.

First of all, I have to make clear that the staff of our diplomatic missions abroad represent the government of Israel, but not the political parties.

Diplomats are not politicians and these roles should not be confused.

Israeli diplomats represent whatever government is formed in Israel and should not show any bias in favor or against any of the parties.

Only 11 positions abroad can be filled by political appointees. They are usually persons who have been members of the Knesset or government or have had very close links with the party or parties in government. These 11 positions are usually filled and in most cases with the change of government (if new parties govern or form a coalition) these political appointees are called back.

Unlike the United States or Canada, our heads of missions (ambassadors and consul generals) and most of our other emissaries are career diplomats and often have to adapt themselves to new guidelines after elections, especially if these elections bring new government or ministries.

Every Israeli citizen, 18 and over, is entitled to vote in elections for the Knesset, but individuals must be at least 21 years old in order to be a candidate for the 120-seat Knesset.

Few Israelis abroad retain the right to vote in Israeli elections. Only members of the merchant marine who happen to be out of the country, and emissaries sent abroad by government ministries or agencies such as, the Jewish Agency, the World Zionist Organization, Jewish National Fund and Keren Hayesod, have the right to vote.

Soldiers serving outside of their polling districts have the opportunity to vote with special ballots.

Special regulations govern how this vote abroad should take place. In the upcoming Israeli elections, this vote will be held on May 5 and if a second vote for the prime minister becomes necessary it will take place on May 25 abroad and on June 1 in Israel.

Since the last elections in 1996, the elections for the Knesset and for prime minister are held simultaneously. Both Knesset members and the prime minister are chosen for a four-year period.

On May 17, each voter will have two ballots: one for the selection of a political party and one for choosing the candidate for prime minister, who must be over 30 years of age.

The candidate who receives more than 50 percent of the valid vote shall be elected prime minister. If no candidate obtains more than 50 percent of the valid votes, then another election between the two candidates who received the most votes will take place two weeks later.

As citizens vote for a political party rather than individual politicians, the percentage of votes received by a particular party determines the number of seats allotted to that party in the Knesset.

The parties represented in the Knesset must obtain at least 1.5 percent of the national vote in order to receive a seat.

Some members of the Knesset have tried to increase that threshold to two or even three percent. The effect of such a higher threshold would be to decrease the number of parties, especially the smaller ones, in the Knesset.

According to many, this would be a way to make the work of the Knesset easier, although many others see this as limiting democracy.

For the time being, the number of candidates for the position of prime minister is increasing, but if you contact me or my colleagues to hear our opinions on the parties or candidates involved, don't be offended if we cannot answer you.

To offer our opinions would be against our conscience as well as a breach of our professional code of conduct as diplomats. Happily, this also stops us from making wrong assessments and predictions.

I hope that this article helps to clarify and illuminate some of the ways in which the Israeli electoral system differs from the Canadian one.

American prayers

Continued from page 13

by the warmth of fellowship with one's folk. This sense of fellowship means far more than a common membership in a congregation, or even comradeship with one's contemporaries. It means a feeling of identification with all the past generations, whose spirit lives in us.

This stimulating book is enriched by the lively comments of Rabbi Katsof, who grapples honestly with the issue of prayer in his own life.

Perhaps, the last word, quoted in the book, belongs to the mystic who believed that "God scattered holy sparks all over the world. Whenever a person prays with intent, his words attract one of these sparks and propel it heavenward to add brilliance and sparkle to God's glorious crown."

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Aish HaTorah (O)	949 Clark Ave. W. (905) 764-1818	4:57 PM	8:45 AM	8:00 AM	6:30 AM	4:55 PM
Beth HaMinyan (C)	70 Ridge Hill Dr. (416) 785-3655	----------	9:30 AM	----------	----------	----------
Beth Sholom (C)	1445 Eglinton Ave. W. (416) 783-6103	4:30 PM	8:45 AM	8:30 AM	7:30 & 9:00 AM	4:30 PM
Chabad of Markham (O)	83 Green Lane (905) 886-0420	4:57 PM	9:30 AM	8:30 AM	6:45 AM	4:55 PM
Emunah Shleima (O)	4120 Bathurst St. (416) 638-6115	5:05 PM	8:45 AM	8:00 AM	7:00 AM	4:55 PM
Lodzer Centre (C)	12 Heaton St. (416) 636-6665	4:45 PM	9:00 AM	----------	9:00 AM	----------
Temple Har Zion (R)	7360 Bayview Ave. (905) 889-2252	8:30 PM	10:30 AM	9:00 AM	7:15 AM	----------
Tifereth Yisrael (O)	756 Sheppard Ave. W. (416) 487-4161	4:52 PM	8:30 AM	8:00 AM	Mon. Thurs. 6:30 AM Tues. Wed. Fri. 6:45 AM	4:55 PM

This is not a comprehensive listing of the synagogues in the Greater Toronto area. The information is provided by the Vaad Harabonim of Toronto and the Toronto Board of Rabbis. The Vaad and the Board will periodically revise the listings. For statutory holidays, please call the Synagogue for any changes in times.

Greater Toronto Area

Yeshiva U school trains communal workers

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — When Esther Friedman, now a therapist and educator in private practice, went back to school in 1991 to study social work, she chose the block program of the Wurzweiler School of Social Work.

Friedman said Wurzweiler, which is part of Yeshiva University in New York City, had an excellent reputation for clinical practice, and the block program's unique work-study format afforded her the opportunity to continue working as manager of the art program at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care while pursuing her degree.

Wurzweiler's block program, which recently marked its 20th anniversary, divides the course load into blocks of study, separating the internship or student field work experience from the academic course work.

Students do 30-week placements in the city of their choice during the fall and winter semesters, and come to New York City during the eight-week summer semester to complete the academic requirements.

Adele Weiner, associate dean of Wurzweiler and the director of the block program, told *The CJN* the program was originally developed as an international program to provide training for Jewish communal workers in Canada, the United States and Israel.

It was also geared to non-traditional students, people who were already working in the field, Weiner explained. "We've had some very interesting students who would otherwise not have had the opportunity to go to school."

She indicated that at any given time, 15 to 20 Canadians are enrolled in Wurzweiler's block program, and most of them are based in Toronto.

She said two streams of study are offered: a two-year master's degree with 28 hours a week of field work, and a more intensive accelerated one-year master's program with 35 hours of field work for students with undergraduate degrees in social work.

About one-third of the students are in work study programs. Wurzweiler evaluates each person's place of employment to determine if it qualifies as an appropriate field placement, and sometimes an additional assignment is necessary, Weiner said.

Friedman, who had formal education as a teacher, said she increased her work responsibilities at Baycrest to enhance learning opportunities there, taking advantage of the organization's well-established and highly developed social work program.

As for the summer semesters in New York City, Friedman said the experience was very different from what she had expected.

"I went to study to get skills, and I ended up getting a lot more, because their methods helped me evolve as an individual and a professional.

"I was able to consolidate and build on my skills at Yeshiva. As a mature student, I was looking for a school where I could experience the learning process as someone with 40 years of life behind me. They valued what I had to offer at Wurzweiler and enriched that experience."

Friedman worked with clients – predominantly children and families – on a private basis for some 20 years prior to her 1993 graduation. For the last two years, she has been working full time in private practice, specializing in children with behavioral and learning difficulties and attention deficit disorders, and helping parents develop effective parenting skills.

Fay Geitzhals, supervisor of intake at Jewish Family and Child Services (JF&CS), who was in the first graduating class of the block program, said the program was an excellent learning opportunity, because "you were first part of the agency and then a student."

Her view is echoed by Yosi Derman, coordinator of evaluation and research at JF&CS.

Derman, who graduated from Wurzweiler in 1979, said when he decided to leave teaching and study social work in the mid-'70s, he chose the Wurzweiler School because the block program offered a more realistic work experience than the traditional social work student placements where students are just "parachuted" into an agency two or three days a week.

"You had a rich taste of what it was like to work at the agency and a richer integration into the agency culture," he said.

Karen Levenstein Longert, who graduated from the block program in 1991, said she found the summer group experience stimulating and unique, and she particularly enjoyed the diversity of the students.

At the time of her training, Longert was living in Sarnia and there was no master's program in the vicinity.

She said the Wurzweiler school offered her the chance to pursue her studies, and in her second year, she was even able to find a placement in a Jewish agency in Northern Michigan, just an hour's drive from her home.

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Greater Toronto Area

Man sentenced for promoting hate against Muslims

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A man convicted of promoting hate against Muslims has been sentenced to perform 240 hours of community service on behalf of the Islamic community.

Mark Harding, 43, also received a three-month conditional sentence followed by a further 100 hours of community service during a two-year probationary period.

Chief Judge Sidney Linden of Ontario Court's Provincial Division said Harding's writings and a telephone message contained "false allegations about the adherents of Islam calculated to arouse fear and hatred of them in all non-Muslim people."

But he pointed out that Harding was a first-time offender and had expressed remorse since his conviction.

The Crown had asked for a jail sentence of between three to six months.

Harding's sentence was welcomed by Bernie Farber, executive director of Canadian Jewish Congress' Ontario region. Farber had testified for the prosecution as an expert witness on the effects of hate propaganda.

"We're not dealing with a person who is an avowed hatemonger in the same way as a white supremacist," Farber said. "He did it out of a misguided zeal and he's shown significant contrition. He didn't utilize the trial or sentencing [hearing] to promote his goals. He's certainly seeking ways to repent and make good."

Farber said the judge "balanced the seriousness of the offence with the need for general deterrence to demonstrate society's revulsion to hate propaganda. He pointed out that Jim Keegstra, the former Alberta school teacher who for years taught students to vilify Jews, was fined $5,000 on conviction.

Harding, who has a grade eight education and who has suffered a heart attack since he was charged, was convicted last June. Pamphlets he distributed has as their "prevailing theme...that Muslims, as a group, are dangerous people, capable of acts of violent terrorism and great cruelty," Linden found.

Linden also found that Harding "posits a world-wide Muslim conspiracy theory to the effect that all Muslims are united in the goal of overtaking the societies in which they live and subjecting those who do not embrace their ways to violent oppression. He warns that Canadian Muslims are no different but that they deceive us as to their true nature and intentions."

In his judgement, Linden rejected contentions that Harding could be immune from conviction because he was expressing an opinion on a religious subject. Farber called that element of the decision "very significant. Now we have a line in the sand drawn as to the use of religion as a cloak to try to excuse hate propaganda."

Meanwhile, on a Web site operated by the Canadian Friends of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, an open, undated letter purportedly from Harding compares the legal proceedings against him to "the malicious power of Satan.

"If I am convicted of a 'hate crime' because I told the Muslims the truth, that Muhammad was a false prophet and the Bible, not the Koran, is the word of God, then no Christian is safe in Canada," the letter states.

On the day of your friend's success, participate in her joy.
(adaptation: Kohelet Rabbah 7:22)

ביום טובתו של חברך, שמח עמו.
(קהלת רבא ז:כ"ב)

Rejoicing with you, **ESTHER GOLD**, on receiving your Doctorate of Pedagogy, honoris causa, from JTS, are the students, staff, Parents' Association, Administrative Team and Board of Directors of United Synagogue Day School.

The Jewish Book Awards Committee
at the
Koffler Centre of the Arts
extends deepest sympathy and condolences to
Frances Mandell and Family
on the passing of her dear husband
Marvin Mandell ז"ל

The Canadian Jewish news
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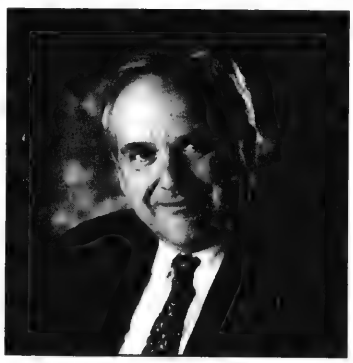
Mintz & Partners, Chartered Accountants is pleased to announce Phil Lev has joined our firm as an Audit and Accounting Partner.



Mintz & Partners is a full-service firm providing hands-on business advice, tax planning and audit/accounting services.

Mr. Lev brings more than 28 years of public accounting experience to his new position. He has extensive experience in auditing public, private and not-for-profit corporations as well as dealing very closely with owner-managed enterprises. He has also provided consulting services to various corporations concentrating on growth strategies and intergenerational business planning.

Mr. Lev's expertise includes experience in real estate, light and heavy manufacturing, distribution, retail, communications, health care, and professional practices.

Mr. Lev, who holds MBA and CA degrees, is a member of the Board of Governors, Beth Sholom Synagogue and an active supporter of many causes in the Jewish community and beyond.

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גידי קורן וחברים

דמוקטטורים

משה דיין, יצחק רבין, יצחק מרדכי, מוטה גור, רפול, אריק שרון, ברק, ועכשיו גם אמנון שחק- כולם גנרלים שהפכו למנהיגים פוליטיים. לכאורה- מה רע? הנהיגו אנשים למלחמה, הראו חוש מנהיגות, בטח טובים לעם. ואולי לא כל-כך. צבא מאופיו אינו בנוי על דמוקרטיה. הפקודה יורדת מלמעלה למטה לטוב או לרע. מה לעשות- אחרי עשרים שלושים שנים כאלה,קשה לצפות מאדם שיהיה דמוקרט גדול. לא שזה בלתי אפשרי- אבל זה עלול להיות די קשה.

ישראל היא אמנם מדינה דמוקרטית, אך מבחינת זכויות הפרט, זכויות המיעוטים , זכויות היהודים שאינם אורתודוקסים, - היא מדורגת על ידי רוב המומחים שעוסקיסם בדירוגים כאלה - די בתחתית סולם הדמוקרטיות. האם יתכן שהשלטון הדמוקרטי של גנרלים שבילו את רוב חייהם במתן פקודות בלתי דמוקרטיות משפיע על מה שקורה בישראל? תחשבו על זה.

מטוסינו חזרו בשלום:

פרק א: מטוסי חיל האויר, כמעט כמו בכל יום בשנים האחרונות,מפגיזים מטרות של חיזבאללה בדרום לבנון. בטעות (או טעות אנוש או ציוד פגום), פגז אחד חודר לכפר לבנוני והורג ("בצורה טראגית" כדברי העיתון) אם לבנונית ושישה ילדים רכים. ישראל מתנצלת ולבנון איננה מקבלת את ההתנצלות.

פרק ב: כתגובה, תוך יממה מופגזת אצבע הגליל במאות קטיושות, נגרם נזק לבתים ויש גם פצועים לא מעטים.

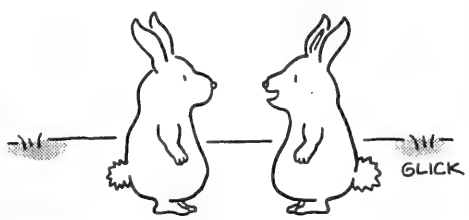
פרק ג: מנהיגי ישראל מודיעים : "נגיב בחומרה" , "נכה בהם". מה תעשו? תהרגו עוד ילדים לבנוניים? אולי גם כמה זקנים? הרי למרות הפגזותיו היומיות של חיל האוויר לאורך שנים ממשיך החיזבאללה להתחזק. כל אזרח שנהרג בשגגה בלבנון מבטיח שעוד כמה עשרות לבנונים נוראליים יגיעו לרמת השטאה הדרושה כדי להפוך לטרוריסטים. מה רציתם שהחיזבאללה יעשה? הוא עושה בדיוק מה שאתם הייתם עושים לו היו הורגים בכם ללא טעם. במקום להגיב "בחומרה" נגד לבנון, אולי יקבלו על עצמם מעצבי המדיניות הישראלית קצת אחריות לכישלון? (סליחה , מילה גסה, שבישראל מישהוא יקבל אחריות על כישלון?) הרי כל אדם עם מנת משכל מינימאלית מבין שמה שקורה בלבנון זה כישלון טוטאלי. כשנכשלים-צריך לשנות גישה מהקצה לקצה. בשביל זה צריך אומץ מחשבתי. מה זה אומץ מחשבתי לעומת חיי חיילים ישראלים או אשה וילדים לבנוניים? ממש עצוב שאין בישראל אפילו מדינאי אחד עם קצת מעוף בעמדת כוח. תצאו מלבנון, כבדו את ריבונות לבנון על שטחה, ואולי גם תופתעו מהשקט שישתרר. ואם לא ישרור שקט - אפשר לחזור לשם. צה"ל יכול להיכנס לשם מתי שימצא לנכון. עובדה שלמרות כל הספקות- כבר עשרים שנה יש שקט בסיני. תחשבו על זה גם.

מפה ומשם:

מחקר בריטי הראה ששופינג מכניס גברים ללחץ נפשי וגופני ומעלה להם את לחץ הדם. הלחץ דומה פחות או יותר ללחץ של יציאה למלחמה. WELL , אני לא יודע איך אצלכם, אבל אני מכיר גם כמה בחורים שאוהבים לעשות שופינג, אם כי בגדול - גברים הולכים כדי למצוא, לקנות וזהו, בזמן שנשים נהנות הרבה יותר מן התהליך עצמו. ומחקר אחר, אולי חשוב יותר, הראה שסיכוי החישרדות במחלת הסרטן, בנוסף לטיפולים הרפואיים והביקורת הרפואית, תלויים בכמה חברים יש לבנאדם. לדברי המחקר, חברות אמיתית, עם השתתפות רגשית- יכולה להיות ההבדל בין ניצחון או כניעה לסרטן. ועוד הראה המחקר שבין גברים ונשים - נשים הן חברות טובות יותר ואמיתיות יותר כשצריך עזרה נפשית ומעשית.

לא כל כך מפתיע, אחז אבל שישאר בינינו.

SHMOOZIN



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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Jan. 25, is deadline for Feb. 4 issue, and Monday, Feb. 1, is deadline for Feb. 11. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Friday, Jan. 22

STORYTELLING & SONGS

Oraynu Community for Secular Humanistic Judaism presents Jewish Stories: An Interactive Oneg Shabbat for children and adults, 7:30 p.m., Workman's Circle, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. $5 per person, maximum $15 per family. Reservations/information 385-3910.

Sunday, Jan. 24

YIDDISHLAND CAFÉ

Workmen's Circle Yiddishland Café evening, A Jewish Life in the Mirror of Song, with singers **Miriam Eskin** and **John Botton** and pianist **Nina Shapilsky**, 7:30 p.m., 471 Lawrence Ave. W. $12 in advance, $15 at door. 787-2081.

MUSIC OF OUR TIME

Temple Sinai lecture, Music of Our Time: the Synagogue's Struggle Between the Styles of Yesterday and Today, 10 a.m. $3.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

At Beth Tikvah Brotherhood breakfast, member **Sonny Goldstein** of Managing Your Money discusses new ideas for your financial planning in 1999, including investing in Israel. Breakfast (nominal charge) follows morning services. 221-3433.

PNAI MEETING

PNAI (Parents of North American Israelis) meets to discuss the future of PNAI Toronto chapter, 7:30 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. **Charlie King** 783-7872.

BROTHERHOOD MEETING

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Brotherhood features **Dr. Brian Sieber**, doctor of chiropractic, speaking on Growing Older Gracefully, Massage, Proper Exercise, Diet, Preventive Medicine. Breakfast. 9:15 a.m. $4.

FREE CONCERT

Tweed. McDonald in concert with special guests, 1:30 p.m., Earl Bales Community Centre.

GRAND SOCIETY

GRAND Society support group for grandparents/seniors seeking access to their grandchildren meets 1-4 p.m., North York Memorial Community Centre, 200 Eglinton Ave. W. Speaker is family law lawyer **Paul Pellman.** Non-members $5 at door.

Monday, Jan. 25

A JEWISH JESUS?

Prof. Michael Steinhauser, Toronto School of Theology, delivers the Catherine Gilbert Memorial Lecture in Christian-Jewish Relations on the topic A Jewish Jesus?, 7:30 p.m., Knox College, 59 St. George St. Presented by Toronto School of Theology and the Christian Jewish Dialogue.

POETRY READING

The Adath Israel and Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am congregations series, Expressions of Judaism Through the Arts, continues with an evening with **Seymour Mayne,** a poetry reading by the author of *Children of Abel, The Song of Moses, Killing Time*, 8 p.m. at Adath Israel.

CASINO RAMA

Adath Sholom Sisterhood bus trip to Casino Rama leaves the synagogue, 864 Sheppard Ave. W. 9 a.m. $5 seats available. $7 per person, prepaid by Jan. 22. Reserve. 635-0131

Tuesday, Jan. 26

LUNCH AND LEARN

At Wagman Centre, dairy lunch and guest speaker **Rabbi Martin Berman** of Shaar Shalom Syna-

Continued on page 19

Mazel Tov

מזל טוב

We cannot guarantee the date a picture will appear. Please limit all greetings to 25 typewritten words. We reserve the right to edit all items and condense any that are longer than that.

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to *The CJN*, Mazel Tov, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, Ont., M3B 3K4.

Jessica Elie recently celebrated her bat mitzvah. Mazel tov from parents Marilyn & Jack, siblings Daryl, David, and grandmothers Jenny Ostrow and Rose Elie.

Jeffrey Gould, son of Howie & Pamela, grandson of Max & Sylvia Gould and Lou & Betsy Fruitman celebrated his first birthday on Nov. 12.

Rachel Sherman, daughter of Bradley & Cindy Sherman, granddaughter of Max & Sylvia Gould and Ted & Donna Sherman, turned 1 year old on Dec. 16.

Mazel tov to Jared on his bar mitzvah, Oct. 17. Love from Mom, Dad, Sean, Bubba Rita, Bubbie Sally and Zaidy Gerry.

Happy 25th anniversary Lou & Liz. Love your children Jill, Simon, Rachel and Sarah, and your parents Ernest & Eta.

Mazel tov to Bella & Andor Friedman on your 50th anniversary, Dec. 26. Love and best wishes, Leslie, Judith, Joshua and Ashley.

Mazel tov to Sandy & Morris Spring on their 50th anniversary. Love Debbie, Fred, Miriam, Josh, Cynthia, Judy and Seymour.

Mazel tov to Pearl & Mel Newman on your 50th anniversary. Love David, Rhonda, Allan, Sharon, Harvey, Nadine, Wendy, Sherri, Neil and Robert.

What's New

Continued from page 18

gogue, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Members $3, non-members $6. Tickets at service desk. **Mara** 785-2500, ext. 2275.

Wednesday, Jan. 27

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) meets 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. **Prof. Derek Penslar,** Jewish studies program, University of Toronto, speaks on The Rothchilds' Dynasty: Myth and Reality. Non-members $3.

SINGLES DROP-IN-LOUNGE

Join Beth Tikvah Progressive Singles for an evening of conversation, games and coffee, 8 p.m. at the synagogue. No admission charge.

Thursday, Jan. 28

THE JOYS OF JUDAICA

Holy Blossom Temple Library illustrated lecture on The Joys of Judaica by **Corey Keeble**, curator of the Judaica collection of the Royal Ontario Museum., 7:30 p.m. **Anne** 789-3291, ext. 235.

And What Else Is New

USDS GALA CELEBRATION

United Synagogue Day School education fundraiser, celebrating 36 years of excellence in education, and featuring singer/songwriter **Amy Sky**, silent auction, raffle, Israeli music, kosher food, dessert reception, and honoring students, alumni, teachers and staff of the past 36 years. Monday, Feb. 1, 7 p.m., Ford Centre for the Performing Arts. $36. 225-5928.

SHABBAT SHIRAH

Celebrate Shabbat Shirah with the Downtown Reform Minyan on Friday, Jan. 29, with a dairy dinner followed by singing with **Arlene** and **Miriam Turner.** RSVP to **Shelly** 469-4287 by Jan. 27. $7 at door.

JUDAISM AND THE EARTH

Kolel: A Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning winter mini-course to be held at Bathurst Jewish Centre. 905-709-1900, ext. 222.

Saturday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m., A Mystical Tu b'Shvat Seder. $8 in advance, $10 at door.

Sunday, Jan. 31, follow-up classes: 10-11:30 a.m., Four Ways to Heal the World, **Rabbi Jeremy Schwartz**, assistant director, Kolel; 12:30-2 p.m., Torah and Flora: Jewish Ecology, **Paul Kay**, University of Waterloo; 2:15-3:45 p.m. Eco-Kashrut: Conscious Jewish Eating, **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein**, director, Kolel. $5 each class, three-class pass $12 in advance.

PARENTING CLASSES

Ohr Somayach parenting classes focusing on Self-esteem, Discipline is Not a Four-letter Word, and other topics, Jan. 24-Feb. 28, 8-9:15 p.m., at Ohr Somayach Thornhill. Facilitated by clinical psychologist **Mark Rothman** 905-886-5730.

WINE TASTING

Beth Tzedec Young members for singles 20s and 30s, evening of wine tasting, nosh and music by **Michael Grammer**, Saturday, Jan. 30. Havdalah 7:30 p.m. $25. Reserve. **Marlene** 781-3514, ext. 34.

A SALUTE TO BROADWAY

Koffler Centre of the Arts presents the Yorkminstrels Show Choir singing A Salute to Broadway, Sunday, Jan. 31, 3 p.m. at Leah Posluns Theatre. Concert is in memory of **Raye Horowitz**. $10 or $8 (seniors/students). 636-1880, ext. 0 or 231.

ALTERNATIVE SHABBAT

Shabbat Unplugged, a learning and spiritual experience, no bimah, no sermon, lots of songs and discussion, Saturday, Jan. 30, 8:45 p.m., at Beth Sholom Synagogue. 783-6103.

PROJECT HAGASHAMA

Young Judea Israel Programs volunteer program for students 18-24 years. Each participant will live in an apartment and work in various places in the community. Minimum time is one month, maximum is 10 months. Cost is $450 a month (not including airfare) You will receive $170 a month towards living expenses. Registration fee is $120. Project Hagashama begins in May. **Ryan Hass** 1-800-804-6661.

ISRAELI DANCE & MUSIC

On Saturday, Feb. 6, the Ontario Folk Dance Association gala celebrates Israeli culture starting 6:30 p.m. with international folkdancing followed by Israeli folkdancing taught by **Teme Kernerman**, singers and dancers performing Israeli music. Event takes place at Armour Heights School, 148 Wilson Ave. $23 by Jan. 23, $25 after Jan. 23 and at the the door. Includes food, drinks, desserts. **Myrna Levine** 499-2283.

SURVIVAL SEMINAR

Jews for Judaism Counter-Missionary Survival Seminar begins Tuesday, Jan. 26, 8 p.m., for eight consecutive weeks at 800 Steeles Ave. W., Main Exchange Plaza. $36. Register. 905-761-0040.

TU B'SHVAT SEDER

A celebration of Judaism and the environment, sponsored by Jewish Campus Services, Monday, Feb. 1, 8 p.m., Barbara Frum Library. Minimum $2 donation. 785-1465.

SEPARATION & DIVORCE

Workshops offered by Jewish Family & Child Service. **Pat Lieberman** 638-7800, ext. 215.

When You're About to Separate: What to Tell the Kids, Feb. 2, facilitator **Elinor Gertner**.

Shared Parenting: Making It Work, Feb. 23, facilitator **Nancy Kumer**.

KABBALAH CENTRE

Kabbalah Centre, 678 Sheppard Ave. W. 631-9395.

Beginners Course, Level 1, Thursday, Jan. 28, 7 p.m. for 10 weeks, $226.

Basics in Reincarnation, Level 2, Thursday, Jan. 28, 8:30 p.m. for 10 weeks, $182.

Shabbat Beshalach, Friday, Jan. 29, 6 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 30, 9:30 a.m. Meal reservations by Tuesday, Jan. 26. Fee $18.

WALKING/HIKING GROUP

Marv's Walking/Hiking Group walks every Sunday morning, age over 40 preferable. Call 24-hour Hike Line 790-8096.

SPRING SEMESTER

Kolel: A Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning spring semester commences Feb. 2. For course brochure, 905-709-1900, ext. 233. Classes offered at all levels, beginners to advanced.

VENDORS NEEDED

For Fashion Show, March 9, 7 p.m., sponsored by United Synagogue Day School. **Rosalie** 905-731-1510 evenings only.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups. **Pat Lieberman** 638-7800, ext. 215: Parenting: Hard Work But Worth It! (discipline techniques including 1,2,3 Magic technique, Barbara Coloroso's Techniques and others) daytime and evening, begins Jan. 28; Social Skills Groups for Children 7-12 years begins Feb. 1, Adolescents begins Jan. 11; Single Parenting: Challenges and Opportunities, begins Jan. 26.

HEBREW CLASSES

Keren Hatarbut Institute of Hebrew Studies, 788 Marlee Ave., winter courses for adults, teenagers, preteens, in conversational Hebrew, all levels. Monday mornings Jan. 18-April 18; Wednesday mornings Jan. 20-April 21; Thursday evenings Jan. 21-April 22. Register. **Joseph Klinger** 787-0197.

SINGLES SCENE

For singles 35-55: Glow in the Dark Bowling, Saturday, Jan. 23, 8 p.m., Global Bowl, 545 Wilson Ave: $10. Reserve. **Rhonda** 905-731-9441; Oneg Shabbat Friday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m. $20, 633-3838; Ski Day at Horseshoe Valley, Sunday, Feb. 14, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call Rhonda.

FOR SENIORS

Senior and Adult Drawing and Painting classes sponsored by Toronto District School Board. **Sandra** 781-8855: Wednesdays 9:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Forest Hill Art Group, 2565 Bathurst St., and Thursdays 9:30 a.m. to noon at Sherwood Apartments Art Group, 2567 Yonge St.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club trips to Casino Rama Jan. 27, Feb. 10 and 24, March 10 and 24. Membership open, $12. 395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St, (B'nai Brith Building). Jan. 21, a video; Jan. 28, an evening of song. **Jerry Bengall** 905-707-7334.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

Osteoporosis Support Group meets Tuesday, Jan. 26, 1:15-2:15 p.m. Occupational therapist **Debbie Seligman** presents Staying Fit & Aging – A Balancing Act.

Israeli Club Etrog meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays for movies, sing-alongs, lectures, bingo, dances. Jan. 26 is a free evening. **Anna.**

Movie, *While You Were Sleeping*, Sunday, Jan. 24, 2:30 p.m.

BATHURST JC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 636-1880.

February luncheon featuring entertainment by **Adam Timoon**, Tuesday, Feb. 9, 12:30 p.m. Reserve **Teme** ext. 364, 55+ Department of Adult Services.

Current Events: The Rabin Assassination presented by **David Aultshuller**, Tel Aviv University lecturer, Thursday, Feb. 11, 1 p.m., Room 211.

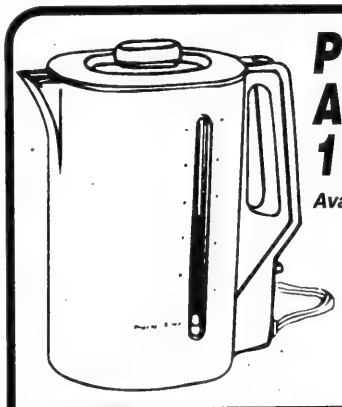
BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 705 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

Seniors Calendar: Thursday, Jan. 21, 2 p.m., Issues of Hearing Loss with **Anna Markus**, Canadian Hearing Society; Tuesday, Jan. 26, The Generation Gap in the '90s, 2:15-3:45 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 28, 2 p.m. Memory, Aging and the Brain, with scientist **Steve Mann**, Rotman Research Institute at Baycrest Centre. **Judy.**

VISITOR FROM ISRAEL
Canadian members of Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel, Beit Halochem Canada, welcomed Ilan Egozi, executive director of Zahal Disabled Veterans Fund during his recent visit to Toronto and Montreal. With him is Toby Feldberg, national president.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE ??



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SINGLES

Beth Tikvah Progressive Singles 35-55. Book Review. "The Reader" By Bernard Schlink, reviewed by Cathy Tile. Refreshments. Mon., Jan. 25, 8:00p.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. $16. R.S.V.P. 221-3433

Beth Tzedec Young Members - Singles 20's & 30's Invite you to Tantalize Your Tastebuds by Sampling **CARMEL'S** Newly Available Dry Wines, followed by Dessert and Musical Accompanist, Michael Grammar, on the piano. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, January 30. $25 prepaid reservation, $30 at the door. Call Marlene, 416-781-3514 ext. 34.

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The Canadian Jewish news

UJA Federation views Israeli bills 'with concern'

TORONTO — UJA Federation of Greater Toronto is calling on the Knesset to refrain from dealing with two pieces of religious legislation.

Under one of the bills, Israel would only recognize religious conversions performed in the country, and approved by the Orthodox chief rabbinate. The bill, similar to legislation introduced last year, was prompted by a recent Jerusalem district court decision that, in effect, recognized several non-Orthodox conversions in Israel.

Conversions outside Israel are not affected by the proposed legislation.

In the wake of controversy surrounding last year's debate, a new institute was established, at which Orthodox, Conservative and Reform representatives prepare people for conversions, with the conversions themselves conducted under Orthodox auspices.

The second bill, which would require all members of Israel religious councils to express their loyalty to the chief rabbinate, was an attempt to counter an Israeli High Court ruling, which ordered religious councils to accept non-Orthodox members. Both bills have been rejected by the Knesset's law committee.

UJA Federation views the legislation "with concern," according to a statement issued by the organization.

"There can be little doubt about the divisiveness that would result, within Israel, between Israeli and the Diaspora and within the Diaspora, from passage of the proposed legislation," says the statement. "Given the long term detrimental impact of these measures on Jewish unity, it is inappropriate for them to be dealt with by the Knesset in a hurried and highly political atmosphere preceding the May 17 elections."

UJA Federation "recognizes Israel's centrality to our Jewish community and the Knesset's right to determine the laws governing Israeli society, bearing in mind the impact of such laws on Jews around the world."

UJA Federation has consistently opposed Israeli conversion legislation, while at the same time, it has set up a denominational committee representing all streams of Judaism to discuss such controversial issues and reinforce unity.

UJA Federation funds also support the Jewish Agency for Israel, which provides over $5 million in support for Reform, Conservative and Orthodox projects in Israel.

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Health

Jews drink less alcohol, Hebrew U study finds

By DEBRA NUSSBAUM COHEN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — Jews don't drink, the old myth goes. And now there's scientific evidence to prove it.

New studies are bolstering the view that Jews don't drink as much as other Caucasians. Researchers attribute the difference largely to a genetic mutation that is found in a much higher proportion among Jews than among other whites.

Those surveyed possessed a particular genetic mutation that regulates an enzyme responsible for determining how the body breaks down alcohol.

A similar mutation is also found at relatively high rates among Asians.

The mutation makes people "more sensitive to alcohol. In other words, they get drunk very quickly," said Dr. Yehuda Neumark, a research physician at the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Centre in Jerusalem.

Neumark, along with a team of researchers in Israel and the United States, recently completed a study that examined the DNA of a group of 145 Jewish men from Jerusalem, made up of both Sephardim and Ashkenazim between the ages of 25 and 64.

"In the Jewish Jerusalemites whom we studied, we found that those carrying this expression of the gene were very light drinkers," Neumark said.

The mutation was found in about one-third of the men in this study, yet it is only found among one to two percent of Caucasians in the general American population, said researcher, Dr. Lucy Carr.

Carr, an associate professor of medicine and pharmacology at the Indiana University School of Medicine, helped analyze the genetic material used in the Hadassah-Hebrew University study.

About two-thirds of the subjects were randomly selected, healthy men and one-third were heroin addicts recruited from drug treatment facilities in Jerusalem.

All of the healthy men were light drinkers, according to Neumark, while most of the heroin addicts had been heavy drinkers. His team found that the amount of alcohol consumed each week was closely related to the genetic mutation.

In a related studies, researchers are examining the impact of the mutation and cultural factors on Jews from the former Soviet Union (FSU) who are now living in Israel.

Genetic mutation found

Dr. Deborah Hasin, a professor of clinical public health at Columbia University, is preparing to study the various factors that impact the rate of alcohol consumption among Russian Jews in Israel.

Russia has one of the highest rates per capita of alcohol consumption in the world,while Israel has one of the lowest, Hasin said

Carr said she and her associates have studied a range of ethnic groups, which have included people from China, Japan, Korea, England, South Africa, and the Caribbean.

This year they expect to study 200 Jewish members of sororities and fraternities at Indiana University to find out how the genetic mutation makes them feel when they drink. Researchers will observe whether or not the students feel flushed quicker and if they develop headaches sooner than those people without the mutation.

Another recently released study, which was conducted at the University of California at San Diego, has found that about half of the Jewish students studied have the genetic mutation.

The students with the mutation drank half as often as the Jewish students who didn't have it – three times rather than six times a month for the male students; and a little more than twice a month, compared with just under five times a month for the women.

There was no difference in the amount of alcohol consumed each time between those with the mutation and those without it, said Dr. Tamara Wall. An assistant professor of psychiatry at the California campus, Wall headed the research team.

She and her associates are in the process of expanding the number of subjects from 65 Jewish college students to 100. They are also studying an equal number of white, gentile students for comparison.

One person who works with Jewish alcoholics and drug addicts, said that while there may well be a genetic basis for different rates of alcoholism among various ethnic groups, the findings should not make assisting Jews with alcohol problems a lower priority within the Jewish community.

"'Even if there is a lower incidence of alcohol addiction in the Jewish community, we cannot turn our backs on those who are affected," said Maxine Uttal, executive director of JACS: Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependent Persons and Significant Others, a 20-year-old recovery support organization based in New York City.

There are similar groups in about 28 Jewish communities around the country, she said.

Alcoholism among Jews "may not be as much of a problem as it is for other communities, but it's still a serious problem."

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Coast to Coast

Shaliach wants closer ties between B.C. Jews, Israel

By PETER CAULFIELD
Pacific Correspondent

VANCOUVER — Col. Ran Bagg (Ret.) wants to forge a closer partnership between the Jewish community in British Columbia and the State of Israel.

Bagg, who recently replaced Brig.-Gen. Itzchak Fuchs as the Jewish National Fund (JNF) shaliach to British Columbia, told *The Canadian Jewish News* that the JNF encourages Jews in the Diaspora to think of their relationship with the State of Israel as a partnership.

"Israel is a project for Jews all over the world," Bagg said. "Every Jew has a role to play."

Bagg said the message he is bringing to the Jewish communities in the Lower Mainland and the rest of British Columbia, is that the best way to "partner" with Israel is through the JNF. "No other Jewish communal organization focuses just on Israel," he said.

Bagg said there is a generation gap in the way Israel is perceived in the Diaspora. "The older generation remembers what it was like before the State of Israel was created," he explained. "The people between the ages of 25 and 50 have heard the stories of what it was like. But the younger people – less than 25 – were born too late. Israel has always been a part of their lives. The significance of the State of the Israel needs to be explained to them. That is what I'm going to do."

Bagg said he intends to go into Jewish schools in the Lower Mainland, and distribute educational materials and the JNF blue boxes. "The JNF needs to begin with the children, and give them positive ideas about Israel," he said. "The children will go home and tell their parents about Israel. In this way, the adults of the community will become more involved with Israel."

Bagg, 53, said his 23 years' experience in the IDF has given him an understanding of young people. "For all those years, I worked with young soldiers, 19, 20, 21 years of age," he explained.

Bagg said, that although he loved his career in the IDF, he hadn't planned to become a professional soldier. "I joined the IDF as a paratrooper in 1964, and I just kept signing up for more and more two-year terms," he explained.

Bagg fought in the Six Day War and the Yom Kippur War. After the Yom Kippur War, he was promoted to head of the anti-terrorism branch of the paratroopers.

In 1976, he took part in the Entebbe Raid, which saved a planeload of Israelis taken hostage by Arab terrorists.

Following his retirement from the IDF in 1986, Bagg went to work in the Israeli high-tech industry. He also earned his private pilot's licence, and became so involved in civilian aviation that he was named manager of the Israeli Private Pilots Association, a position which he held until April 1998.

Early in 1998, Bagg was bitten by the travel bug. "I wanted to travel overseas, but I didn't want to do it in private industry," he explained. "I felt it was time to serve my country again." He knew the JNF was looking for overseas representatives, and sent in his application.

Bagg was interviewed, examined and finally offered the position of British Columbia shaliach. He arrived on the West Coast to take up his post in late October.

Bagg lives in Vancouver with his wife Sarah, who is a translator and interpreter. They have three children – a daughter and two sons – all of whom live in Israel. All of them served with the paratroops.

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Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care

Coast to Coast

Family Matters

by

John Syrtash, B.A. (Hon.), LL.B.

The swinging pendulum of spousal support

I have written about spousal support before, but I feel as if I'm shooting a moving target. The state of the law is constantly changing.

The pendulum has swung in the past ten years. Up to 1992, many Courts assessed the claimant's case by first questioning what steps she had or had not taken to become self-sufficient and then, only after such an assessment, addressing her needs and the payer's means. This method often led to reduced or "time-limited" spousal support orders, even in cases of lengthy marriages.

This type of judicial thinking originated largely in Western Canada, where feminist ideology has a much smaller following than in Ontario or Quebec. It falsely focused on the issue of self-sufficiency because of a misunderstanding of three cases that were decided in the Supreme Court of Canada. These cases together set out rules about when a spouse can successfully claim for more support after having signed a separation agreement that "fully and finally" released the other spouse from any further obligations beyond the support agreed upon.

Among other law created by these cases, the Supreme Court made comments indicating that spouses in such situations claiming more funds would have to show why they had not become self-sufficient. In the case of a spouse who became indigent, the Court

Pitfalls of the "self-sufficiency"criterion

concluded that "in the absence of a radical change in circumstances tied to a marriage related pattern of economic dependency, the obligation to support her should be, as in the case of any other citizen, the communal responsibility of the state". A recipient who couldn't tie her poverty to the marriage after signing such a release was also "out of luck" and had to rely on her own ability to earn money, i.e. become self-sufficient. If that was impossible (by reason of illness or other causes), the State would have to support her, *not* the former husband.

Many cases, especially in Western Canada, subsequently misinterpreted these pronouncements to apply to *all cases* involving claims for spousal support, not just those claims by women who had signed such releases. For a while, the Court decisions on spousal support became restrictive, reduced and time-limited, partly for this reason.

This ridiculous misreading of the Supreme Court decisions ended in December 1992 with the Supreme Court decision in *Moge*, which made it crystal-clear that using self-sufficiency as the primary criterion for determining spousal support eligibility was mistaken. It ruled that since the passage of amendments to the Divorce Act in 1985, the Court was to review several factors, including the means and needs of the spouses arising from the marriage.

Parents' relative contributions weighed

One of those factors was the contribution that one spouse or the other made towards raising the children and looking after the household.

In short, the Court adopted a "compensatory model" for spousal support that went beyond merely rewarding support because a woman needed the money. In a recent decision of the Ontario Court (General Division), the Court awarded spousal support because the wife had ostensibly devoted more of her life to parenting the children than had her husband. The husband earned about twice the income that the wife earned. It made such an award even though after paying child support, the wife's net income from all sources (including full-time employment income and child support) *exceeded the husband's net income by about twenty percent!!* In other words, it rewarded the wife with monies for raising the children even though both parties worked full-time, because the wife was, allegedly, more of a full-time parent. The Court also appears to have completely ignored the husband's substantial costs of looking after the children. (He has far greater access to them than most fathers in like circumstances.)

So now, the pendulum has swung way over to the other direction, as this case is not unique, at least in Central Canada. Whereas ten years ago the rallying cry of many Courts was "self-sufficiency", it is now "compensatory support", largely irrespective of the payer's needs and circumstances. Will the pendulum swing back again as men's groups across Canada cry foul? Ah, what interesting times we live in.

John Syrtash is a partner and family law lawyer with the Toronto firm of Basman Smith. Neither B'nai Brith Canada, Basman Smith or John Syrtash is liable for any consequences arising from anyone's reliance on this material, which is presented as general information and not as a legal opinion. John Syrtash can be reached at (416) 365-0300, ext. 22.

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Conference on Orthodoxy set

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Jews from the United States and Canada who see themselves as Orthodox and modern will examine dilemmas related to maintenance of traditional practices (including strict adherence to Halachah) and being fully participating members of society, at the first international conference of Edah, a New York-based organization founded to give voice to the ideology and values of modern Orthodoxy.

The conference, whose theme is Orthodoxy Encounters a Changing World, will be held over the American President's Weekend Feb. 14-15 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City. It is open to rabbis and laypersons.

Edah describes itself as committed to dealing with conflicts between Halachah and "ethical intuitions," fostering pluralism among Jews of all denominations, upholding democracy in Israel, finding "halachically appropriate" opportunities for women to participate in Jewish ritual, and searching for "transcendent meaning" in religious observance.

Norma Baumel Joseph of Montreal, a Concordia University Jewish studies professor and leader of the international movement to solve the agunah problem, is honorary conference co-chair with Morry Weiss of Cleveland, a supporter of major Orthodox institutions.

Joseph said the conference will provide for the first time a forum for like-minded Orthodox Jews to come together to "search for a consensus on, if not solutions to," their concerns. She hopes they will be able to lay to rest the idea that being Orthodox and modern at the same time is an oxymoron.

"People have said to me, 'You can't be an Orthodox Jew and a feminist,' but I exist," she said.

She does not foresee modern Orthodoxy splintering off as a distinct branch of Judaism, but she does see the need for "an organizational framework" for Jews who want to associate with others who believe Jewish law is flexible enough to allow them to live comfortably in today's world.

Her husband, Rabbi Howard Joseph, spiritual leader of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, will make a presentation at the conference on how 19th-century rabbis responded to modernity.

Edah director, Rabbi Saul Berman, said the organization was founded in 1996 to counter "the increasing tendency in the Orthodox community to withdraw from society to safeguard religious commitment." (The Hebrew word *edah* means community or group, usually in the sense of being one of the parts of a large society or nation.)

Edah's stated mission is to educate and empower Orthodox Jews to "sustain an open relationship with the general society while developing passionate religious lives."

Rabbi Berman said Edah "stresses open intellectual inquiry, engagement with the realities of the modern world, the religious significance of the State of Israel, and the unity of the Jewish people.

"We are convinced that Orthodox Jews can bring wisdom and values to bear on the ethical challenges which constantly emerge in the modern world."

Rabbi Berman was chair of the Judaic studies department of Yeshiva University, and is currently associate professor of Jewish studies at that university's Stern College for Women. He was active in the civil rights movement and the efforts on behalf of Soviet Jewry.

Among the topics on the conference agenda are: Secular Knowledge and Interaction with Other Cultures, A Community-based Approach to the Agunah Issue, Making Judaism and Democracy Comfortable Partners in Israel, and Feminism in Orthodoxy.

Speakers will include rabbinic and communal leaders and scholars from the United States, Canada and Israel.

The format is designed to minimize lecturing and emphasize small, interactive sessions.

University students will be invited to take part in a special forum on their role as future community leaders and issues particular to campuses.

The intention is to set up task forces at the conference to carry out its mission in concrete ways.

The chairman of the board of Edah is Michael Hammer, author of *Reengineering the Corporation: A Manifesto for Business Revolution.*

Edah has set up a leadership development program for modern Orthodox rabbis, mentored by Rabbi Berman and Rabbi Avi Weiss.

For more information about the conference, call toll-free 1-888-404-EDAH, or e-mail: [conf@edah.org].

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Tuesday, Febuary 2, 1999
12:30 p.m., Winters 105
"The Last Jews of Belarus"
2:30 p.m., Vanier Faculty Common Room (040)
"The Reconstruction of Linguistic Geography From Scattered Lone Survivors: Field Work on Yiddish in Eastern Europe"

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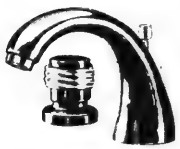

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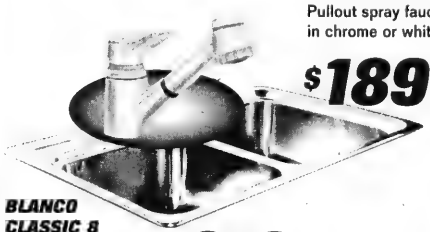

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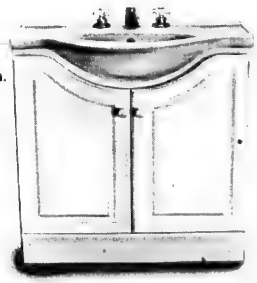

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Awright, listen up you guys, Kosher's Korner is on the air

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Daniel Greenstein (left) and Jonathan Mandel

LONDON, ONT. — Kishke, klezmer and kibbutz life – not to mention kibbitzing – are equally likely components of *Kosher's Korner*, a Jewish campus radio show conceived of and hosted by University of Western Ontario students Daniel Greenstein and Jonathan Mandel.

The weekly, hour-long show – the name is a take on *Hockey Night in Canada's Coach's Corner* – can be heard Fridays from 11 a.m. to noon on Western's campus station CHRW 94.7FM and on the Internet by following links from the radio's Web site, www.CHRW.fm.net.

Greenstein and Mandel are natives of Toronto and third cousins, who have been friends all their lives. Both 21 (Mandel is older by a month), they grew up within biking distance of each other's houses and attended Bialik Hebrew Day School. More recently they established C-Thru Window Cleaning, a summer business.

Last year, they submitted a proposal for a Jewish show to the campus station's program director after Greenstein, who is in his third year of administrative and commercial studies, noticed that the radio station schedule included many other ethnic shows.

Within two weeks, they were on the air, with no background in radio.

They have learned on the job and try to include "a little of everything," said Mandel, a third-year economics student. One staple is a news segment about Israel, often with a related discussion.

They "try to stay away from the political side," noted Greenstein.

"We keep the show pretty light, and project not just to a Jewish audience, but to whoever may be listening."

The show has evolved from last year when they did "slightly more wacky things like a mock interview with [fashion designer] Isaac Mizrahi."

They try to do one serious segment per show – either the news, an interview or an explanation of Jewish holidays or customs, said Mandel.

The show, however, is "pretty comedy-based" and cultural rather than religious, they said.

They find that long-forgotten lessons they learned at Bialik are coming back to them, Greenstein said.

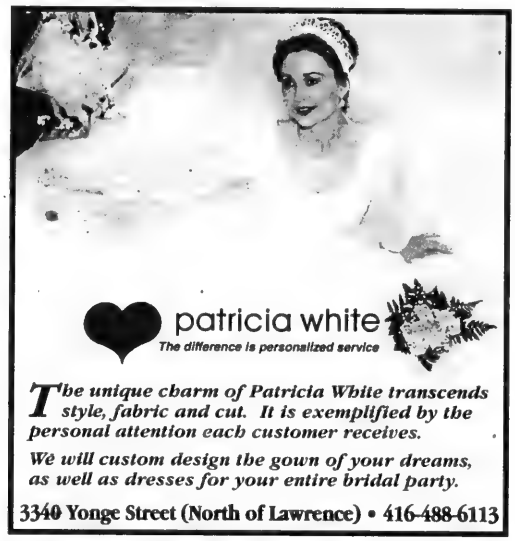
Jewish food is a frequent topic of discussion, and the pair has been known to give out recipes or "banter about our bubbie's chicken soup," said Greenstein. "Now we do a lot more ad-libbing [than when the show began]."

Musical selections range from Leonard Cohen to Cafe Finjan to children's music. "We screen all the music, and only play stuff that's fast or catchy," said Mandel.

Arye Berk, director of Western's Jewish Students' Union, describes himself as Greenstein and Mandel's biggest fan. "It's amazing the research they do," he said.

The show, he said, is "a refreshing hour of hearing Yiddishkeit on the news."

It also serves the London Jewish community, he noted, by carrying community announcements. Through the Internet, the show has also reached listeners as far away as the United States, Israel and New Zealand.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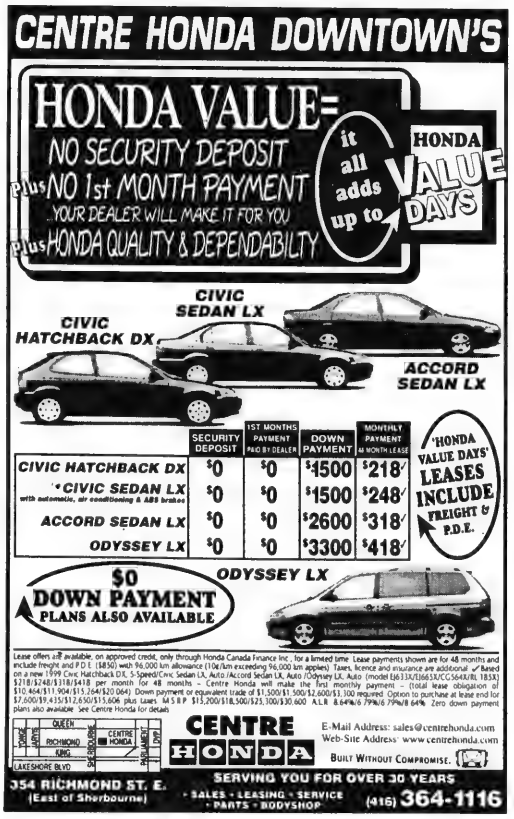
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Coast to Coast

CJC delegation to meet PM when he lands in Warsaw

Continued from page 1

But because the official delegation departs on Shabbat (Jan. 23), the CJC contingent will leave for Poland on a commercial flight two days earlier, spend Sabbath in Poland, and be waiting for Chrétien and the rest of the Canadian delegation when they land in Warsaw on Saturday evening. The group will then proceed to Auschwitz for the events the next day.

Ronen said he will be accompanied by two other Canadian invitees: CJC national director Jack Silverstone, and his father Mordechai, 66, a native of Hungary, who was a child survivor of Auschwitz.

Ronen's father, who came to Canada from Israel in 1966, and worked in the wholesale giftware business, was invited by the PMO to join the Canadian contingent when Ronen informed Sparkes about his history in Auschwitz.

triggered opposition from war veterans.

The federal government has since expressed a commitment to build a "stand-alone" Holocaust museum, and Ronen said Chrétien's visit to Poland will provide an ideal opportunity to convince the government to speed up the process.

"I think and hope the government will be determined to move quickly," Ronen said.

According to Ronen, a study filed last month, although not yet released officially, also supported the group.

The study was commissioned by the Museum of Civilization, which is run under the auspices of heritage minister Sheila Copps.

Barney Danson, a retired Liberal minister, is also serving as an adviser to the government on the proposed museum.

'Symbolism is quite dramatic'

"The symbolism of this is quite dramatic," Ronen said. "Here is my father, who rebuilt his life, returning with no one less than the prime minister of Canada."

Ronen and his father visited Auschwitz one time previously, in 1991, accompanied by then-incoming CJC president Irving Abella.

"For my father, it will serve as an invitation to declare victory over the Nazis."

Ronen said that Chrétien's visit to Poland, the first stop in a three-nation tour due to include the Ukraine and Germany, will likely also include some sort of official ceremony at Auschwitz, such as the recitation of Kaddish.

He said that the visit will also provide an opportunity to meet privately with Chrétien, and to discuss related areas of interest, such as the proposed National Holocaust Memorial Museum in Ottawa, war criminals, hate legislation, and amendments to the Canada Criminal Code.

CJC strongly supports a Holocaust Memorial Museum in the national capital, an idea that surfaced after plans two years ago for a Holocaust gallery in the revamped Canadian War Museum

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Coast to Coast

Lallier's teaching load at Concordia reduced

Continued from page 1

But there have been some negative repercussions for the professor. His teaching load at Concordia was drastically and unexpectedly reduced last spring.

His suspicion that this change was related to his testimony was given weight by Southam News, which reported in October that it had obtained a copy of a letter, urging the department to let Lallier go. The letter had been signed by five economics professors last May.

"There is a possibility that all of the facts surrounding his (Lallier's) involvement have not yet surfaced," the letter read. "If there is more to this story than what is currently known, that could involve both the university and the department in damaging publicity. This is not a risk worth taking." (The instigator of this letter, incidentally, was not Jewish.)

Lallier was inducted into the Waffen SS in 1942 at the age of 17, and against his will, he said. This induction contravened an international convention that forbids drafting those under occupation and under age 18, he noted.

"It seems they thought I was one of the *volkdeutsche* (ethnic Germans) because my name ended in 'er'. In fact, we were French Protestants and I spoke no German."

He was assigned to a signal corps and served in a non-combative role in Yugoslavia until the end of 1944. He was later sent to what was then Czechoslovakia to train as an officer.

During the second week of April, 1945, he was among the guards overseeing the digging of an anti-tank ditch outside of Theresienstadt by some 8,000 inmates.

"Suddenly my commanding officer, a German, started shooting in the ditch, one person at a time until he had emptied his gun. It was all over in three or four minutes. At least five people were dead, maybe seven.

"I remember there was one giant of a man, with red hair and beard, who raised his arms threatening the Germans. It was an incredible act of courage," Lallier said.

He recalled seeing nothing that could have provoked the attack, and the officer was not berserk. No one apprehended him, and he apparently suffered no consequences, even though higher-ranking officers were present. "They did absolutely nothing."

The next day at their officers' school a memo was posted by their superior. "It said, to the effect, what happened, happened; it can't be undone. If we win the war, we will not be responsible. If we lose, we will all be dead anyway. We owe our fealty to Hitler and we are to keep our mouths shut."

After being released by the British in 1946, Lallier was assigned to a CIA agent. "When I gave him a report of what happened, his response was that the Soviets are all over the place; it's irrelevant and unimportant."

Lallier said he later worked for the International Refugee Organization under an American three-star general named Wood, who took a similar view of the incident.

While working as a resettlement clerk in Vienna, Lallier said he mainly processed the claims of Jews from Hungary and the former Czechoslovakia who wanted to go to Canada. "I falsified many of the records turning Jews who had been jewelers and merchants into textile and wood workers so they would meet the criteria of Canadian immigration."

Lallier said he has lived since with a "mixture of guilt and despair," in the first instance, for having not been able to intervene at the time and, over the years, to see justice done.

He officially retired from Concordia in 1986, and until last year had been an adjunct professor, teaching 15 to 18 credits a year.

Last spring, he was informed by his chair he would no longer teach economics. He was told the reduction was part of the new collective agreement, which was binding on all professors of his status. This year he is teaching just one 6-credit political science course.

Lallier attributes this change to the university's fear of having its public image tainted at a time when it is increasingly reliant on private fundraising.

"Once my story was in the media, some people lauded me, but I also made some sudden enemies," Lallier said. "Even my best friends asked me how I could be so stupid."

He and the university administration have since reached an agreement, which he calls "amicable" and allows him to retire "honorably."

It included a statement from Concordia provost and vice-rector (research) Jack Lightstone which was issued this month. Referring to the letter by the five professors, Lightstone said it "not only impugned Prof. Lallier's teaching credentials, but also suggested that he may have participated in the war crime that he publicly denounced in 1997."

Authors & Poets

The CJN is pleased to announce the third annual Passover Literary Supplement. We therefore invite the authors and poets among our readers to submit their works to us. We are looking only for works of fiction or poetry that explore Jewish themes.

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PA considering declaring statehood on Dec. 31

By DAVID MAKOVSKY
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Yasser Arafat is ready to negotiate with the United States on a postponement of a declaration of statehood on May 4.

The most likely replacement date for the announcement would be Dec. 31, the eve of the new millennium, before the start of the Palestinian leader's favorite tourism project, Bethlehem 2000, sources close to the Palestinian leader say.

Arafat's willingness to negotiate the postponement is based on the assumption that a declaration on the eve of an Israeli election would provide Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with an electoral boost.

Furthermore, a delay would give any newly elected Israeli government six months to fashion its policies on final status issues, or else the PA would unilaterally declare statehood at the end of 1999.

Sources close to Arafat say he wants U.S. agreement to a new date, believing this could isolate Israel on the issue.

But Arafat also knows that a postponement of the May 4 date could serve as a double-edged sword, with Netanyahu likely to tout such a move as proof of his tough position. It is still unknown whether Arafat would postpone the May 4 declaration if he doesn't win U.S. support for resetting the date to the end of 1999.

According to two sources close to Arafat, the timing is the key. One source said, "It would be symbolic to end this millennium and usher in a new one with a declaration of a Palestinian state, and it would be consistent with Arafat's promise for such a state to occur in 1999."

Arafat, who personally chairs the Bethlehem 2000 project, is hoping that many dignitaries from all over the world will come to Bethlehem for the new millennium, and hence the timing would be appropriate.

Part of the significance of a Dec. 31 declaration is that Jan. 1 is the official anniversary date of the founding of Fatah, Arafat's political party.

A third source, a senior U.S. official said, "Both Arafat and we want to get by May 4 and May 17. We think he understands the need to delay."

In return for a postponement of independence, Arafat will try to win benefits from Israel and the United States, but some sources say he is not too hopeful. His preference would be to win a guarantee on the second and third West Bank pullbacks, and an assurance from Washington on some new upgraded diplomatic formulation such as U.S. endorsement of Palestinian self-determination.

However, these sources say Arafat is becoming more dubious about this happening during a fiercely partisan election campaign in Israel. In any event, the Palestinians would like an unambiguous statement from the United States that goes further than the one recently made by State Department spokesperson James Rubin on Palestinian compliance and Israeli non-compliance with the Wye agreement.

Meanwhile, Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat announced last weekend that at Ross' request, he will meet with his Israeli and U.S. counterparts in Washington next month to discuss outstanding interim issues. Israel will be represented on that steering committee by Tomer Omri, a personal aide to Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon.

IDF readies for ABM warfare

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai last week attended the unveiling of a unique simulator of a command and control centre for anti-ballistic missiles, and on the same day, Chief of Staff Shaul Mofaz told reporters that "in the next war, missiles will hit the home front, so it's important to strengthen the standing army, because it will take time to call up reserves."

Mordechai said Israel cannot depend on the Arrow ABM as the only protection from missiles, but must develop an offensive capability against enemy missile launchers.

Speaking at a professional conference that accompanied the unveiling of the Strategic Defence Project at Tadiran Systems, where a war-room simulator of a missile versus missile war has been built, Mordechai said the establishment of a strategic command is aimed at making it possible for the defence establishment to prepare an adequate response to the long-term threats of the next five to 10 years.

Mordechai called some of those threats "existential," adding that the defence establishment is operating on three levels to meet the challenge: updating the defence concept, adapting the IDF's structure to reality and changing needs, and preparing a multi-year plan to modernize the weapons systems and develop strategic projects.

The Arrow has already gone into production, with project managers saying that by 2000, the system will be partly operational. But the discussion that followed Mordechai's visit to the simulator, which demonstrated what happens when Arrows and Patriot missiles work together against incoming missiles, emphasized that the Arrow was not sufficient as a defensive wall against incoming missiles, nor as a deterrent by itself.

One leading expert pointed out that missiles like the Arrow, which shoot down incoming missiles on the fly, are far more expensive than ground-to-ground missiles, which are far less accurate, but by hitting civilian areas, can cause far more damage to the enemy.

At Mofaz's press conference to unveil some of the details of a plan he said was "a profound change" for the army, the chief of staff said some 2,000 management jobs at army headquarters would be cut, with the savings passed over to combat units.

Among other things, the army will be cutting back on senior officers and adding money to the standing army. It may eliminate the southern command – with its daily security concerns around Gaza to be taken up by the central command – and begin removing from the system outdated weaponry, to be updated with modern weapons systems.

Mofaz said the massive cuts in jobs at headquarters will be mostly soldiers and officers up to the rank of major, and that at least eight brigadiers (out of 120) and 20 colonels (out of 500) would be fired.

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Israel weighing Bronfman burial request

By NADAV SHRAGAI
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — A high-powered committee that includes a former president and a former president of the Supreme Court, has been established to decide whether World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman should be allowed to have his final resting place on Mount Herzl, in the section reserved for the "nation's great leaders."

Bronfman's request – the first of its kind by someone who is not an Israeli citizen, and has chosen to live in the Diaspora – was made through unofficial channels to the chair of the Jewish Agency executive, Avraham Burg.

Burg convened the executive of the World Zionist Organization (WZO) to discuss the question, and that body decided to appoint a three-member committee consisting of former president Ephraim Katzir, former Supreme Court president Meir Shamgar, and a member of the WZO executive to deliberate the matter.

Bronfman is known for his work on behalf of various subjects related to the Jewish people and Israel.

Mount Herzl occupies a major place in the pantheon of Israel's national symbols. The first to be interred there, in 1949, were soldiers who fell in the 1948 war, most of whom were killed in the battle for the nearby Sheikh Badr area.

It was also in 1949 that the remains of the founder of political Zionism, Theodor Herzl, were buried atop the hill, after a procession that followed the route Herzl had taken when he visited Palestine in 1898.

The military section of the cemetery is on the northern slopes of the mount – row upon row of uniform modest white slabs, beneath pine and cedar trees.

Herzl's parents are buried near their son's tomb, which sits alone on the hilltop. His sister is also interred there, and nearby lie three presidents of the WZO and two chairs of the Zionist executive.

Not far away, in the section reserved for the "nation's great leaders," are the plots of Israel's presidents, prime ministers and Knesset speakers including Levy Eshkol, Golda Meir, Zalman Shazar and most recently, Yitzhak Rabin.

The remains of Ze'ev Jabotinsky, the founder of the Revisionist movement, forerunner of today's Likud, are interred in a separate section nearby. The section also contains the graves of Jabotinsky's wife, Johanna, and his son, Eri, who was a Knesset member.

Now, world Jewry wants its share of the symbolic soil. Above all, Edgar Bronfman's request has produced embarrassment in the two bodies that are responsible for authorizing plots on Mount Herzl: the WZO and the Ministerial Committee for Symbols and Ceremonies.

No one disputes Bronfman's contribution to Israel. No one denies his part in breaking down the Iron Curtain that shut in the Jews of the Soviet Union, his denunciation of former UN secretary general Kurt Waldheim as a member of the Nazi party in World War II, or his involvement in many of the most sensitive projects of the Israeli government.

But Bronfman is not an Israeli citizen, and underlying his request, which he unsuccessfully tried to keep secret, is the question of whether Israel – and more specifically its national cemetery, is the state of all its residents (though primarily its Jews) or also the state of all the world's Jews as well.

The implications are far-reaching: is there a Jewish nation or an Israeli nation? Who deserves the epithet "great"? Bronfman's request sets a precedent. No similar request was ever made before, and therefore no such request was rejected either. Nor are there clear criteria for internment in the "greats" section. Not all of those who were eligible for interment on Mount Herzl took advantage of the opportunity.

Photo: "Abbey Road, from Right to Left", taken in Jerusalem, near Israel's Knesset (Lauren Gans, Finalist, 1998 Israel Experience Photo Contest)

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Berlin memorial under fire

By DEIDRE BERGER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

FRANKFURT — The Berlin chapter of Germany's leading conservative party has added its voice to the chorus of critics of the design for the country's proposed national Holocaust memorial.

A plan by the Christian Democratic Party's chapter rejects the design by American architect Peter Eisenman – a stone memorial the size of several football fields – and calls for the competition to be reopened for a third time.

The plan also calls for the memorial to be placed on a new, smaller site that its supporters call more central – between the future Parliament building and the chancellor's office, instead of a site near the Brandenburg Gate currently reserved for the monument.

Disagreements between the private and public sponsors about the design and the site of the monument, which was first proposed a decade ago, have not only prevented construction but have jeopardized the entire project.

The city of Berlin, the federal government and a private foundation that launched the project must agree on a design before the monument can be built.

Berlin Mayor Richard Diepgen is pushing for the monument to be built on the site of a newly built Jewish museum, which will be opened this year, or on the grounds of a museum about the Gestapo, which is under construction.

Germany's Parliament is expected to discuss the project this summer.

The Week in Israel

Jan. 11

• During a visit to Israel, Japan's foreign minister, Masahiko Komura, called on Israel to adhere to the Wye Accord, and on the PA to delay a unilateral declaration of statehood. Komura offered Tokyo's assistance in restarting peace talks with Syria.

Jan. 12

• Israel heightened security around the Western Wall after receiving warnings of a possible attack by Islamic militants. The attack was to have involved terrorists dropping grenades from the Al-Aqsa Mosque onto the Western Wall plaza.

Jan. 13

• A Knesset committee rejected a bill that tried to block the appointment of non-Orthodox representatives to local religious councils. The move prevented the bill from returning to the full Knesset which had already approved it at first reading.

• A border policeman, Yehoshua Gavriel, 25, was killed near Hebron when Palestinian gunmen opened fire on an undercover police unit. The border policemen prevented an attack on Israeli civilians.

Jan. 14

• Israeli jets attacked several Hezbollah positions in southern Lebanon after Hezbollah gunmen fired mortars at Israeli positions in the region.

• Israel's two chief rabbis held an unprecedented meeting with the spiritual leaders of the Agudat Yisrael to discuss recent pluralism developments. Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau acknowledged that the rabbinic groups had never met before.

Jan. 15

• The highest rabbinic authorities of Agudat Yisrael and Degel Hatorah issued a joint religious ruling declaring invalid any decision from the Supreme Court that is opposed to Halachah. Until now, attacks by the haredi community against the Supreme Court had come from political functionaries. This was the first criticism of the High Court by the Haredim in religious or halachic terms.

Files from the JTA and Ha'aretz

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- Judaism And Democracy In Israel
- Worldly Wisdom – Mutar Or Chiyuv?
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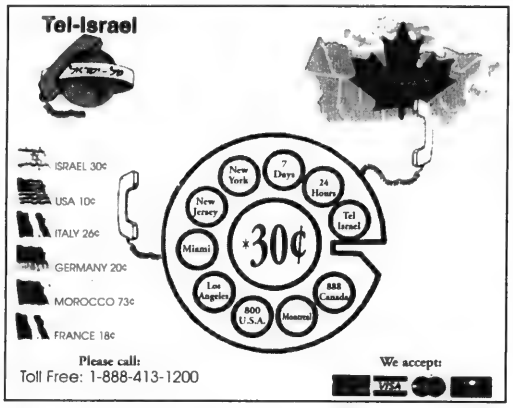

Israel Election Notebook

May 17

• The Labor Party announced it will shift spending away from West Bank settlements and haredi institutions if it wins the election. The party also reportedly plans to reform the tax system.

• Likud veteran Moshe Arens, announced he will challenge Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for the party leadership in the run-up to the elections. Arens said he was making the bid to save the party from the inevitable defeat that would result if Netanyahu were to head the election ticket.

• Netanyahu reversed economic policy, and declared it is time to "loosen our belts" and fund social spending programs.

• Knesset member Hagai Merom said he was bolting the Labor Party to join the new centrist party being formed by Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

• The Labor Party announce Feb. 15 as the date for holding primary elections to determine the party's list of Knesset candidates.

• Natan Sharansky declared that his party, Yisrael Ba'aliyah, is not ready to endorse any prime ministerial candidate.

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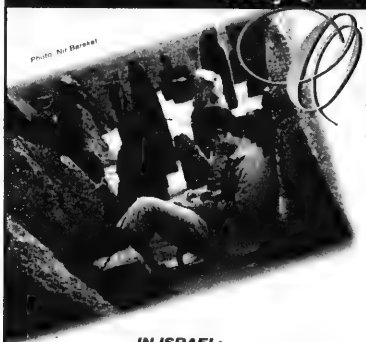

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Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Labor Party leader Ehud Barak use their hands too to make a point. [Israel and RNS/Reuters]

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First Jewish woman named Swiss president

By FREDY ROM
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BERN — Switzerland now has a president who plans to speak out aggressively about her country's role during World War II.

Elected in December by the Swiss Parliament, Ruth Dreifuss assumed the country's presidency on Jan. 1. She said she is "especially proud as a woman and also of course as a member of the Jewish community" to take on the post.

Dreifuss, 58, a member of the left-of-centre Social Democrats, has replaced Flavio Cotti in the largely ceremonial post, which rotates on an annual basis among the Swiss Cabinet's seven members.

She has served as interior minister, a portfolio she still retains as president.

Dreifuss is the first Jew and the first woman to become president of Switzerland.

The country is now attempting to cope with an anti-Semitic backlash after a recent international campaign by Jewish groups pressured Switzerland to acknowledge the financial ties that existed between its banks and Nazi Germany.

The Jewish organizations have accused the banks of laundering Nazi-looted gold, and also refusing to make restitution to Holocaust survivors for unpaid dormant accounts dating back to the war. These allegations stung Swiss sensibilities and continue to spark anti-Semitic incidents.

Ruth Dreifuss

In an interview last month with *Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA)*, Dreifuss made it clear that she would not back off from the controversy.

"My professional commitment is leftist, feminist and dedicated to human rights," said Dreifuss. But, she added, the issue of the country's wartime actions would also be on her political agenda.

She noted that she kept a low profile on the issue in the past because she did not want to speak out as the "token Jew" in the government.

"But I am, and was always, proud of my Jewish roots," she said, adding that she will reopen dialogue with Jewish groups over Holocaust-era issues.

"Because of my roots, I am more sensitive than others in the government to the whole problem."

Dreifuss, a non-practicing Jew was born in 1940 in an eastern Swiss canton, or state. As the Nazis approached the Swiss border, her family moved to Geneva, at the western edge of the country.

During the war, her father, Sidney, played a role in helping Jewish refugees who sought haven in Switzerland.

Dreifuss said that her father's actions played a role in shaping her determination to seek justice for Holocaust victims.

Sources in the Swiss government said Dreifuss has always maintained an excellent private relationship with the World Jewish Congress (WJC), the group that initiated the charges against the Swiss banks.

Her religion has never been an issue, even during those times when the government was reporting an increase in the anti-Semitic backlash to the WJC's and other groups' allegations.

Despite this, Swiss Jewish groups preferred to keep a low profile in their reaction to her being named to the presidency.

"Every Swiss Jew is proud" that she was elected, a senior member of the Swiss Jewish community told *JTA* on condition of anonymity.

Neither the Federation of Jewish Communities in Switzerland, the community's umbrella group, nor any other Swiss Jewish organization published a letter of congratulations to Dreifuss, fearing that such a move could provoke counter-statements from anti-Semites in the country.

Dreifuss raised some eyebrows when she was among the few Swiss politicians to welcome the decision in August by two leading Swiss banks to pay a $1.25 billion settlement of Holocaust-era claims.

Despite that settlement, she now insists that the country must continue to deal honestly with its past.

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STRUB'S *Pickle Corner* STRUB'S

Vol. 1, No. 9 • January 21, 1999

Hello! How are ya'? What's cooking? The view from Canada on the Clinton impeachment is very disconcerting. Thank goodness, most of us are more concerned with the snack menu at the Super Bowl party. Just remember that no matter which program you decide to watch on TV, make sure you have your favourite bottle of Strub's pickles handy to make your entertainment tastier.

Letter of the Month

Dear Pickle Guy,

As one who grew up in Toronto and was nurtured and nourished on Strub's pickles, you can only imagine my delight when I moved to Cleveland and discovered that these pickled delectables would once again be available to me. No American kosher pickle comes close to this CANADIAN CLASSIC. Many thanks for making your delicious dills and other items available on this side of the border.

B'Shalom!
—Rabbi J.S.Z., Cleveland Heights, Ohio

The Pickle Guy Replies

Dear Rabbi,

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I answer **ALL** my mail, and if I use your letter in "Pickle Corner", I'll send you one of my "Pickle Guy" T-shirts and Hats. Thanks, and talk to you next month.

Got a question? Write to me, the Pickle Guy — I answer ALL my mail!

Four generations illustrate women's changing roles

By BEN ROSE
CJN Staff Reporter

So sure is director Jordan Merkur that his latest play will appeal to four generations of women, that any daughter bringing her mother, grandmother or great-grandmother will get two tickets for one admission on Tuesday evenings.

My Mother Said I Never Should, an Eclectic Theatre production, is at the Alumnae Theatre, 70 Berkeley Street, until January 31. Tickets are $16 to $22, Tuesday to Saturday at 8 p.m. Sunday performances at 3 p.m. are pay what you can. (366-7723).

It is the Canadian premiere of a play written by British playwright Charlotte Keatley in 1987. It has had performances at two prestigious theatres in England.

Dealing with the changing role of women this century, the play skillfully draws together the experiences of four generations of women.

In fact, as the lead, well known

Jordan Merkur

actor and Shaw Festival star, Jennifer Phipps, plays a 5-year-old at the beginning, an 82-year-old who has a critical change in her lifestyle, and is the 87-year-old great-grandmother at the end.

Merkur, a 36-year-old theatre veteran, is sure there are still lots of great-grandmothers living in Toronto. "I had one when I was growing up and she was a vibrant force in the family."

My Mother Said I Never Should is not just about mother-daughter relationships, but about the guilt, misconceptions and anxiety that surround relationships among four generations, Merkur said.

He has plunged into directing this four women cast with great enthusiasm, as a break after three outstanding musicals, *Passion*, *Assassins* and *Chutzpah A Go Go*. *Assassins* won him a Dora Award for best production of a musical in 1994.

My Mother Said I Never Should is the 18th production of Eclectic Theatre of which Merkur is the artistic director.

Born in North York, Merkur attended United Synagogue Day Schools and Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, and garnered a four-year Fine Arts degree at York University. His theatre training also included Circle in the Square Theatre, New York, and the Banff School of Fine Arts.

Family experience

This July and August Cantor A. Eliezer Kirshblum will be leading two tours to Israel. Hundreds of adults and children over the past 10 years have participated in these Bar/Bat Mitzvah family tours (see picture.)

The two-week itinerary includes kayaking down the Jordan river, participating in an archeological dig, cruising on the Kinnert, climbing Massada and Ein Gedi, enjoying a camel ride, a jeep tour in the

Continued on page 35

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Man Alive discusses story of Job

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

Why do bad things happen to good people? One of the oldest accounts of this universal dilemma is dealt with in the Book of Job, one of the most fascinating books in the Bible.

R.H. Thomson hosts a two-part program examining the Book of Job on CBC television's *Man Alive*. A three-person panel discusses and analyzes this book and the way it probes the phenomenon of suffering.

The Book of Job tells in poetic form the story of a righteous man, who feared God and shunned evil, yet had very horrible things happen to him. Plague-ridden, his children dead and his fortune gone, Job curses his very existence and dares to ask God why these things have happened to him.

The second part of this discussion, airing on Jan. 24 at 12 p.m (Part One aired Jan. 17) focuses on God's reply to Job's questions. The three panelists, Schuyler Brown, professor of theology at U of T; Ray Scheindlin, a professor of theology at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York; and Rachel Turkienicz, director of Judaic studies at the Toronto Heschel School.

The panelists have different takes on the book. However, when Job asks God, "Why me?" all panelists agree that God skirts the issue and redefines the question in His own way.

By leading Job through the history of the universe's creation, God seems to be saying that the answer to Job's question is universal and can't be answered personally. Job is only a small cog in the wheel and as an individual is perhaps no more important that the lowest of life-forms inhabiting the earth.

"God doesn't give an answer that the reader finds just," according to Scheindlin. Basically, he says, God tells the reader, "Man shouldn't expect to know how the universe works any more that the animals."

Brown says the undertone of the narrative is even more sombre. He believes the book removes any hope in an afterlife. "If there is no justice here [on earth] there is no justice anywhere."

In the end, of course, God accepts that Job's complaints against Him were justified and his fortune is restored and he has more children. But even this, the panelists say, may not be all that just. After all, Job still must suffer the loss of his first children who will never be brought back.

Ultimately, this book is not meant to console the sufferers amongst us. Mankind, the panelists believe, is never to understand the wisdom that governs the universe.

If you like good theological discussions this program will certainly interest you. Be warned, though, like the Book of Job, there are few concrete answers offered by the panelists.

Israel tour a family experience

Continued from page 34

Golan, lunch in a Roman-style restaurant, a visit with a Druze family, dinner at the Port of Jaffa and the opportunity for Bar and Bat Mitzvahs to celebrate this event on top of the Massada fortress.

Preparation for the tour which includes orientation sessions, private instruction for Bar/Bat Mitzvah and a social event prior to departure, ensures the success of the tour and the cohesiveness of the group. The Cantor's wife, Linda, accompanies the tour and provides attention particularly to the women and children.

For more information call Cantor Kirshblum at Adath Israel Synagogue (635-5340) or Aufgang Travel (789-7117).

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Ashkenaz impresario key man in Yiddish revival

By ERIC STEIN
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — It's early on a cold December morning. Dormant computer screens stare blankly into darkness, as lonely telephones lie idle in the stillness of an empty office.

Empty, that is, but for David Buchbinder. He is the first to arrive here at the King Street headquarters of the Ashkenaz organization, and somehow you get the sense he'll be the last to leave.

For over a decade now, this Toronto musician, bandleader, composer, and impresario has been one of the premier figures in the Yiddish revival, that unlikely phenomenon which has breathed new life into the once-terminal music and culture of eastern European Jews.

As the founder, leader, and trumpet player of the Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band, Buchbinder has developed a unique modern sound based on the klezmer tradition. The Flying Bulgars have emerged as Canada's foremost representative on the international klezmer music scene, and have played a significant role in convincing a younger generation that Jewish music is exciting and very much alive.

Perhaps more importantly, as the visionary behind the biannual Ashkenaz: A Festival of New Yiddish Culture, Buchbinder has brought home to Toronto the revival in all its diverse manifestations.

He has watched what began as a half-serious dream grow into an internationally acclaimed showcase, the largest festival of its kind in the world. This summer's third Ashkenaz Festival (Aug. 30 to Sept. 6) will be the largest yet, with 175 artists and an expected turnout of more than 100,000 people sampling a myriad of offerings in Yiddish music, art, film, dance, theatre, poetry and literature.

Sitting in his cluttered office, surrounded by heaps of demo tapes, CDs, videos, and promotional packages sent in by hopeful applicants to the 1999 Ashkenaz Festival, Buchbinder reflects on the importance of Ashkenaz in catalyzing interest in Yiddish culture.

"There's no better tool than the festival for getting people to say 'wow, this is something.' We have such a wide range of things going on so there's something for everybody. And a big part of what that does is it shows people the continuum. It shows them how the new culture is linked to the old, and how there's much more to it than the *Fiddler-On-the-Roof* stereotype."

Even more significant says Buchbinder is the manner in which the festival unites Toronto's Jews (and non-Jews) in joyous celebration.

"The basis of a lot of music and art is about people coming together and sharing powerful experiences. To me it's about magic. When people come to Ashkenaz they can't help but be drawn into this huge vortex."

But for Buchbinder, once every two years is too rare a chance to taste the "magic" of group enrapturement that the Festival generates. Over the past few years the Ashkenaz organization has expanded its activities to include year-round community events.

"We started doing these community events in order to maintain continuity," he explains. "The first festival was such an eye-opening experience of community involvement and collective synergy that we began asking ourselves how we could get people to participate in an ongoing way in a kind of celebratory culture grounded in Yiddishkeit."

Answers to this self-imposed challenge have come with increasing frequency. Ashkenaz-sponsored Purim, Chanukah, and dance parties, and summer klezmer concerts at Earl Bales Park have now become fixtures in Toronto's growing Yiddish cultural scene.

Ashkenaz has also run day-long workshops on various aspects of Yiddish culture, sponsored Yiddish-themed artistic installations, and helped stage productions in Toronto by travelling Yiddish theatre troupes and by renowned klezmer groups like Finjan and the Epstein Brothers.

Combining a community spirit with a love for Yiddish culture and an emphasis on interactive participation, these events have cultivated an ever-growing grass-roots following among young and old alike.

David Buchbinder (front) leads Toronto's Yiddish revival.

But forging links between the Jewish community and an active Yiddish culture is not always easy. Limited resources, both human and financial, hamper efforts to publicize Ashkenaz events and get more people involved, according to Buchbinder.

"I think if we were in a completely stable funded environment it would be easier to plan for more of these [events].

"And if there were more of them it would be easier to build on that, to generate continuous momentum and a strong ongoing presence in the community. We're doing lots of worthwhile things, and though we are getting support, people have to realize that sometimes it's a hard sell, culture in the Jewish community."

Nevertheless, Buchbinder sees a bright future ahead for Ashkenaz and contemporary Yiddish culture. "All I have to do is look at the difference in what was around when I started playing this music in 1987, which wasn't that long ago, and what's around now. It seems to have more momentum now than ever, and it keeps growing."

In the meantime, he has his own artistic ventures to pursue. His Flying Bulgars have recently returned from a successful tour of Sweden and have been signed to an American record label. They will record their fourth CD in March.

Buchbinder concedes that it's sometimes hard to balance his varied enterprises. But he appears to have a clear vision, and exuding a humble confidence and seemingly boundless enthusiasm, he seems to be up to the task.

He says he has no doubt that Yiddish culture and klezmer music have only just begun to flourish.

"In a way we're just in the prelude. There's now an entire generation that's grown up surrounded by this culture, who see Yiddish music as normal and inspiring."

It's now nearing noon; the office has come alive. Employees and volunteers have drifted in and phones begin to ring with increasing frequency. Another day in the life of Ashkenaz has begun, and with it more roots are laid for the future of Yiddish culture in Toronto.

To inquire about upcoming Ashkenaz events, call (416) 703-6892 or check out their website at: www.ashkenaz.org

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Travel, Arts & Business

Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

CONSERVATORY PAYS TRIBUTE TO BERLIN

The Royal Conservatory of Music recently paid tribute to **Boris Berlin**, one of Canada's outstanding piano teachers, composers and authors, who has been a cornerstone of the conservatory since 1928.

Recently, Berlin celebrated two landmark occasions: his 70 years as a teacher and mentor at this prestigious musical institution, and his 70 years of marriage to his wife Tosia. *Eye on Arts* extends congratulations to both Berlins.

* * *

The Season of Kaddish: Leon Wieseltier's recent book *Kaddish* (Knopf) is a journal of the year in which he said the prayer known as the Mourner's Kaddish three times daily for his deceased father.

The book has been reviewed in many quarters, including *The Canadian Jewish News* and the *Globe and Mail*, where no less a literary luminescence than **Robert Fulford** devoted a column to it, finding it intellectually stimulating though lacking in scholarly method.

In a period when many young and middle-aged Jews are rediscovering their own once-neglected religion, the nonfiction literary realm is offering another book on ancient Jewish mourning customs.

Saying Kaddish: How to Comfort the Dying, Bury the Dead & Mourn As A Jew, by **Anita Diamant**, is an insightful guide into how to derive meaningful comfort and solace from the old traditions. Far less reflective and philosophical than Wieseltier, Diamant writes in an explanatory "self-help" vein, for the many among us who feel both estranged from our traditions and too embarrassed to ask. The book contains several poems, including one by **Rabbi Lawrence Troster** of Toronto. (Schocken, $32).

* * *

Israeli Watercolors: The first artists to arrive in the land of Israel in this century used watercolors to record their impressions, and the medium remains one of the most beloved among Israeli painters today.

The Israel Museum in Jerusalem recently opened the exhibition Vision of Light: A Century of Watercolor in Israel, which features nearly 250 works by 80 of Israel's most prominent painters. Artists include **Nahm Gutman**, **Yosef Zaritsky**, **Reuven Rubin**, **Leah Nikel** and **Menashe Kadishman**.

* * *

At the Galleries:

• Approximately 25 members from the Willowdale Group of Artists are showing their paintings in the East Wing (2nd floor) of Sunnybrook Health Science Centre, Toronto, now until Feb. 17. Admission free.

• In keeping with artist **Gary Silverberg's** credo that "art is business, business is art," The Silverberg Line, his latest exhibition at Gallery One, is ostensibly a showing of paintings – but it is also a display of a new line of clothing and accessories. To Feb. 17. 121 Scollard Ave.

Objets d'art

* * *

Rothschild Collection: A magnificent collection of objets d'art that was formed by **Baron Mayer de Rothschild** (1818-1874) and continued by his son-in-law **Archibald Philip, 5th Earl of Rosebery** (1847-1929), goes on the Sotheby's auction block Feb. 11 in London. The items, which once filled Mentmore, the Rothschild mansion in Buckinghamshire, are expected to fetch more than 2.5 million pounds sterling.

* * *

Music and Theatre Notes:

• Toronto musicians **Brian Katz** and **Martin Van de Ven** perform klezmer classics Jan. 20 at 9:15 p.m. at the Mezetta Café, 681 St. Clair Ave. W. 658-5687.

• Classical violinist **Moshe Hammer**, jazz violinist **Lenny Solomon** and jazz pianist **Bernie Senensky** join forces as the **Galaxy Trio** to present great arrangements of familiar tunes, along with outstanding originals from **Bach** to **Shearing**. Rosedale United Church, 159 Roxborough Dr. Jan. 24, 8 p.m.

• Encore Entertainment presents **Neil Simon's** comedy *Chapter Two* at the new City Playhouse, 1000 New Westminster Dr. (corner Bathurst, south of Hwy. 407), Thornhill, from Jan. 21 to 31. The production, directed by **Harvey Levkoe** and produced by 22-year-old **Lea Garbe**, features a stellar cast led by **Mario D'Alimonte**. 8 p.m. nightly with Sunday matinees. $18-$16. 870-8000.

* * *

Arafat on Newsworld: If you're shomer Shabbat but also a political junkie, set your VCR to automatically record the program *The Passionate Eye*, Jan. 22 at 8 and 11 p.m. The featured segment, *Arafat's Authority*, looks into a litany of human rights violations, including torture and killings, carried out inside Palestinian jails.

According to a *CBC Newsworld* press release, the BBC-produced program "uncovers a web of judicial and political corruption that threatens PNA President Yasser Arafat's dual aim of peace with Israel and an independent Palestinian state."

Hot reading for winter blahs

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

If you're afflicted by cabin fever, the following guidebooks may help you break free and point you in the right direction.

Despite the occasional eruptions of terrorism, Israel remains a popular destination, offering biblical landscapes, magnificent ruins, fine beaches and pulsating cities. If you're ready to sample its wares, you'll want to read Daniel Jacobs' *Israel & the Palestinian Territories* (Penguin), a well-researched, cogently-written book packed with useful information. It's the only guidebook I know of that deals comprehensively with the Palestinian autonomous territories in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Even in the depths of winter, Spain, Portugal, Greece and France bask in relatively temperate weather. If these countries sound appealing, you should snuggle up with *Mediterranean Europe* (Raincoast), which also includes entries on Morocco, Tunisia and Malta. A worthwhile companion volume is *Mediterranean By Cruise Ship* (Raincoast).

Costa Rica is truly alluring, beckoning visitors with smooth sandy beaches, pristine rainforests and charming colonial towns. If you're tempted, try reading *The New Key to Costa Rica* (Raincoast), which misses nothing.

If you're an outdoors buff, *Inside Out British Columbia* (Raincoast) should be of interest. It's your guide to the best skiing, hiking, camping, cycling, kayaking, canoeing, rafting and fishing in beautiful B.C.

If city life animates you, immerse yourself in *Mexico City*, *Seattle* and *Berlin*, published by Lonely Planet and all distributed by Raincoast.

More sedate travellers will be seduced by *The Food Lover's Companion to Tuscany* and *The Garden Lover's Guide to Britain* (Raincoast).

Last but not least, how about *The Millennium Guide* (Raincoast)? It's your ticket to events, festivals and parties around the world, including Israel, in 2000.

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE.

In Her Prime

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330 OBITUARIES

LOVITZ, Beryl - on Dec. 31, 1998, late of 740 York Mills Rd.
HIRSZBERG, Rafal - on Jan. 2, 1999, late of 27 Wigan Cres.

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330 OBITUARIES

LUDOMIRSKI, Zygmunt - on Jan. 5, 1999, late of New York City.
LIBERMAN, Roslin - on Jan. 6, 1999.
SHERMAN, Shirley - on Jan. 6, 1999 late of 10 Senlac Ave.
UBLANSKY, Abie - on Jan. 6, 1999.
ZEIDENBERG, Simmie Edith - on Jan. 7, 1999, late of 6 Euphrasia Dr.
ZILBERT, Dr. Dale Elaine - on Jan. 7, 1999, late of 70 Rosehill Ave.
FRUCHT, Ghidalie - on Jan. 9, 1999, late of 1925 Steeles Ave. E.
GROSSMAN, Milton - on Jan. 9, 1999.
KANE, Sara - on Jan. 9, 1999, late of 16 Marquette Ave.
GOLDBERG, Shirley - on Jan. 10, 1999, late of 35 Cedarcroft Blvd.
MISKIN, Myer - on Jan. 10, 1999, late of 7601 Bathurst St.
NAIMAN, Max - on Jan. 10, 1999, late of 422 Connaught Ave.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

336 SHIVA CATERING

GASNER, William - on Jan. 11, 1999, late of 28 Sunnycrest Rd.
GREENSWEIG, Hannah - on Jan. 11, 1999, late of 60 Dell Park Ave.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

LITCHEN, Joseph - on Jan. 1, 1999, late of 65 Skymark Dr., #2904.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

338 SHIVA CATERING

KING SOLOMON'S CATERING COR 630-0666 SHIVA CATERING

SPRACKMAN, Ann - on Jan. 1, 1999, late of 100 Antibies Dr., #1501.
GELGOOT, Thelma - on Jan. 2, 1999, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
GOLD, Marcus - on Jan. 2, 1999, late of 34 Denrock Dr.
WINGUST, Max - on Jan. 2, 1999, late of 1 Northwestern.
ADLER, William - on Jan. 3, 1999, late of 4 Glade Carsway.
KATZ, Hanan - on Jan. 4, 1999, late of 35 Marshall St., #311.
STEIMAN, Toby - on Jan. 4, 1999, late of 333 Clark Ave. W., #616.
OSTEN, Robert - on Jan. 5, 1999, late of 155 Kendal Ave., #519.
GREENBAUM, Lily - on Jan. 6, 1999, late of 429 Walmer Rd.
EZRIN, Marcia - on Jan. 7, 1999, late of 111 Ridelle Ave., #606.

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CJN Purim Art Contest

It's time again for our fifth annual **Purim Art Contest**.

Who can enter: Children in grades 1 to 6 inclusive are eligible. The children of *CJN* employees are not eligible.

Prizes: The judges will choose one drawing from two different students in each grade. These "winning" drawings will be published in *The CJN* on February 25. In addition, each of the 12 children whose drawings have been selected will receive a cheque for $25.

How to enter: You may submit as many drawings as you want. However they should not be too small nor too large. Please paint or draw bright, bold, colorful pictures. You may use markers, crayons, paint or pencils. Please send us your name, address, phone number, age and grade along with your drawings.

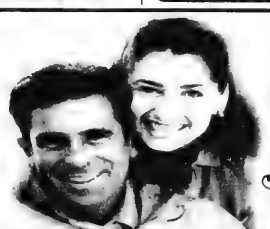
You may mail or deliver your drawings to: CJN Community Contests, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ontario M3B 3K4. If you want us to return the pictures to you, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Otherwise, we will be unable to do so.

The contest closes at 5 p.m. on Friday, February 11, 1999. We will undoubtedly receive many wonderful submissions from children all across the country. But only 12 of the drawings will be chosen as the "winners." The judges will base their decisions on a number of factors such as: the use of color, the imaginative quality of the drawing and the way it tells an aspect of the story of Purim. The judges' decisions will be final. The chances of winning depend upon the number and quality of submissions received.

How the Winner will be announced: The children whose pictures are chosen will be notified by telephone before the start of Shabbat on Friday, February 18, 1999.

When the prizes will be awarded: The "winning" pictures will be published in *The CJN* of February 25, 1999. Have fun and good luck.

Any litigation respecting the conduct and awarding of a prize in this contest may be submitted to the Régie des Loteries et courses du Québec.



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Women seeking Men

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single female, intelligent, attractive, dark auburn hair, hazel green eyes, non smoker, enjoy music, travelling, romantic evening. Seeking a male, who is romantic, financially secure to show me all the possibilities life has to offer. AD#1808

HEALTH MINDED
Single female, early 50's, 5'2", slim, intelligent, sincere, down to earth, health minded, have no children. Seeking a good looking male in the same age group, and a non-smoker. AD#1797

HUMOROUS
Single attractive female, slim. Seeking a male, 66+, reliable, humorous, good conversationalist, with values and who enjoys nature. AD#1891

LOVELY LADY
Single female, enjoy nature, gardening, cooking, theater, movies, reading. Seeking a tall male with good communication skills. AD#1607

BRIGHT BLUE EYES
Single Jewish female, 47, 5'1", short auburn hair, blue eyes, a sparkling smile, pretty, playful, romantic, caring, warm, non-smoker, love kids and animals. Seeking a Jewish male, handsome, non-smoker, romantic, thoughtful, passionate, and ready to commit to a relationship. AD#1803

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish mom, 41, have 2 teenagers, attractive, intelligent, compassionate, honest, selfless, employed, independent. Seeking a single Jewish male, non-smoker, emotionally and financially secure, honest, sincere, 40-45, single dads OK! AD#1786

SINGLE MOM
Single mom, 1 teenage son, very outgoing, loving, caring, attractive, 49, intelligent, educated, non-smoker, enjoy movies, dining & dancing, theater. Seeking a male, 49-59, who is loving, caring, outgoing, loves children, profession is not important. AD#1805

A RARE GEM
Single mom of a teenage son, youthful, with brown straight shoulder length hair, brown eyes, non smoker, kind, sincere, fun to be with. Seeking a male to share my life with AD#1791

LET'S HAVE COFFEE
Single female, 38, dark hair, blue eyes, nice smile, school teacher, love children, family and friends are very important, enjoy movies, theater, dining & dancing, very communicative. Seeking a well groomed male with similar interests. AD#1794

LOOKING FOR MR. RIGHT
Single female, 43, 5'5", 155lbs, short brown hair, green eyes, tan complexion, European background, stylish, classy, full of life, enjoy working out. Seeking a tall male, with a great personality and a good sense of humour. AD#1795

HEALTH ORIENTED
Single Jewish female, professional, humorous, easy going, enjoy movies, dancing, socializing. Seeking a male, 55+, established, intelligent, who enjoys a healthy lifestyle. AD#1788

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single female, 35, 5'4", brunette, slim, attractive, sensitive, intelligent, romantic, enjoy theater, movies, travel, reading, the outdoors, long walks by the ocean. Seeking a male, 33-43, intelligent, handsome, financially secure, employed, professional, good communicator, romantic. AD#1758

FABULOUS 50'S
Single Jewish female, reformed, 50ish, pretty, university graduate, have 3 married children. Seeking a male to help me enjoy life and make 1999 a special year. AD#1790

GOOD LISTENER
Single Jewish female, 38, professional, warm, sincere, intelligent, good listener. Seeking a male who is honest, playful, open, romantic, and family oriented. AD#1778

FAMILY VALUES
Divorced Jewish female, 55, pretty, warm, sincere, thoughtful, friendly, outgoing, with a good sense of humour and family values. Seeking a male, 50-62, with family values. AD#1780

TEACHER
Single Jewish female, 38, dark hair, blue eyes, teacher, good communicator. Seeking a family oriented male, who is down to earth, kind, good communicator, enjoys working out and taking care of himself. AD#1781

NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNING
Divorced female, attractive, fit, warm, caring, intelligent, non-smoker, enjoy movies, dining & dancing. Seeking a male, 55+, easy going, fit, & professional. AD#1785

NO GAMES PLEASE
Single female, 31, 5'8", blue-green eyes, dark hair, professional,no baggage, outgoing, fun to be with, have a zest for life, and a love for learning. Seeking a male, who enjoys theater, dining out, travelling, with traditional Jewish values. AD#1751

LET'S HAVE COFFEE
Single female, Hungarian background, attractive, slim, variety of interests. Seeking a male, 56+, who enjoys music, art, movies, and Chicken Poprekash. AD#1752

To renew your ad call 416-236-6644

Questions ??? 416-236-6644

Men seeking Women

ONCE BITTEN, TWICE SHY
Single male, 50's, financially secure, handsome, from the Thornhill area. Seeking a female, good looking, with a good sense of humour, slim, age is not important, financially secure, a picture is a must after contact is made. AD#1810

FUN LOVING
Single Jewish male, 33, easy going, fun loving, enjoy outdoor activities, movies, long walks, camping. Seeking a female, 25-38, with similar interests. AD#1777

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single Jewish male, 6', handsome, athletic built, love sports and keeping fit, artistic, with traditional values. Seeking a Jewish female, who is ready to make a commitment and start a family, who enjoys life and has old fashioned values. AD#1809

OLD FASHIONED
Single male, mid 30's, old fashioned, sensitive, stubborn, romantic, enjoy cuddling, outdoor activities, movies, camping. Seeking a female, 30-35, with similar interests. AD#1762

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single Jewish male, 36, 5'7", professional, traditional values, warm, fit, and fun. Seeking a Jewish female, late 20's to mid 30's, down to earth, creative, spontaneous, well grounded, with a good sense of humour. AD#1771

LET'S GO FOR COFFEE
Single Jewish male, 32, professional, 180lbs, self employed, own his own business, fit, enjoy all aspects of life, movies, dining and dancing, travelling, working out, motor cycling. Seeking a Jewish female, very down to earth, non-smoker, strong morals and values, clean and neat. AD#1774

LET'S CONNECT
Single male, 19, seeking a female, tall, slim, loving & caring for a meaningful relationship. AD#1814

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, early 50's, down to earth, tall, slim, caring, easy going, professional, enjoy movies & quiet times. Seeking a Jewish female, 39-49, warm, sensitive, and health conscious. AD#1718

EASY TO LOOK AT
Single white male, young looking, late 50's, blue eyes, brown hair, medium built, financially secure, down to earth, great sense of humour, enjoy the outdoors. Seeking an attractive female, caring down to earth, trim figure, of any age. AD#1720

GOOD CONVERSATIONALIST
Single Jewish male, 6', slim, attractive, brown hair, blue-green eyes, have a B.A., enjoy cooking, travelling, movies, dining out. Seeking a Jewish female, 30-34, who is well read. AD#1730

LIKES LAUGHS & OUTDOORS
Divorced Jewish male, 29, brown hair, blue eyes, professional, enjoy outdoor activities. Seeking a female with good sense of humour, caring, & kind. AD#1787

CALL ME
Single male, 32, professional, fit, enjoy motor cycles, travelling, moves, working out, life. Seeking an attractive female, down to earth, fit, who also has a zest for life. AD#1733

COMPANIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 55, professional. Seeking a non-smoking, Jewish female, 50-60, with traditional values, who enjoys the theater, dancing & dining. AD#1710

SEEKING NICE LADY
Single male, 18, enjoy movies, dancing. Seeking a single female with similar interests. AD#1670

MY KIDS TAUGHT ME WELL
Single male, 40, ready to get into life again. Seeking a special lady to share life with. AD#1779

TIME WAITS FOR NO ONE
Single male, 45, conservative looking, enjoy country drives, art auctions, have a business degree, stock market investor and analyzer. Seeking a lady, no need to be slim, for serious relationship. AD#1681

ROMANTIC AND CARING
Single white male, 56, self-employed, businessman, enjoy movies, music, travel, good conversation, quiet times. Seeking a female, compassionate, loving, attractive, sensitive, to be his special lady. AD#1784

ACTIVE JUNIOR SENIOR
Single male, mid 60's, 5'6", non-smoker, Anglo-Jewish background, enjoy music, theater, outdoors, travel, public affairs. Seeking a semi-dependent, warm, educated, outgoing, canng lady, 50+. AD#1690

DON'T MISS OUT
Youthful Jewish senior, 65+, semi-retired, 5'7", 180lbs, blue eyes, thoughtful, sincere, reliable, romantic, affectionate, humorous. Seeking a special lady to share love, understanding, and friendship, 50-64. AD#1676

HONEST
Single Jewish male, 39, 5'10", 160lbs, fun, fit, handsome, athletic, financially and emotionally secure, honest, professional, 2 university degrees, blue eyes, light brown hair, enjoy outdoor activities, reading, movies. Seeking a female, fit, attractive, independent, fun loving, with similar values and interests. AD#1679

FRIENDSHIP
Single male, 5'7", 180lbs, semi-retired, blue eyes, sincere, thoughtful, easy to talk to, romantic, reliable, dependable, humorous. Seeking an attractive female, 50-64, that is slim, trim in body and mind. AD#1653

A NEW BEGINNING
Young looking male, 53, 5'9", 160lbs, professional, successful, healthy, enjoy long walks, good food, dancing, theater, movies. Seeking a female for partnership. AD#1654

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Israeli juniors sell out the house in Montreal

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — It's not often that Hatikvah gets played back to back with O Canada at a hockey rink, but last week in Montreal, 600 appreciative fans at the Samuel Moskovitch Arena enjoyed that treat.

The spectators ponied up $15 each for the privilege of watching their local heroes, Bialik High School Blues, take on the visiting Israeli national junior (under 17) team. Bialik, which is in first place in the Trans St. Lawrence Hockey Association standings with a 6-0 record, dispatched the visitors with a 7-5 victory.

Despite that competitive score, the game was less notable for the hockey on the ice, than for the feeling of brotherhood it stirred in the arena, said Bialik principal Raizel Candib. "It was a marvelous feeling, a feeling of unity," she said. "That feeling seemed pervasive throughout the whole game."

In addition to creating goodwill between the visiting Israeli teens and their Canadian counterparts, the game raised $8,000 to support the Israeli juniors. That money will help underwrite the costs of their participation in the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) Pool D world junior (under 17) tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria later this winter.

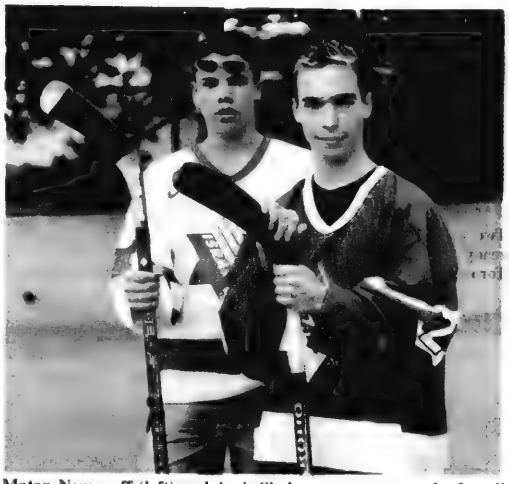
The Israelis were accompanied to Montreal by Bennet Epstein, a New York lawyer with a passion for hockey. Epstein said the Israelis played two exhibition games in New York City prior to visiting Montreal (they won one, lost the other). While in the Big Apple, the boys took in a game at Madison Square Garden, met Jewish hockey star Mathieu Schneider, and were in absolute awe when Wayne Gretzky walked by, Epstein said.

NHL Cool Shots, an NHL-produced television program, was on hand to film part of their New York trip. A brief look at their visit was scheduled to air on the Madison Square Gardens network last week before a Rangers game.

From Montreal, the Israelis travelled to Lake Placid, N.Y. for a last exhibition game before winding up their nine-day visit and returning to Israel.

A visit to Toronto had been discussed, but according to Eli Rubenstein of UIA Canada, there wasn't enough time to pull the strings together to make it work. He's hopeful a trip to Toronto can be arranged the next time the Israelis visit North America.

For Epstein, the juniors' visit was the culmination of an association with Israeli hockey that goes back to the 1997 Maccabiah Games, but it all stems from his association with Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun and its hockey program. The KJ Lightning is a youth team drawn from the Manhattan-based Orthodox shul's membership, that plays in a New York City league.



Matan Nemenoff (left) and Amit Shoham were among the Israeli juniors to visit New York and Montreal. [Paul Lungen photo]

Epstein, who played Senior B hockey until he broke his leg 10 years ago, coaches the Lightning. He brought the team to Israel for the 1997 Maccabiah, which featured hockey as a medal sport for the first time ever at the games.

Though not part of the games themselves, the Lightning played a series of exhibitions against the Israeli juniors, who are based in the Canada Centre rink in Metulla.

"The Israeli kids were blown away by it," Epstein said.

Epstein met the Israeli coach, Boris Mindel, a former Soviet emigre, and maintained ties with him after the team departed.

Last summer, Epstein, along with a few of the Lighting, and one player from Hockey in Harlem, a mostly black team that plays in New York, attended the Roger Neilson Hockey Camp in Metulla. Epstein served as a referee and a coach.

"There's no underestimating the good effect of that camp on Israeli hockey," he said.

The presence of an NHL coach and player, Danius Zubrus, tutoring Israeli youth, captured the attention of *NHL Cool Shots*, which dispatched producer Sal Guarna to film the camp. Two two-minute clips have already aired on the show while a third, featuring the player from Harlem, will be broadcast later in the year.

After the success of last year's hockey camp, Epstein began discussing with his synagogue board, the possibility of hosting the Israeli youngsters in New York. The congregation was excited about the idea but it was Maccabi USA which provided a "terrific grant" (he declined to be more specific) that got the show on the road, Epstein said.

Through the cooperation of Bialik hockey director Bob Nathan, who Epstein has known for years, a side trip to Montreal was arranged. Besides the game versus the Lightning, the Israeli youngsters also visited the school, attended classes, spoke to the Canadians in Hebrew, and updated them about life in Israel, Epstein said.

The trip has been a resounding success, he said.

"This is designed to try to get exposure for the program in Israel, create visibility, and with visibility, we hope, support. It also generates support for the Israeli people. You can contribute to Israel on different levels."

Epstein plans to be back in Metulla next summer for the third edition of the Neilson hockey camp, along with several of the Lightning and perhaps a couple of kids from Hockey in Harlem.

Kids at Bialik were so enthusiastic about the prospect, there's a chance some of them will visit Israel too, he said.

The camp is run with the cooperation of UIA Canada, which helped finance the Olympic-sized rink in Metulla.

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The Inside Back

SMILING AT THE VISITORS

Two young students, one recently arrived from Russia, the other from Ethiopia, get ready to sing for a group of recent visitors to their school at the UJA Federation-assisted Toronto Jewish Community Campus in Kfar Gvirol, Israel. [Bill Kassel photo]

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CRISPY MAPLE MUSTARD CHICKEN

1/3 cup dry bread crumbs
1/2 tsp each dried thyme, paprika and salt
4 boneless skinless chicken breasts
1/3 cup pecans
1/4 cup Dijon mustard
1/4 cup maple syrup

Dipping Sauce: In plastic bag, crush pecans. In bowl, combine pecans, crumbs, thyme, paprika and salt; set aside. In small bowl, blend 1 tblsp mustard with maple syrup; set aside for dipping sauce.

Place remaining mustard in shallow dish; add chicken, turning to coat all over. Press chicken into bread crumb mixture, turning to coat. Place on well-greased baking sheet, turning to lightly grease both sides. Bake in 400°F oven for 20 minutes or until golden and no longer pink inside. Serve with dipping sauce. Makes 4 servings.

About Life

Dear Ella,

My friend Jan and I have been close for many years. Here is a girl who is bright, funny and refreshing. She has a flair for words, always adding humor and wit to almost every story she tells.

She was a legal secretary in an office downtown on Bay Street. When we went out, we talked about things from the latest problems in the Middle East to the latest affairs in her office. She was always up on current events, and I admired how she could hold down a conversation with any stranger.

Jan had a baby about a year ago. Since then, all I hear from her is how much the baby ate or slept or pooped. If I try to initiate a conversation away from the topic of the baby, she zips right back with a story about how cute he was when he did this or that. She never returned to work, and I'm sure that is a big part of the problem.

I feel like I've lost a close and important peer in my life. Do you have any suggestions on how to get her back?

Boring Baby Blab

Dear Boring Baby Blab

Jan has entered a new phase in her life. She sounds like the kind of woman who puts her heart and soul into everything she does, and child rearing doesn't seem to be an exception.

The two of you are on different paths right now. Your life hasn't changed, but Jan's has changed completely. She is now responsible for the life of another human being. It's the most important job she'll ever have, and she is not taking it lightly.

She is enjoying motherhood with all its phases. Don't you think this is a difficult job and one that deserves a great deal of admiration and patience on your part? As her close friend, try to cut her some slack and go with the path your friendship has taken. Her child is here to stay, and eventually he won't be so completely encompassing, but right now, that baby depends on her for everything.

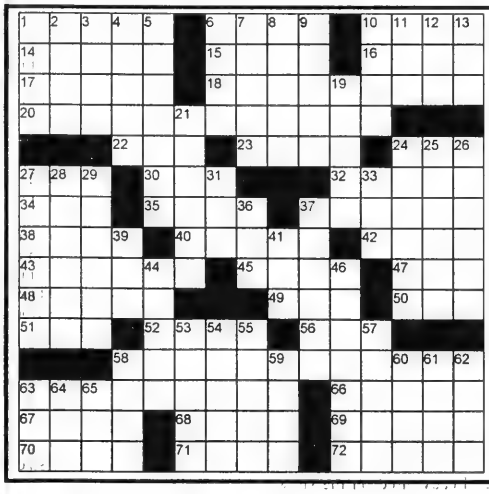
Now might be the time to get your fill of either office gossip or intellectual stimulation from someone else. Jan is in a nurturing mode. It's a great place to be. Try to learn from it and enjoy both her and her son.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN. *But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

See answers to crossword on page 37.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

The Canadian Jewish News



In Her Prime

By Matt Gaffney & David Bianco
(QSyndicate ~ aol.com)

Across

1. Used one's shekels
6. California Valley noted for wine
10. Smear, as with grease
14. Party of 18-across
15. __ instant (immediately)
16. With 3-down, Israeli statesman
17. Send to cloud nine
18. Kiev-born, Milwaukee-bred world leader
20. PART 1 OF A QUOTE BY 18-ACROSS
22. Chicago trains
23. Actor Danny
24. Insane
27. Enjoy Aspen
30. Curvy letter
32. __ Minister (18-across, e.g.)
34. Only three-letter element
35. "Wings" star Tim ___
37. Tel Aviv tower
38. Sholem ___, US novelist who wrote in Yiddish
40. PART 2 OF QUOTE
42. "Gone With the Wind" plantation
43. Type O, type A, and type AB
45. Physiologist Jacques
47. One of the Bobbsey twins
48. Window sill
49. John or Jane in court
50. __ Testament (what the Pope calls the Tanach)
51. "Our Miss Brooks" star Arden
52. Would-be Esquire's exam, for short
56. Israeli mentalist Geller
58. PART 3 OF QUOTE
63. Where 18-across died, Dec. 8, 1978
66. George's NY gubernatorial victim
67. Israeli port (alt. spelling)
68. Under control
69. Yom Kippur task
70. Takes the trophy
71. Female sheep
72. Swallow houses,

Down

1. Snow transport
2. ___ Alto, California
3. See 16-across
4. Night, in Naples
5. Times three
6. Coming soon
7. French actress __ Aimee
8. __ de Mallorca (Spanish resort city)
9. By __ (eventually)
10. Knight's wife
11. Justice Fortas
12. Where: Latin
13. __ Kochba
19. First letter of the Hebrew alphabet
21. Podhoretz works
24. Northern Italian metropolis, there
25. Lacking values
26. Supply's other half
27. Stallion's home
28. Chanukah month
29. Encrypted
31. __-mo (replay speed)
33. Tell (on)
36. Deborah's "The King and I" co-star
37. Show the door
39. Selfish one
41. Twin Carew
44. Birthplace of Apollo and Artemis
46. Portrayer of 18-across in film
53. Israel, since 1948
54. Attorney-__
55. Leitmotif
57. Seeing red
58. Streisand film of 1987
59. Iowa State's city
60. Son of Aphrodite
61. "__ Misbehavin'"
62. Feet ten
63. "Arab and " (Shipler book)
64. Half of a Chana Senesh song
65. Sought office

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Executive Director: Arthur Landa
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6100 Leslie St.,
Willowdale, Ont. M2H 3J1
Tel: 416-494-7666 Fax: 416-494-2925

Danilack Centre: Pre-School—Gr.8
6100 Leslie St.,
Willowdale, Ont. M2H 3J1
Elementary Principals: Jackie Weintraub, Ruth Portnoy
Jr. High Principals: Rabbi P. Brumer, Jerry H. Rosenfield
Tel: 416-494-7666 Fax: 416-494-2925

Hurwich Centre
252 Finch Ave. W.,
Willowdale, Ont. M2R 1M9
Temporarily closed for 1998/99.

Kamin Centre: Pre-School—Gr. 6
300 Atkinson Ave.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8A2
Bet Hayeled (Pre-School) Supervisors: Surie Nagel, Susan Herberman.
Elementary Principals: Sandy Rabinowitz, Rabbi P. Tessler
Tel: 905-889-3998 Fax: 905-889-5183

Posluns Education Centre
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Elementary Principals: Rosalie Sniderman, Betty Katzman
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Fax: 416-924-0442
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Patricia Campus
475 Patricia Ave.,
Tel: 416-225-1187
Principal: Rabbi A. Levine
Gen. Studies Principal: Rabbi S. Jacobovits
Gen. Studies Asst. Principal: Rabbi A. Schochet

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3072 Bayview Ave.
Director of Education: Lucy Cohen

Bathurst Campus
1700 Bathurst St.

Bayview Campus,
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Tel: 416-225-5928, ext. 37
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Roshei HaYeshiva: Rabbi Dr. Moshe Yeres
Menahel: Rabbi Yigael Minerbi
Gen. Studies Principal: Dr.Norman Smith
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Cont'd on Page B2

Directory of Education Advertisers cont'd

Cont'd from Page B1

ing, enriched program focusing on creativity, cognition, social, emotional and physical skills. Jewish holidays are celebrated. We offer music, Hebrew and swim specialties, a Fun Centre gym and the Children's Discovery Museum.

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CRESTHAVEN NURSERY SCHOOL
55 Guardsman Rd.,
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Licensed, non-profit half-day Pre-school providing enriched and creative learning opportunities for children 2-6 yrs. (Children do not have to be toilet trained.) 2, 3 & 5 day programs available. Jr. & Sr. Nursery 9-11:45 a.m. Sr. Nursery, Jr. & Sr. K. 1-3:30 p.m.

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Contact: Lorraine Sandler
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Fax: 416-789-9697
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Administrator: Helen Dodick
Tel: 416-638-6910
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Tel: 416-785-7899
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Contact: Helene Rudolph
Tel: 416-449-3880
E-mail: kidsfun@pathcom.com
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12 Bond Cres.,
Richmond Hill, Ont. L4E 3K2
Director: Barbara Rosenberg
Tel: 905-773-0997 Fax: 905-773-4722
The Academy for Gifted Children - P.A.C.E. is a non-denominational, co-educational, private day school that provides differential programming for gifted children, Senior Kindergarten through O.A.C. Your child will develop high levels of skill in critical and creative thinking, problem solving, research and communication, through greater depth and breadth of instruction.

THE LINDEN SCHOOL
10 Rosehill Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M4T 1G5
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Live & Learn

Search for perfection

Editorial

We all know what the perfect school is. And we will recognize it if we ever find it.

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Most of us realize that this is a pipe dream – that there is no such thing as a school that will be perfect for our children, let alone everyone else's. Perhaps that is why we are so critical about our educational system.

Certainly, even in a community like Toronto, where there are enough schools so that one should be able to come within hailing distance of the ideal, there are things to be critical of. Programs for the atypical child, whether he or she is learning disabled, developmentally delayed or gifted, are far too few and too poorly funded to fill the need. Fees for Jewish day schools make sending children, if not totally impossible, an incredible financial drain on the family.

Yet there is much to celebrate. Education is a priority among the Jewish communal agencies, and UJA Federation funds it at a higher rate than most other places. While the ideal is for every Jewish child to have at least some Jewish education, and Toronto has not reached that state of affairs, school populations, both day schools and supplementary schools, continue to grow.

There are encouraging signs that the Board of Jewish Education and individual schools are increasingly aware that students are not a monolithic body, and they are hiring staff and creating programs to identify and provide service to those who are different.

They are also becoming aware, slowly perhaps, that even the average child can need a special push in one area or another. This recognition is probably bolstered by the fact that parents are realizing more and more that the most wonderful child (theirs) may have a unique educational or behavioral requirement.

The annual education supplement attests to both the health and the shortcomings of the community. More attention is being paid to the learning disabled and special needs child. Existing schools are expanding, and new schools, such as the Heschel School and the Downtown Jewish Day School are thriving. An infusion of new staff, including shlichim from Israel and retirees from the public school system, are bringing innovative ideas and techniques that are surely a predictor of continued vitality. Yet much remains to be done.

From the earliest times, education has been a value inherent in the Jewish mind and heart. We may joke about searching for perfection in our schools, but it is that search that been both a guarantor of the survival of our people and our glory. –L.S.

She'arim Hebrew Day School students (from left) Simcha Greenwood, Akiva Tepperman, Moshe Gerber and Benyamin Zynoberg enjoy acting in a school play.

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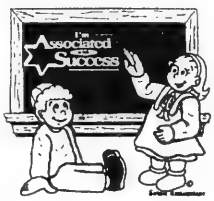

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New campus plans change as CHAT grows

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The increasing popularity of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) has led to problems in planning a new campus.

With an increase of 18 percent in enrolment in the past year (50 percent in the past four years), a projected enrolment of 1,100 next year and a pupil count of 1,500 to 2,000 expected in the next several years, the question of a new location for CHAT must be solved.

The Bathurst Jewish Centre (BJC) is no longer being considered, because the site it offers is not large enough, Rabbi Jeremiah Unterman, director, Board of Jewish Education of UJA Federation, told *The CJN* in his annual interview.

One of the options being considered is a two-campus CHAT, with improved quarters at its present Wilmington Avenue site and a new building north of Steeles Avenue, Rabbi Unterman said.

No decision has been made on the two-campus question, and no site outside Toronto has yet been chosen, he said.

Total enrolment in the Jewish day schools in Toronto was 10,974, including preschool and high school, an increase of three percent in the past year.

Enrolment in the supplementary (after hours) schools in the past year reached 6,231, down about one percent.

Though Jewish world trends indicate a significant expansion of Jewish education, both formal and informal, Rabbi Unterman said Toronto has to face the fact that 40 percent of the Jewish public school population (75 percent for high school), or about 13,000 children, are not getting any Jewish education, day school or supplementary.

"Assimilation is a real threat. It is eating away at our population. We need to be alert and not take things for granted," he said.

However, he is optimistic about the future of Jewish education. "Toronto is the most dedicated Jewish community I know of in terms of its support of Jewish education. The UJA Federation gives 50 percent of its funds locally to support Jewish education. When you add other measures, Toronto is giving more than double to support Jewish education [compared with] most other Jewish communities in North America."

There is greater appreciation of Jewish education in Canada than in the United States, he said, probably because the community here is closer to the traditions of European Jewry.

Those Jews who came to Toronto after World War II play a significant role, especially in the community's attachment to traditional roles, he said.

Speaking as a newcomer to Toronto, Rabbi Unterman expressed amazement that Jewish day schools are not getting any funding from the Ontario government and that parents of these students are paying school taxes in addition to annual tuitions at the day schools.

"Jews are being treated as second-class citizens in Ontario," he said. "I'm surprised that a Jewish community as large as this one [175,000] has not had mass demonstrations against the government's policy. It is simple immorality for Jews to have to pay taxes to support other people's education. The government talks about fair funding but simply ignores our needs."

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THE CHAVRUTAH WAY
These two young students form a chavrutah in their yeshiva in Hebron. [Motty Levy photo]

Live & Learn

Dori Levine gets new consulting post at BJE

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Dori Levine has been appointed to the new position of special education consultant by UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education (BJE).

Levine served as principal of She'arim Hebrew Day School, a school for children with learning disabilities, from 1989 to 1996.

She was a teacher at She'arim since the school's inception in 1980, and from 1996 until her appointment at BJE, she was an educational consultant responsible for teacher training and supervision and individualized remedial programming for students.

Levine says she hopes to see a Jewish education system where any Jewish child can find a place.

Born and educated in Philadelphia, Levine moved to Toronto in 1969. She received a master's degree in education from the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education (OISE) in 1977.

She studied at Bar-Ilan University in Israel, and worked with Israeli psychologist Reuven Feuerstein, director of Hadassah-WIZO-Canada Research Institute in Jerusalem, where she developed her interest in special education.

Levine says Feuerstein "introduced me to the theory of cognitive modifiability – developing strategies for problem solving – and allowed me to gain experience in the use of Learning Potential Assessment Device (LPAD), a dynamic technique for assessing low-functioning individuals.

"The outgrowth of this method is the remediation program designed to focus on developing techniques for coping with deficiencies."

Using this assessment and remediation system, Levine worked with children, and trained teachers and other professionals to use the system. Upon her return to Toronto, she incorporated Feuerstein's theories and practices at She'arim.

Levine says that in her new position at BJE, "We are in the process of creating an inventory of special education needs in the Jewish educational community.

"As well, we would like to develop a resource base of special education services available in the community for parents and professionals.

"Where there is an unmet need, we will work with Jewish Vocational Service, Jewish Family and Child Service and other agencies to help create additional programs in the community."

Levine says that there are also children within the mainstream Jewish school classes who require special teaching techniques to deal with problems in language processing, motor coordination or organization and social skills.

Another important function of Levine's department, will be to help teachers work with student's who need special assistance, and to present training workshops and courses for the teachers.

Another goal, she says, is to help parents develop strategies to work effectively with their children. "We have to work as a team with the schools and the agencies."

Levine has taught at Holy Blossom Temple since 1969, and currently, is coordinator and supervisor of the Project Tikvah Hebrew remedial program for special needs students. She is also educational consultant at the Downtown Jewish Day School.

"My ultimate goal at BJE is to provide a continuum of special services to every Jewish child with individual needs."

Dori Levine

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Live & Learn

Reed helps promote Holocaust studies

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

The Holocaust is not just a Jewish issue, according to Carole Ann Reed, the director of education of the Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre of UJA Federation.

"It is a human issue, a major event in human history to me," she says. "My interest in the Holocaust began with an exploration of discrimination; it has been a lifelong obsession."

Reed, who is not Jewish, is currently developing curricula for classroom teachers on Holocaust-related issues, including human rights education, racism and other forms of discrimination. She also gives professional development workshops to elementary and secondary school teachers in public and separate schools.

Born and educated in Toronto, Reed received a master's degree in philosophy at the University of Guelph, focusing on minorities and class issues. She received a doctorate in 1993 at the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education (OISE), with research on the Holocaust and anti-racism.

While at OISE, she served as an equity coordinator who advised the director on a variety of human rights issues.

She had a short term contract as an educational consultant at the Holocaust Centre prior to her appointment as director of education.

"Most kids are introduced to the Holocaust through literature," she says. "Nothing grabs you like reading a story about the Holocaust."

One of her first major projects was a Holocaust education publication package for English literature teachers with suggested topics for discussion, a short historical summary of Holocaust events, an annotated bibliography and videography, and ideas for other classroom activities.

"Although Holocaust-related topics are most often suggested for history courses, we believe that the rich literature emanating from the Holocaust not only offers a compelling introduction to the subject matter, but also communicates a deep understanding about the human consequences of those events," she says.

She and her co-worker, Dr. Paula Draper, teach courses and offer special events for teachers. In the spring, they will present a six-session professional development course for teachers on Holocaust issues.

"At the Holocaust Centre, we work with the Jewish community, which is still coming to terms with the Holocaust, and we respond to requests from other communities," Reed says.

Recently, a group of Rwandans visited the centre for a tour of the museum and a meeting with Jewish survivors of the Holocaust.

"There are a number of Rwandan survivors here who called for help and support. They are coming to terms with the genocide in Rwanda in 1994. They feel that Jewish survivors are the only people who can understand what they went through and what they are still going through."

Carole Ann Reed

The wife of the president of Rwanda, who was in Toronto to support a fundraising for Rwandan orphans, asked to visit the Holocaust Centre, Reed says. "[She] was moved to tears and said that she found the visit very poignant."

Activities such as the Rwandan visit are making the Holocaust pertinent to a broader community. "It is our responsibility to protect and entrench the memory of the past and to warn against the apathy and indifference which allowed the Holocaust to happen."

In 1989, Reed was awarded the Rabbi Isserman Prize by the University of Toronto for the undergraduate or graduate essay that best contributes to peace or furthers human understanding. She was a visiting professor at York University's Faculty of Education, is the author of numerous journal articles on Holocaust education issues, and she has delivered many professional conference papers.

Reed is a member of the Holocaust Education sub-committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto.

Led by Reed, the Holocaust Centre is negotiating with OISE to create a collaborative program to confer a certificate in Holocaust education.

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Live & Learn

BJE committee raises awareness of gifted students within Jewish school system

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — For a long time, Jewish educators touted the dual curriculum of the Jewish day school as an adequate challenge for gifted children.

"Really it's only in the last years that people have come around to a different way of thinking," said Lucy Cohen, director of education at United Synagogue Day School and chair of the Board of Jewish Education's (BJE) eight-person committee for children with special talents.

The BJE group, a subcommittee of its day school principals association, was formed almost two years ago as a result of concerns expressed by parents of gifted students who felt their children's needs were not being met in the day school system.

Its mandate, in part, is to offer schools an information base, to be kept at the BJE, as a programming resource, said Cohen. Committee members have looked at various options for addressing the needs of gifted students and those who can benefit from additional challenge without necessarily being defined as gifted.

The possibility of a separate school for gifted Jewish children has not been ruled out, but the committee "thought it might be difficult" because of the variety of Jewish ideologies which it would have to accommodate, and because they wanted to explore the question of enrichment.

"It's obvious we do have a significant percentage of our school population who are good and fast learners," said Rabbi Jeremiah Unterman, executive director of the BJE. "We need to provide proper services for the top-notch kids, so we won't lose them."

The committee has succeeded in raising the level of awareness about gifted education within the Jewish school system, said Cohen. "All the schools are now addressing it much more seriously."

If children are unhappy in class because they're not having their educational needs met, she noted, they might become disruptive or withdraw. "People don't really understand. They think it should be a cinch."

Giftedness is a special need, just as dyslexia and attention deficit disorder are special needs, stressed one mother who removed her child from the day school system in frustration a few years ago.

Gifted children think differently and process information differently, she noted. "They think very deeply and sophisticatedly. Often they skip steps."

The mother, who preferred not to be named, searched in vain for a Jewish day school that would suit her child's needs.

Another day school student (who happens to be the daughter of this reporter) became frustrated and bored when long periods were spent on concepts that she grasped immediately. Although she excelled academically and was happy socially, Sari developed an extremely negative attitude toward school and anything that reminded her of it.

After psycho-educational assessment and lengthy discussions with her general studies principal at Associated Hebrew Schools, it was decided she could skip from Grade 5 to Grade 7.

Vertical acceleration, as Cohen terms it, may help with some of the content, she said, but there are social issues to consider as well. She believes a preferable option is "lateral" enrichment within the student's own grade level.

Sari, whose transition was remarkably smooth, is now in Grade 8. We felt – and still feel – that skipping a grade was the best option at the time.

This year, Associated started an enrichment program for grades 1 to 6, with two teachers serving as "special talents coordinators" for the school's three branches.

"Their task is to work with teachers, in order to ensure that children are getting that additional stimulation they need," said Sandy Rabinowitz, general studies principal at the school's Kamin branch.

"It's not more work faster," he noted. The emphasis, rather, is on thinking-type questions and intellectual stimulation.

Teachers provide differentiated programs for students who are able and willing to take on the additional challenge, he said.

"It's a more individualistic way of teaching. Not everyone in the class has to do the same work on a particular topic. We don't want it to be seen as a gifted program as such."

Other schools are moving in the same direction. Leo Baeck Day School puts emphasis on dealing with individual differences and hired a consultant this year, said school director Zita Gardner.

[Cont'd. on page B 16]

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JCS helps to keep students connected to Judaism

By DANIEL WOLGELERENTER
Special to The CJN

Keeping post-secondary students connected to Judaism is more challenging now than ever, says Zac Kaye, executive director of Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto (JCS).

"We don't live in an age of great issues – there's no Soviet Jewry, there's no Ethiopian Jewry, so student activism and involvement takes on a different form... You have to be more creative in getting students involved," Kaye says.

For JCS, that view has led to a re-examination of its approach to serving Toronto's college and university students. JCS has begun to move away from enticing students into its campus offices towards engaging with them both on and off campus.

The umbrella agency, now in its fourth year, is serving an estimated 15,000 Jewish students, which include approximately 4,000 at both York University and the University of Toronto (U of T), and some 1,200 at Ryerson. In total, they represent about 85 percent of Toronto Jews aged 18 to 25, Kaye says.

"The credo these days is maximizing the number of Jews 'doing Jewish' with other Jews," Kaye says.

"It's basically a two-track process of engagement and empowerment" designed to attract less committed and unaffiliated Jews, as well as stimulating those who come from strong Jewish backgrounds, he says.

Kaye, 51, had been the director of the Vancouver B'nai Brith Hillel Foundation from 1990 to 1995 until he was recruited to help establish JCS by UJA Federation, the main source of funding for U of T's Jewish Students' Union, York's Jewish Student Federation and Ryerson's Jewish Campus Services.

JCS currently employs 10 staff members, including one full-time employee at each of the university campuses. JCS operates on an annual budget of $600,000, $420,000 of which comes from UJA Federation.

Kaye says JCS inherited "a high degree of disorganization" when it was created in May 1995 as an independent beneficiary agency of UJA Federation to "oversee all informal Jewish student activity on [post-secondary] campuses in the Greater Toronto Area."

The separate organizations at U of T, York and Ryerson suffered from declining participation rates, little city-wide coordination and the impression that they were mainly frequented by nerds and Orthodox students, he says.

"You had a dying structure at York and a dying structure at U of T, and they were run as separate entities."

One of the first things JCS did was update the mailing lists kept by the separate campus organizations.

Today it has a mailing list of 3,000 active members, representing about 20 percent of its estimated target group.

It uses the list to contact students by mail and phone for city-wide and school-specific events. It also advertises in *The CJN* and campus papers, as well as in *Now* and *Eye*, when trying to reach students less formally affiliated with the Jewish community. This past September it established a Web site, www.jewishcampusservices.com, to inform students about its programs.

'City-wide approach'

Kaye and his staff have instituted "a city-wide approach" to the delivery of services, to reach commuter students where they live. As a result, more and more JCS programs are being held off campus.

Kaye proudly cites some new initiatives developed since 1995. One is the JCS annual Arts Festival, held for the first time last March at the North York Public Library Central Branch.

The festival led to the hiring of a full-time staff-person, Tamar Kagan, to encourage students, particularly unaffiliated students, "to express their Jewishness through the arts."

This year's festival, Coloring Ourselves: A Festival of Jewish Student Creativity, takes place March 7 to 10.

Another successful program has been the twice-yearly Beit Midrash, a night of study which brings together students "from different backgrounds or no background" to discuss "very contemporary themes" with scholars from the various denominations of Judaism. Kaye says the program has always attracted more than 100 students per session.

JCS also runs a yearly awards night to honor its campus leaders, and a leadership development program, which this month will take campus leaders to Boston to learn how to initiate and develop new campus programs.

The agency sponsors other off-campus events, like Shabbatonim, a yearly science and Halachah seminar for Orthodox students and a Jewish awareness month, which includes a create-your-own mezuzah class and a Jewish cooking seminar.

Kaye boasts that JCS has estab-

[Cont'd. on page B 9]

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Live & Learn

JCS reaching out

[Cont'd. from page B 8]

lished new partnerships with "the KKK," the Orthodox Kedma, the Conservative Koach and the Reform Kesher services, which develop social and religious programs for their affiliated students across the continent.

"I'm particularly proud of the partnership initiative, because it really brought into the campus, communities that were not previously involved," Kaye says, adding that Toronto is the only community in North America to have student organizations affiliated with all three streams served by professional staff, funded jointly by JCS and their religious streams.

"Pluralism is a big plank on which we base our philosophy – recognizing differences, but building a sense of community," he says.

Current staffing levels are not ideal, Kaye says, citing a Council of Jewish Federations study done in the early 1990s, which recommends five staff members for a campus with 4,500 Jews. JCS maintains only one program director at both York and U of T, supplemented by city-wide staff.

According to Kaye a key problem is lack of funds. "Our [annual operating budget] should really be $1 million," he says, "the minimum needed to do a decent job."

Reaching that level would require more UJA Federation dollars. Although Kaye declines to specify the ideal annual budget, he notes that Toronto spends about $30 a year per student on student services for its 15,000 students, while Vancouver's Jewish community spends roughly $208 for each of its 1,200 students.

Kaye says he expects to receive more money from UJA Federation now that fundraising is returning to pre-recession levels and legacy endowment fundraising is up and running.

He says the legacy campaign beginning this month hopes to raise an endowment fund to generate operating revenue, as well as $2 million for a new building at Huron and Harbord to house the U of T branch of JCS. Construction is slated to begin this spring and to be completed by 2000.

In the future, Kaye says, JCS would like to better serve students at U of T's Scarborough College – where there is no JCS office – and the community colleges. JCS also needs to expand beyond serving undergraduates, currently its main focus, he says.

"Graduate students are a major constituency that we serve in only a perfunctory manner, but we need to serve more seriously."

(From left) Ilan Gershon, Brandon Siegel and Sharon Aba, members of the City-Wide Social Committee of Jewish Campus Services.

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Live & Learn

York prepares teachers for Jewish system

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The Jewish teacher education program at York University is supplying a new breed of teachers – young, homegrown and equally qualified to teach Jewish and general studies.

"One of the pleasures of my work," said Alex Pomson, who has headed the program for the past two and a half years, is being involved with a group of students who "really reflect the diversity of the Jewish community."

Day school graduates make up the majority of students in the program. They run the gamut from alumni of Bais Yaakov High School for Girls to Bialik Hebrew Day School, working alongside and learning from each other in an "exemplary" way, noted Pomson.

The almost 20-year-old program, believed to be the first of its kind, has been a well-kept secret, he said. But word is spreading.

Over the last five years the program, which offers a joint BA/B.Ed., has had more applicants than it can accept. There are currently 24 students, of whom seven will graduate this year. At its inception, there were only two. And there are now over 50 alumni.

The program's growth, albeit relatively modest, parallels a Diaspora-wide growth in day school education. "Our graduates are really quite a valuable commodity," said Pomson.

Until this year his position was the only professorship in Jewish education at a non-sectarian university outside of Israel. He gives much credit to the Israel Koschitzky Family Foundation, which partly funds his position and which recently provided funding for a chair in Jewish Education, which is expected to be filled in the next few years.

The Jewish Teacher Education program has become "much more seen by people outside Toronto as a potential partner in all kinds of initiatives."

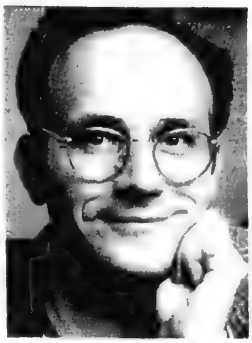
Recently Pomson has had inquiries from western Canada about training local day school graduates to return there and teach.

He also fields calls regularly from the United States requesting graduates to fill teaching positions.

Demand far outstrips supply, he said. "Over the last two or three years pretty much every graduate [not pursuing post-graduate studies] has found a job. Anyone who's graduated successfully is going to probably find themselves faced by a choice as far as where they should look for work."

It's a shame, he says, that there are not more men in the program. "Many schools still look to men to fill senior positions, particularly in the Orthodox world," he said.

Still, he notes, there is a slightly higher proportion of male students than in the general education program, perhaps 15 percent.



Alex Pomson

Pomson estimates the general education program has no more than five percent male students.

He does not see the program's graduates supplanting Israeli shlichim, who have been a teaching staple at many Jewish day schools. "Shlichim bring something very special to schools. It was always envisioned that Jewish day schools would benefit most from a mixture of home-grown talent and shlichim."

These days the program has been able to "be more ambitious in the kinds of things we're able to offer our students," said Pomson.

This month there is an intensive educational retreat for students, the second of its kind. Dr. Ora Zohar of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is to staff the retreat as well as one for day school principals.

Last year the program began offering post-graduate studies. Four students are working toward their masters of education.

"This is a very significant step forward," said Pomson.

The program is also involved in a number of professional development programs for teachers. A major conference on New Directions in Jewish Education is planned for March, for teachers, professionals and lay people.

Another project is aimed at meeting the non-academic needs of Jewish students. "The hope is that by creating a team of teachers who would be trained to help schools meet students' emotional and social needs, we can bring a resource to the school for development in this area."

Pomson is still involved in research he began in his native England and has continued here, based on day school teachers' diaries. The research is winding up, and Pomson has begun to publish his results.

"Even in Israel," Pomson said, "there aren't many people doing research with teachers. People do research about teachers or on the teachers, but [not] through the words of teachers. Any discussion about the role of Jewish day schools would be ill informed without a perspective provided by teachers, and ideally in the teachers' own words."

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Associated system growing

Education committee explores middle school

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Canada's biggest Jewish day school system is pondering how it can get even bigger.

Keeping up with the growth of Toronto and York Region's Jewish community hasn't been easy for Associated Hebrew Day Schools. Over the past few years, Associated has seen the opening of its 1,000-student Kamin branch in Thornhill; the demolition and re-opening of its Neptune (Posluns) campus; the closing (at least temporarily) of the Hurwich campus on Finch; and the consolidation of its junior high classes (grades 7 and 8) at the Danilack branch on Leslie.

In all, the system serves over 2,000 children from nursery to Grade 8.

But the thought on the minds of many parents is what will become of the Finch campus, which was closed last June pending the outcome of a study that is examining the feasibility of a middle school for grades 6, 7 and 8.

The school's vaad hachinuch (education committee) is currently looking into whether a middle school is appropriate, says Associated's president, Lou Greenbaum. A decision could come as soon as next month.

The point of having a middle school, he pointed out, is to make students' transition into the higher grades easier by placing them in one building.

If officials opt for a middle school, the decision would then be whether to have it at the Danilack or the Hurwich branch, Greenbaum told *The CJN*.

If the idea for a middle school is turned down, then officials will have another decison: whether to keep the junior high classes, with their 400 students, at Danilack, or move them to Hurwich.

Greenbaum said a study is also being done on the Hurwich branch's physical capacities to house a middle-school, "just to be ready."

"The only advantage [to a middle school] would be one of education," Greenbaum said. "Would it be in the students' best interests?"

Finch branch closed

The demographics of the community must also be weighed, he noted, especially given the mushrooming Jewish population north of Steeles Avenue.

The branch on Finch was closed following the last academic year because the campus on Neptune reopened after a three-year hiatus, during which the original building was demolished and a new $4.2 million school built a bit west.

The new 35,000-square foot Louis and Leah Posluns Education Centre houses 400 students from nursery to Grade 6, and features four pre-school rooms, 12 elementary classrooms, a combination gym/lunch room, a library and two soft-surface playgrounds.

The junior high classes that had been at the Neptune branch were transferred to the Hurwich branch and then, beginning this school year, were consolidated at the Danilack campus.

Most of the elementary students displaced by the closing of the Finch campus have come to the new Neptune campus, according to Betty Katzman, the branch's new Hebrew studies principal who had taught for 17 years and is herself an Associated graduate.

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Live & Learn

Schools helping special needs students

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Meeting the special needs of children at all levels of Jewish supplementary and day schools is becoming more of a priority.

Judit Kenyeres, head of special education and remediation at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT), says, "CHAT is a unique Jewish high school. We are the only school to offer such a comprehensive special education and remediation program."

The program is geared to students with an average or above average capacity to learn, but with weaknesses in particular areas of learning such as organization of ideas in written form, organizational problems, self-management weaknesses, organizing a schedule, or keeping track of their materials, she says.

In CHAT's regular stream, 40 students take part in remedial programs once a week with the school's five remedial staff members. As well, there are 25 students who come when they require extra help.

CHAT also has special education classes in grades 9 and 10 in both general and Jewish studies courses. "We help these students work towards full integration into the regular stream for grades 11 and 12.

"The special education students have a teacher who advocates on their behalf [when] they are integrated into the regular stream."

The CHAT population is growing quickly, and Kenyeres says that next year, CHAT's staff expects that the demands for assisting special needs students will grow.

Holy Blossom Temple's Project Tikvah is a special needs program for children with a learning disability, an attention deficit disorder (ADD) or any other special need.

Dori Levine, coordinator of Project Tikvah, says that the program was developed to enable any child to successfully become a bar or bat mitzvah.

The children receive Hebrew instruction on an individual or small group basis. In addition, they participate in the mainstream religious school classes. "At their bar or bat mitzvah ceremony, these children are usually indistinguishable from [the other students.] We know that we have empowered our students. For many, this is their first successful learning experience."

Full Hebrew program

The Dr. Abraham Shore Academy, She'arim Hebrew Day School, is an independent communal day school for Jewish children with learning disabilities and attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD). The school offers a full Hebrew and general studies program for grades 1 to 8. There are 68 students at all levels, in nine classes.

Kathy Manoim, She'arim's principal, says the philosophy of the school is based on Reuven Feuerstein's theories. "We focus on teaching students thinking strategies – how to think and how to learn by means of strategies that will enhance their coping skills."

She says that the students who have difficulties in auditory or visual processing, or verbal or written expression, are mainstreamed into classes in the Jewish day schools when they acquire the necessary skills.

After Grade 8, the students go into a Jewish high school, yeshiva or public high school.

Students at She'arim are referred from other Jewish day schools, Jewish Vocational Services, Jewish Family and Child Service or by parents. They require a psycho-educational assessment.

Manoim says programs such as gym, music or art, are integrated into other subjects. For example, a specialist works with teachers and students to develop an art project based on the curriculum being studied in history. In Hebrew class, students may learn about Chanukah, and make a chanukiyah.

She adds, "We also provide parenting programs and support services to families. "

Zareinu Educational Centre, a Jewish day school and treatment-centre, provides special educational therapies for 55 students with a wide range of developmental and/or physical challenges.

Carol Goldman, principal, notes that each individually designed program meets the unique needs of children between the ages of one month to 13 years old.

"Our philosophy is based on the belief that each 'special child' is a valuable member of our community, and has the right to an adapted education, the opportunity for improving life skills, a respect for their strengths, as well as a focus on their needs.

"The family must be an integral part of our efforts; their input and their participation in planning programs for their child is encouraged."

Goldman says that "Zareinu provides a wide variety of programs, and new and innovative therapies. We have even been pioneers in introducing new therapies to the field."

Zareinu's Project Outreach provides home outreach to the parents, and awareness sensitivity education for students and teachers in Hebrew day schools, in order to encourage the social inclusion and acceptance of children with special needs.

Goldman notes that through funding provided by Jewish Federation,"We have joined efforts with the Reena Foundation and Jewish Family and Child Service to increase community service and social integration for children and families with special needs."

Tikvat Hayim Educational Pro-

[Cont'd. on page B 13]

The Canadian Jewish news

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Live & Learn

USDS staff expands to accommodate growth

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

As a result of its growth since 1961, United Synagogue Day School (USDS) has increased its staff to more than 200 teachers, administrators and support staff.

In an interview, Brian Krasman, new principal of the Bathurst campus, said, "We pride ourselves on focusing on the individual child in the program."

Gail Silver, principal at the Bayview campus, added that "as a Conservative Hebrew day school, we celebrate life cycle events through special holiday programs at every level, bringing a partnership of home and school. We encourage family members to participate in our events."

One of the key issues at the school, Krasman said, is combining the general and Judaic studies. "We operate on a thematic approach. Teachers from both departments work together to coordinate programs such as Chanukah."

Silver emphasized the importance of the school's derech eretz (respect to others) program, which aims to instil Jewish values, such as respect for individuals (for example, through the school's anti-bullying protocol) and peaceful problem solving.

"Conflict resolution skills are built in from the primary grades, and spiral through the curriculum," Krasman said.

"USDS has a reputation for excellence, and we continually review our policies and practices, and make adjustments as necessary," he said.

He described some of the schools innovative programs: peer tutoring, where students in the higher grades volunteer to help younger students academically; Grade 6 peacemakers, who work to resolve problems for other students; and staff members who play a direct mentoring role in the students' preparation of a d'var Torah for bar or bat mitzvah.

Starting in Grade 1, the teachers in the lab-centered computer program work with classroom teachers to integrate their curriculum needs into appropriate computer activities.

"Youngsters learn their curriculum while they develop their computer skills," Krasman said. "By Grade 3, they are learning the elements of touch typing and have experience with spread sheets and a database. By the time students graduate, they are fully conversant with desktop publishing."

Krasman noted that 70 percent of USDS graduates go on to the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.

Furthermore, "a number of staff members are graduates of USDS. We pride ourselves on continuity – from generation to generation," he said.

Brian Krasman

Gail Silver

Krasman brings more than 30 years teaching and administrative experience in the public and Hebrew school systems. Born in Toronto, he studied at the University of Toronto and Brock University. He taught and was a department head at William Lyon Mackenzie Collegiate, was principal at Yeshivat Or Chaim/Ulpanat Orot, and vice-principal at several public high schools, most recently at C. W. Jeffereys.

Silver joined the USDS staff in 1979, teaching grades 5 to 8. She served as an administrative assistant and vice-principal at the Bathurst campus for five years prior to accepting her new position.

"As a teacher and principal at USDS for almost two decades," Silver said, she finds that "USDS works hard to create a warm, nurturing environment for students, staff and parents—it is an extended family."

Another staff member at USDS for several years is Gilda Iron, principal at the Richmond Hill campus since 1994. Iron taught at the Bathurst and Bayview campuses, and was general studies coordinator at Richmond Hill for a year prior to becoming the principal.

USDS is a member of the Solomon Schechter Day School Association, the educational arm of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, and is supported by many of the Conservative synagogues in Toronto.

School recognizes special needs students

[Cont'd. from page B 12]

gram, a non-denominational supplementary program, was founded 19 years ago.

Zeev Greenberg, director of the school explained that "there was a glaring need [for such a school] for children, ages 6 to 14, who have severe to moderate learning disabilities."

The school, which meets for 4 ½ hours on Sunday mornings, has 26 students. The educational curriculum is divided into two main programs – Jewish heritage and identity, and Hebrew as a modern language. "One of our goals is to get them to bar or bat mitzvah and enable them to read from the prayer book.

"We structure the classes to provide a harmonious learning environment in the class based on the specific challenges of the individual child."

Greenberg noted that some of the students attend specialty schools such as Adventure Place and Willowood School.

"Upon recommendation, some of our students get referred to She'arim or other schools, and conversely, we've had children who are referred to us from other congregational schools."

Greenberg, who has been with Tikvat Hayim for 18 years, says that many of the students come long distances. "One of our students, who comes from the Toronto island community attends regularly."

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Live & Learn

'CJN students' facing new challenges

This year marks the eighth annual instalment of our series on four Toronto young people whom we first met as they were celebrating their respective bar and bat mitzvahs. The series will culminate next year.

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Now that Ali Bresver, Naomi Emerson, Chaim Greenwald and Jacob Korenblum are all out of high school, it's harder than ever to schedule a joint interview.

Coincidentally, Chaim, Naomi and Jacob were all in Israel from mid-April until the beginning of June.

Chaim, 20, who attended Eitz Chaim Day School and the Wisconson Institute of Torah Study, was studying at the Chafetz Chaim Yeshiva in Jerusalem. He is now in his second year there.

Naomi, a 19-year-old graduate of Associated Hebrew Schools and Ulpanat Orot, was completing a year at a women's yeshiva.

And Jacob, 19, an alumnus of Bialik Hebrew Day School and Northern Secondary School, was there with a friend. They spent four months travelling after high school finished. Aside from Israel, they visited Morocco, Egypt, France, Spain, Germany and England, seeking out links with local Jewish communities.

"I definitely have a greater awareness of different ways of expressing Judaism," said Jacob when he was interviewed with Naomi at *The CJN's* Toronto office.

He and his friend often discussed whether they really felt a link with Jews they met in other countries, he said. "For instance, in Morocco they were so vastly different from us. [But] ultimately we have to say, yes we did. There was something that superseded all the cultural differences."

While in Israel, Jacob and his friend made a concerted effort to speak to Arabs who could communicate in English. "From our heritage we only get an insight into one side," he explained. "I really wanted to get a good idea of both sides of the story."

They also spent time with Israelis and spoke to a number of Israeli soldiers. The Hebrew that Jacob learned at Bialik came back to him, he said, and he "got around just fine."

Chaim, in Jerusalem, finds it "amazing to see people living their lives based on religion as opposed to religion being secondary. It's had a profound impact on me."

He would like to pursue a career in Jewish education and said he would probably enter his yeshiva's smichah program.

Although he hasn't completely ruled out secular university studies, he feels it is more important for him now to concentrate on his religious education.

He expects he will end up returning to North America to live; as an English speaker, he figures his skills, once he completes his education, will be more in demand on this side of the ocean.

At the yeshiva he doesn't have much "exposure" to newspapers, but finds the news he does hear is "so often the same as in the past couple of years."

He believes that Israel should give up land if doing so will save lives. "If not, then not. The land of Israel is very precious to us, [but] I've heard from prestigious rabbis that the Jewish people has not existed based on land. Having land is not one of those mitzvot that supersedes life."

Concerned about anti-Jewish attitudes among some Palestinians

Naomi, who is also Orthodox, is concerned about anti-Jewish attitudes among some Palestinians. "I'm not anti-peace, but it doesn't make sense to me that we make peace with them under current conditions. I hope I'm wrong. I hope we can reach peace, but with the terrorism that's happened so far, it doesn't seem like it's possilbe."

Having spent last year in Elkana, just outside the Green Line, she said she takes exception to the use of the term "settlers" in the media.

"I think they're just people who have moved there and were encouraged by the government to move. The people I met are such sincerely good, decent religious people. It boggles my mind how the world makes them out to be these crazy fanatic settlers. Obviously, not everyone is the way they're portrayed. You have extremists on both sides."

Naomi is back in Toronto studying kinesiology at York University, which she hopes will lead to a therapy career. She is also volunteering on a weekly basis with children who have severe disabilities.

She is adjusting to living at home again, as well as to being at a secular university.

"I have lived somewhat of a sheltered life," she said. "I find it fascinating what a mix there is [at York]."

She is comfortable fielding questions about Judaism from non-Jewish students, but found it disconcerting to hear the professor at

[Cont'd. on page B 15]

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Live & Learn

'CJN students' facing new challenges

[Cont'd. from page B 14]

her very first lecture using swear words. "It threw me off. This is supposed to be an institution of higher education."

Although it's a new experience, she finds university here "anti-climactic" after her year in Israel. And perhaps more difficult for her is the conflict she feels between her love of life here and in Israel. "I feel very much caught between two worlds," she said.

She feels her year away has changed her, but doubts the changes are apparent to others. "I did grow. I think a lot more about different issues. I look at improving who I am as a person and my religious self. It's not like I'm jumping to go on a different path, but I'm much more interested in learning for the sake of learning."

In past years she has expressed a desire to make aliyah, but this year spoke more cautiously. "You don't know where life will take you... I don't want to look like one of those people who have their heads in the clouds."

Jacob, unlike Naomi, is convinced he does not want to live in Israel. "Being there a month and a half confirmed the idea that I will never live there. It's such an aggressive society... [We] saw real incidents of prejudice and racism – Ashkenazi/Sephardi, religious/secular, and really antagonistic views and statements."

Jacob, true to his longtime goal, is studying International Relations at the University of Toronto. Coincidentally, he received the same scholarship once awarded to his grandfather, and is living in residence downtown.

Although he finds U of T students take their studies seriously, "the place never sleeps. I can still try to be disciplined and just lock my door, but it's really hard."

For Chanukah, Jacob organized candlelighting in his residence. He usually goes home for Shabbat, he said. "Judaism is important to me."

Jacob's faith remains unshaken following the death of his mother, Toba, in November, of cancer. "It's difficult when things happen that there's no logical explanation for. At times like that you need your faith... There are a lot of positive things that continue to happen. I'm an optimistic person in general."

Ali, 19, an alumna of Temple Emanu-El's supplementary school and of Lawrence Park Collegiate, still doesn't know if she believes in God, but is "definitely still very proud of being Jewish and wouldn't change that for anything."

She has wanted for a long time to be a sports journalist and is now in the journalism program at King's College in Halifax. She was in Toronto briefly over the winter holidays before going on vacation with her family.

Ali Bresver

Chaim Greenwald

Naomi Emerson

Jacob Korenblum

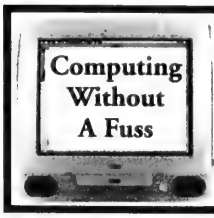
Like Jacob, Ali lives in residence. She has found the biggest adjustment is dealing with money and bill payments.

She has learned, however, to budget her time, and tackles essays and assignments ahead of time instead of at the last minute. "It's so much less work that way," she said.

For Ali, who has been active in the Reform movement all her life, it's a new experience being in a community where there is no Reform congregation.

She attended Yom Kippur services at the Conservative synagogue and found the congregation "very welcoming."

Although she talked last year of looking into teaching Sunday school again once she entered university, she decided that, this year, she would focus on adjusting to campus life.



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Live & Learn

Students discuss challenges facing youth

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Last fall, a group of grade 10 and 11 students from the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) visited Grade 8 classes at Associated Hebrew Schools as part of a drug education program sponsored by Parents Against Drugs (PAD).

The high school students, who underwent an intensive two-day training program, discussed some of the challenges facing youngsters today, and led their younger peers in role-playing exercises as part of a peer education program entitled Challenges, Beliefs and Changes.

The program is now in its third year at CHAT; Leo Baeck Day School has also participated.

Over three sessions, students talked about the stress of growing up and some of the issues they may be confronting, said CHAT guidance counsellor Mirna Alter. "It went extremely well."

The older students were trained and selected to talk about their own transition to high school, and the good decisions they made despite the pressure they experienced, she said. Having students close in age to serve as positive role models is an integral part of the program.

With the help of videos and prescribed activities, students discuss factual information about drugs, as well as how they might respond in different scenarios – such as unsupervised parties – involving alcohol, tobacco or drugs.

"We're moving away from constant threatening — 'don't, don't' — and emphasizing positive things you can do," said Elizabeth Segal, coordinator of student activities at the junior high. "We heard about [the program] and thought it might be a good way to enhance our drug education program."

Grade 8 student Shael Markin, 13, said he learned a lot. "Students participated a little more [because the facilitators were] kids their age."

Associated includes drug education as part of its health classes. Students learn about use and abuse of a variety of drugs, including tobacco, alcohol and prescription drugs, said Segal.

"The thing we put an emphasis on is awareness...to teach students how to handle [potentially dangerous situations]."

The 30 group leaders, each of whom worked with a small group of younger children, also found the program a learning experience.

"I learned things about drugs that I had not known," said Ilana Blidner, a 16-year-old Grade 11 student. There were definitely lessons she'll be able to apply in her own life, she said.

Neil Rogachevsky, also 16 and in Grade 11, considers the program "a worthwhile cause. It provided good information."

Planning for 'gifted' students

[Cont'd. from page B 7]

Similarly, Netivot Hatorah Day School now has a part-time teacher responsible for dealing with enrichment at all grade levels.

"I think it's a good step," said Netivot vice-principal Rabbi Elliott Diamond, "but I don't think we've finished."

Throughout the day school system, limited resources have made it difficult to address gifted children's needs when there were other pressing needs to juggle, Rabbi Diamond noted. "You want to provide everyone with as much as you can."

Bialik Hebrew Day School, which in the past has provided enrichment on an ad hoc basis, last year began planning a program to provide "extensions" for students at all levels of ability, to help them reach the next level, said Bialik's principal, Uri Korin.

Planning such a program can be a lengthy process, Korin noted. It involves approval by the school's board, funding and teacher training.

"I'm taking it very slowly in order to ensure that when we do it, we will do it in a way that will be beneficial for the students," he added.

Like Rabinowitz and Cohen, Korin shies away from the term "gifted." He prefers to talk about providing "an opportunity for everyone to reach his or her potential."

Defining the term "gifted," he said, is "a major issue."

The term "multiple intelligences," signifying abilities in different areas, not necessarily academic, came up in several of the interviews for this article.

The Toronto Heschel School, an arts-based, non-denominationally affiliated school in its third year of operation, is "the first day school in town to understand the learning process of a gifted child," said the mother mentioned earlier. Her child is now "thriving" there, she said.

Heschel operates on "skill group levels," said the school's general studies director Gail Baker. Students, even those working two or three grade levels above their own, work at their level within the classroom.

"We prefer to keep children with their peer group for a variety of reasons, mostly social," Baker said.

Also, on occasion, students from different classes are taken out of the classroom to work in small groups on specialized projects.

Gifted children need to be taught, not just given work to do independently, said Baker.

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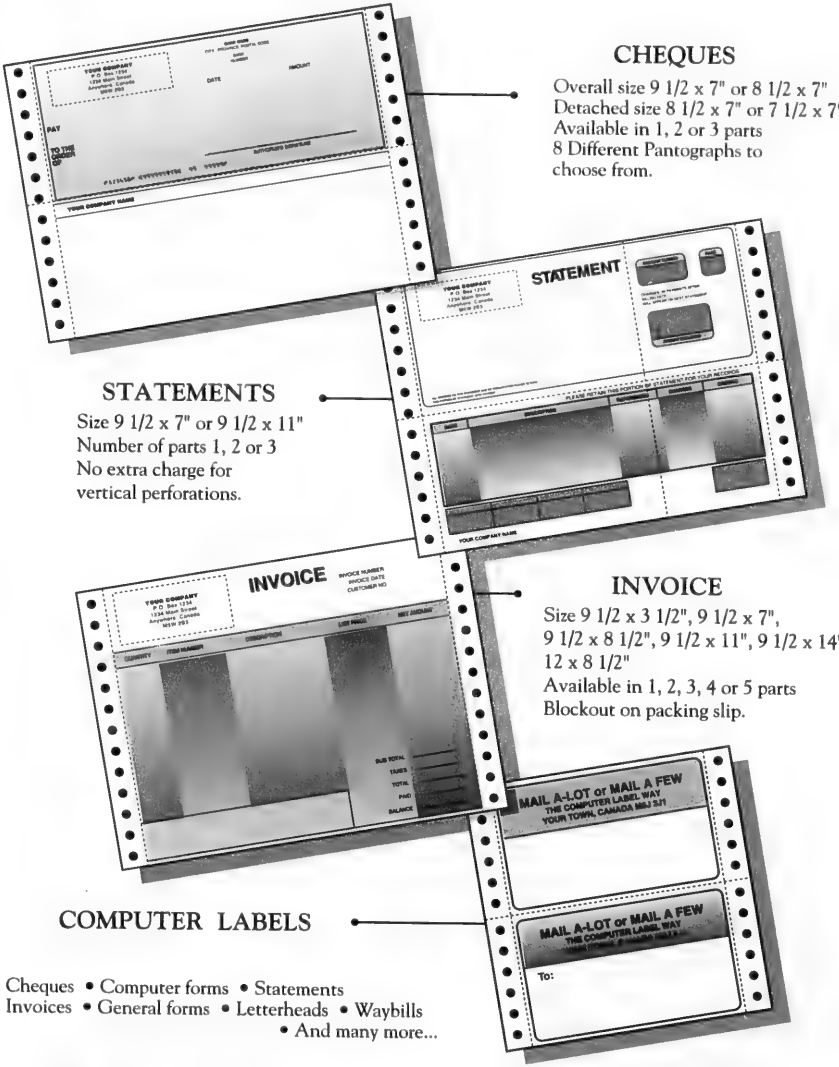

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This Week

National

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Roving congregation marks 25th anniversary. *Page 5*

Photo rekindles memories for Kowno Ghetto survivor. *Page 7*

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PA 'preparing children for war'

This recent file photo shows a Palestinian youth brandishing a gun. According to reports, young Palestinians such as the one in this photo are being encouraged in their schools to wield such weapons rather than to consider making peace with Israel. [RNS/ Reuters photo]

Researcher levels charge

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The school curricula developed by the Palestinian Authority (PA) is preparing Arab children for war, not for peace, an Israeli researcher has charged.

David Bedein, media analyst with the Israel Resource News Agency in Jerusalem, said five years after the Oslo agreement promised peaceful coexistence, the curriculum being taught in schools under the PA's jurisdiction displays "an attitude towards the inspiration of war. It is a war curriculum."

Bedein said his research found no examples of materials or lessons that promoted peaceful coexistence.

A native of Philadelphia who has lived in Israel for 28 years, Bedein was in Toronto last week to address a public meeting sponsored by the Toronto Zionist Council.

Continued on page 20

Family reunion an emotional affair

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Justine Mbabazi has a message for Toronto's Jewish community:

"Thank you."

It's a simple but heartfelt expression of gratitude from the Rwandan single mother, who was reunited with her five children last week after not seeing them for 18 months.

"I'm so really impressed with the Jewish community," Mbabazi gushes. "You have a solidarity."

Why all the praise?

Mbabazi, a 28-year-old widow who survived Rwanda's 1994 genocide, in which over one million Tutsi and moderate Hutus were butchered by Hutu extremists, turned to the Jewish community for help to reunite her with her kids, whom she left behind when she fled to Canada in 1997.

The community came through:

Justine Mbabazi reunited with her children, sitting from left, John, 16; Roger, 7; Monica, 7; Rachael, 9; and (in front) Jacqueline, 10.

Thanks to the efforts of the Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre; Ve'ahavta, the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee; El Al; and Prof. Howard Adelman of York University, Mbabazi and her children were together again in a tearful scene at Toronto's Pearson Airport.

"They were grabbing me and shouting, 'Mommy, Mommy!'" the joyous woman recalled in an exclusive interview with *The CJN*.

Later, on the day of their arrival from Nairobi via Tel Aviv, the tired but happy children, two boys and three girls, aged seven to 16, clung to their young mother in a Willowdale condo donated by an anonymous Jewish benefactor.

Continued on page 6

INSIDE

Examining the Catholic church's attempt at 'reconciliation' with the Jews. Please see page 9.

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Israel's centrist party offers two-man ticket – please see page 25

The News in Brief

CANADA

Restitution Reminder

TORONTO — The United Restitution Organization (URO) is reminding Canadians that both Volkswagen and Siemens have established humanitarian relief funds for former forced laborers. As well, URO is reminding Holocaust survivors that claims for labor performed in the Lodz ghetto are still being processed. For information, call 416-630-2920. In Montreal, call URO at 514-931-7933.

Canada To Watch PA Aid

OTTAWA — Canada says it will keep a close watch on the $92 million in aid it has pledged to the Palestinian Authority (PA). The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) says its has several auditing and monitoring controls in place to ensure the funds are used effectively. Canada's commitment came soon after Britain complained that millions of dollars earmarked for low-cost housing had been squandered by the PA.

Ronen Wins Grit Nod

TORONTO — Dan Ronen, who has advised federal cabinet minister Art Eggleton on Jewish matters and is the brother of Canadian Jewish Congress president Moshe Ronen, recently won the provincial Liberal nomination in Thornhill riding. Ronen, a lawyer, defeated his rivals on the first ballot. The riding won't exist until the next election. It will have one of the highest concentration of Jewish voters of any electoral district in the country.

ISRAEL

Orthodox Boycott Meet

HAIFA — Orthodox representatives boycotted a meeting last week of the Haifa religious council. The meeting was cancelled when only representatives from the Reform and Conservative movements showed up. Earlier this month, Israel's Supreme Court ordered the council to allow the participation of non-Orthodox representatives.

Army Harassment Up

JERUSALEM — The number of sexual harassment complaints filed in the Israeli army rose last year by 43 percent, according to the head of the Israel Defence Force's Women's Corps. Brig.-Gen. Orit Adeto told a Knesset committee that 23 sexual harassment charges were filed in 1998, compared to 15 the previous year. According to the army, about half of the instances of sexual harassment in the IDF involve commanders.

WORLD

Insurance Settlement

ROME — Italy's largest insurance company has begun compensating heirs of policyholders who perished in the Holocaust. Some 1,551 applicants filed for payment from the $12-million Israel-based fund established by Assicurazioni Generali. Applicants may still seek payment from the fund, which is also making payments to needy survivors and organizations dedicated to commemorating the Holocaust.

Getting Kids To Camp

NEW YORK — A new foundation aims to triple the percentage of North American Jewish children who attend Jewish summer camp. The Foundation for Jewish Camping, which plans to announce its first grants this spring, is touting the effort as a way to ensure Jewish continuity. Some 30,000 Jewish children in the United States and Canada, or four percent of all Jewish kids in North America, currently attend Jewish summer camp, according to the foundation.

Senators Urge Clinton

WASHINGTON — Sixty U.S. senators have urged President Bill Clinton to keep Jonathan Pollard imprisoned despite pressure from Israel to free the convicted spy for the Jewish state. "Any grant of clemency would now be viewed as an acquiescence to external political pressures," the senators wrote in a letter to Clinton.

Israelis Deny Charges

NICOSIA — Two Israeli Mossad agents denied the spying charges brought against them as their trial began in Cyprus. The two were in possession of listening devices when they were arrested several months ago at a fishing village near the site of a Cypriot military installation. The incident marred relations between Cyprus and Israel, which has repeatedly said the two were not spying.

Poland Marks 'Day of Judaism'

WARSAW — Poland has marked its second annual "Day of Judaism." As part of the event designed to foster interfaith dialogue and education, a number of Polish churches included the day's theme in their services, and one million postcards bearing a photograph of Pope John Paul II together with Rome's Chief Rabbi Elio Toaff were distributed in all the country's parishes.

The cards of the pontiff and the chief rabbi bore a special prayer written for the occasion by the Pope, who met with Rabbi Toaff during a historic visit to Rome's main synagogue in 1986.

"Support the Jewish people so that they can experience respect and love," the prayer read.

This year's Day of Judaism took place amid continuing tension over the erection of hundreds of crosses at the site of the Auschwitz death camp by militant Catholics defying the orders of both the Church and the Polish government.

Despite the tension over the crosses, leaders of Poland's Jewish community attended a Roman Catholic mass in the city of Wroclaw, and Catholic faithful there attended Jewish services.

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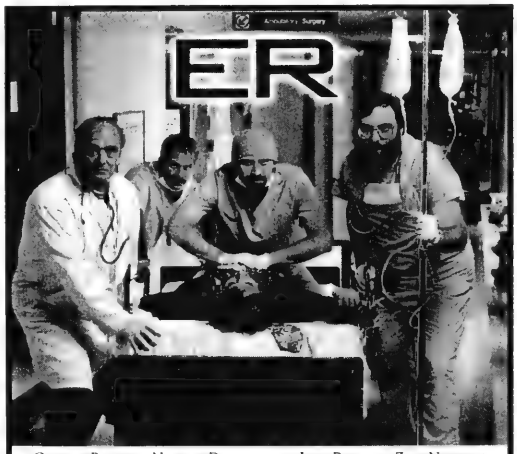

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Pardes Shalom undergoes major expansion

Cemetery will have enough plots for 75 years

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

VAUGHAN — Community officials are slated to close the $4 million purchase of a site for the largest Jewish cemetery in the Toronto area on Feb. 1.

Next week's closing ends a long process to expand Toronto Hebrew Memorial Park, also known as Pardes Shalom. The community's purchase of 200 acres of rural properties and farmland in York Region will mean an additional 70,000 to 90,000 burial plots, enough, officials say, for 75 years.

The cemetery is planned for an area about a mile north of the existing Pardes Shalom cemetery. It will be located between Bathurst and Dufferin streets, south of King-Vaughan Road in northern Vaughan.

Municipal and regional zoning approval finally came late last year, but with some limitations. About a third of the property will not be used for burials. A wooded section and some wetlands designated an area of natural and scientific interest, will be set aside for environmental reasons.

As well, access will only be from Bathurst. Access from Dufferin was denied as a result of traffic bylaws and objections from area residents. Pardes Shalom has also provided assurances to a local farmer that the cemetery will not pollute his wells.

The site won't be used for at least 10 years, according to Pardes Shalom's executive director, Ben Schneider. In the interim, it will be leased for farm use.

Schneider said about half the current cemetery's 36,000 plots have been used or allocated. And a recent report by York Region's planning committee said Pardes Shalom has experienced an average annual increase in burials of 16 percent.

Schneider said the cemetery currently conducts about 500 burials a year. Officials believe it will be full by 2020.

The York Region study cited statistics showing that over 15 percent of the Toronto area's Jewish population is 65 and older – five percent higher than in the general community. And from 1981 to 1991, the number of Jewish seniors jumped by 35 percent, to 25,000.

It added that the Jewish community in and around Toronto is expected "to grow at a rapid rate."

Pardes Shalom was opened in 1977 and has become the Jewish community's major cemetery. A total of 53 organizations, synagogues and fraternal groups have sections in it. It also conducts burials for the unaffiliated.

Plans for the new cemetery include an administrative building and a chapel.

The $4 million purchase of lands was made by a private family.

Levin maintains fight for Jewish school funding

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — For the past several months Wayne Levin has been working overtime to mobilize opinion in the Jewish community to back efforts to obtain government funds for Jewish day schools.

Although he and a grass-roots network of volunteers, called Parents for Educational Choice (PEC), have managed to get several thousand signatures on a petition, overcoming widespread skepticism has been his most difficult task.

Many in the Jewish community believe the Supreme Court of Canada has nullified efforts to broaden government funding to include Jewish and Protestant religious schools. That is simply not the case, he says.

While the Supreme Court of Canada ruled the equality and freedom of religion provisions of the

Continued on page 15

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After that first trembling moment when the oral tradition was transcribed with a loving, steady hand onto "paper," Jews have never stopped writing, and reading.

The Canadian Jewish News attaches great significance to encouraging and to fostering new "Jewish" writing.

Thus, for example, we publish an annual Passover literary supplement of readers' original prose and poetry. From time to time, on our Perspectives page, we also publish short works of prose. In our weekly space reserved for guest voices, we occasionally publish poetry.

But we always try to highlight for our readers important ongoing developments in modern "Jewish" writing.

The most recent important development in modern "Jewish" writing is the appearance of the seventh annual edition of *Parchment*.

Parchment is an independent journal of contemporary Canadian Jewish writing located at the Centre for Jewish Studies of York University. Indeed it is the only journal of Jewish Canadian creative writing.

Its editor is Adam Fuerstenberg. He took over the editorship of the journal three years ago from its founding editor Shel Krakofsky, and he is stewarding *Parchment* to impressive new levels of achievement. The 1998-99 issue is almost a third larger than previous issues and more and more writers are sending material to its pages. This year the works of 25 different authors, some appearing for the first time, and one uniquely talented translator appear in the journal. By comparison, 19 authors were published last year.

Like previous issues, this year's *Parchment* offers readers a rich anthology of worthwhile reading, often entertaining, insightful and even inspirational.

Wisely, the balance between poetry and prose is evenly weighted, with sufficient, rewarding choices on either side for the reader.

A small sampling from two or three works may be representative of the issue's overall high quality.

The first entry is a short story by J.J. Steinfeld entitled *Should the Word Hell Be Capitalized?*

Steinfeld's writing has appeared before in *Parchment*. He has a deft, understated writing style that ably captures the intricacies and layering of relationships and moods. In this piece, he fuses the memories of a Prince Edward Island childhood with the pressing obligations of a present Toronto parenthood. He writes about the ultimate responsibilities of a child to his parents even as he tries to be the best parent possible to his child.

Gary Levine, also a previous *Parchment* author, poignantly describes the painful confusion of watching the decline of one's elderly parent in the short story *Mr. Berkowitz at Home*.

Levine is a master at combining humor with mildly prodding cynicism to record an insight into the human condition that aches as it penetrates our understanding. He effectively creates a prose structure that embodies the very melancholy of the prose message.

There is a special treat in this *Parchment* for readers who enjoy poetry.

In addition to the other generally finely written poems, the editor has generously provided three poems by Polish Nobel Laureate Wislawa Szymborska translated from the Polish by the award-winning Simcha Simchovitch, along with two poems by Simchovitch translated from the Yiddish by author, playwright Kenneth Sherman.

The following is one of the Szymborska poems:

Some Love Poetry

Some –
that is not all.
Even not a majority of all
but a minority.
Not counting schools, where you
have to,
and poets themselves,
there will be two such persons
in a thousand.

They love –
but one loves as well noodle soup,
one loves compliments and the
color of blue,
one loves an old scarf,
one loves to insist on his own,
one loves to pat a dog.

Poetry – only what is poetry?
Not one shaky answer
was given to this question.
And I do not know, do not know
and hold on to it
like to a rescuing railing.

Parchment 1998-99 is a delightful read. It belongs in your home.

SEE JN

ON THE STREETS OF JERUSALEM

The camera captures a scene of stark but deeply moving contrasts on the streets of Jerusalem. An amputee, the difficulty and poverty in his life patent in his dress and demeanor, is framed between two walkers, whose circumstances seem so obviously different and easier.

[Motty Levy photo]

Greater Toronto Area

Pot-luck 'Peace Meal' brings religions together

VAUGHAN — Some 250 representatives of six religions gathered last week at a synagogue to learn tolerance and respect for one another.

The Mosaic Interfaith Group's annual pot-luck "Peace Meal" is held to coincide with Martin Luther King Jr. Day. It's an opportunity for members of the different religions to exchange information in an effort to further understanding.

The group consists of Jews, Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims and Zoroastrians, and was founded 19 years ago to foster interfaith harmony and respect while avoiding politics.

This year's annual Peace Meal took place at Temple Har Zion. Representatives from each faith spoke about their religious beliefs and customs, and then fielded questions from the audience.

Children, meantime, were in a separate room, where they drew pictures and talked about racism with the help of a moderator.

Later in the synagogue's sanctuary, eight separate choirs sang songs representing all the faiths. Members of the religions then did something almost all faiths have in common: blessing bread.

The Mosaic group was founded in 1980 by Temple Har Zion's Rabbi Michael Stroh and Rev. David Reeve of Thornhill United Church.

About 30 members meet four times a year in a different house of worship to learn about that religion.

The idea for the group, explained its chair, Arieh Cohen of Har Zion, sprang from a stretch of Bayview Avenue, north of Steeles, once known as "Little Jerusalem." In less than a kilometre, there's a Zoroastrian congregation, a Chinese Buddhist temple, the Jaffari Islamic Centre and the synagogue. There are also several Catholic and Protestant churches nearby.

"It's the best way to learn and to understand," said Cohen.

Roving congregation marks 25th

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Congregation Beth Haminyan, founded by members of Beth Tzedec Congregation, will celebrate its 25th anniversary Feb. 6.

Now in its fifth location at the gym in West Prep elementary school in Forest Hill, Congregation Beth Haminyan was also known as the Cedarvale Minyan because one of its first locations was in Cedarvale.

The congregation, which has no rabbi or cantor, has 91 families as members, half of them under 50 years of age.

"We are basically Orthodox in content," said president Joel Shupac, although the congregation is not affiliated with any Orthodox, Conservative or Reform body.

However, the congregation has parallel egalitarian services once every two months in a separate room where men and women share the ritual duties equally.

The philosophy of members tends to be on the Conservative side, Shupac told *The CJN*, but there is no English in the services, which are led by members who take turns reading the Torah and delivering divrei Torah.

There is an "air barrier" separating men and women at Congregation Beth Haminyan, he said, but no mechitzah. An equal amount of floor space is accorded men and women.

Despite the large number of families moving north to Thornhill and beyond, former president Elaine Posluns thinks the congregation will continue to exist, or even to grow.

"I hear about young families moving into smaller houses in the older Jewish areas," said Posluns. Though some members live far away, most live within reasonable distance of the congregation's current location.

"We enjoy an intimate environment, with lots of ruach (spirit)," said Shupac, a developer in private life. "We think we've managed to take the best of the Orthodox and Conservative traditions and combine them."

Posluns is enthusiastic about the 20 children who attend services regularly, and as the junior congregational choir, sing Adon Alom at the end of services, which are held Shabbat morning only.

The parallel egalitarian services began four years ago.

Though she was not a founding member, Posluns said when looking for a synagogue to attend, she was discouraged by the number of synagogues which only had elderly men participating, and she welcomed the existence of Congregation Beth Haminyan. She was also among those promoting the parallel services.

The anniversary will be celebrated at King Solomon's Table restaurant, by invitation to members and former members. It will also be marked by a CD-Rom of Hebrew melodies chanted by members.

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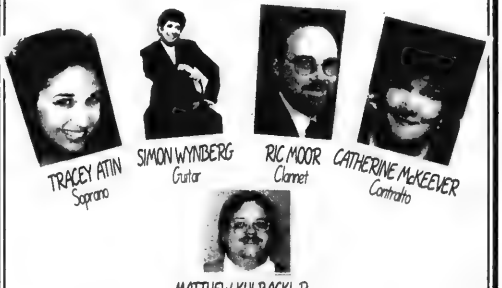

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Family reunion an emotional affair

Continued from page 1

Like nearly all Rwandans today, Mbabazi's story is tragic. Her husband, parents and almost all her relatives were victims of the 1994 killing spree, in which an estimated 300,000 children were murdered. Apart from her and the children, just three relatives survived the carnage. It's something she hasn't yet come to terms with.

"I don't know how to explain," she whispers, choking on her words.

She fled Kigali, Rwanda's capital, 18 months ago, leaving her kids in the care of a friend. "I had to go to protect them," she explains. "I had to go where things are possible for the sake of the children. It was very hard."

She chose Canada "because I needed a place with a humanitarian basis," and was granted refugee status. She's now a permanent resident.

Last November, Mbabazi contacted Carole Ann Reed, educational director of the Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre. Mbabazi knew of the centre because it had initiated a dialogue – still ongoing – between Holocaust survivors and the 100 or so Rwandans in Toronto who had survived their country's genocide.

Reed put her in touch with Adelman, who as founder of York University's Centre for Refugee Studies, knows the ins and outs of immigration. He pulled some strings with the federal government.

By this time, the friend who had been caring for Mbabazi's children, had taken them to Nairobi because she was having her own problems. The kids were left in a boys' orphanage but were taken in by a generous teacher who contacted the Canadian high commission in Nairobi.

Most of the paperwork was done over the Christmas break. The foreign affairs department and the high commission expedited medical exams, visas and travel documents.

Stanley Morais, head of sales and marketing for El Al's western Canadian operations, worked in tandem with the airline's Nairobi office, and got the children plane tickets to Toronto, via Tel Aviv, at greatly reduced fares.

And Ve'ahavta, which is involved in a myriad of humanitarian projects both here and overseas, facilitated funding, volunteers and clothes for the kids.

As Adelman put it, "everyone did a great job."

And now that one chapter has ended, another is starting, Mbabazi says.

The children, who are also permanent residents, will soon start school and begin learning English. Mbabazi, who has training in counselling and law, is looking for a job. Her plans, she laughs, are "to live in Canada and be successful."

A devout Pentecostal Christian, Mbabazi is asked to reflect on her plight. "Everyone is affected by genocide," she responds. "And God uses many people when it comes to rescue."

Romanian author gives book to library

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Ariel Koprov, an 86-year-old Romanian-born author now living in Toronto, has presented a gift of his book, *Jewish Life in Bessarabia*, to the Jewish Public Library.

The book is an English translation of *Tzvishin Tzvey Velt Milchomos* (Between Two World Wars), which he originally wrote in Yiddish.

The prolific author, who writes in four languages, Yiddish, Hebrew, Romanian and Russian, settled in Toronto 15 years ago with his family, after they had lived in Israel for 10 years.

In Israel he published two books about Kopreszt, the city of his birth, and Teleneszi, where he lived as an adult.

Koprov said he developed a desire to write at an early age. In 1941, he had finished his first book of 560 pages, but the book did not appear in printed form because it was destroyed during a pogrom by Moldavian fascists.

In 1941, when Nazi Germany attacked the U.S.S.R., Koprov, together with a group of his friends, voluntarily joined the Red Army. He received medals and was distinguished for his bravery on the front.

After the war, he returned to his home and continued his studies at the Moscow University, graduating with a diploma. He said he was given a high position in government, but never joined the Communist party.

He has two daughters living in Toronto, Miriam Greenberg and Ariah Gulkin, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

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Activist named honorary consul

TORONTO — Alan Simons, a Toronto Jewish activist, has been named Rwanda's honorary consul general in Ontario.

At the same time, Simons' daughter Melanie is studying the similarities between the Holocaust and the genocide in Rwanda, following her recent visit to the African nation.

Alan Simons, who served on the former Holocaust Remembrance Committee, says his appointment to the mainly ceremonial position is appropriate, given the special relationship that has developed between Rwandans and Jews.

Last year, the Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre began a dialogue with some members of Toronto's 300-family Rwandan community about how to memorialize the victims of Rwanda's bloodbath and how its survivors can learn from Jews to open up and talk about the terror.

"How could you not get involved?" asks Simons, a 58-year-old executive, "when you see that 300,000 children were murdered and 400,000 were orphaned? How can one not get involved as a Jew?"

Simons got the post through his contacts in the Rwandan expatriate community. Last spring, Rwanda's government asked him to escort Séraphine Bizimungu, the wife of the country's president, through the Holocaust centre and its museum.

He won't be able to use the title in any official capacity. As honorary consul, he'll do some work with Rwanda's embassy in Ottawa, but mostly, he'll facilitate fundraising and plans for a memorial, and try to get Holocaust survivors involved. As he puts it, "It's honorary, but it's an honor."

It's estimated that about 100 Rwandans in Toronto are survivors of the 1994 genocide of roughly 1.5 million Tutsi and moderate Hutus.

"They're looking for guidance on how to express themselves," Simons explains. "But it's still too early for many of them."

Simons will also take part in this spring's third annual fundraiser walk in High Park for the Hope for Rwanda's Children Fund, a registered charity that raises money for the country's orphans. In July, he'll travel to Kigali, the Rwandan capital, for the Walk for Hope in Rwanda.

His daughter, meantime, is doing undergraduate work at the University of Toronto on the Rwandan genocide and its similarities to the Holocaust.

Melanie Simons, 26, who spent a month in Rwanda, says she encountered a "traumatized" country.

For one thing, most of the extremist Hutus who committed the killings are still at large, and the nation's shattered infrastructure can barely cope with prosecutions or with easing the plight of survivors, she says.

Bones and remains of bodies are being found every day, she says. "Children especially have been desensitized."

She started her involvement in 1994, when she helped raise $10,000 in emergency relief for Rwanda in a giant barbecue and garage sale.

But despite the trauma in Rwanda, she encountered a lot of optimism, as well as one overriding sentiment: "I heard from many people that 'it's only the Jews who understand us. It's only the Jews who help us.' They feel a real affinity to Jews."

— R.C.

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Greater Toronto Area

Photo rekindles memories for Kowno Ghetto survivor

By **CYNTHIA GASNER**
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — As he viewed a slide presentation of the Kowno Ghetto during a visit to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, Elly Gotz was surprised to recognize his old school.

Elly Gotz today.

When he saw the next two slides, he exclaimed, "That was my lathe," and then, "That's me and my students."

A survivor of the Kowno ghetto and concentration camp in Lithuania and of the camp in Dachau, Gotz told *The CJN* he remembers when George Kadish took the pictures, which could have cost Kadish his life.

Kadish, who lived in Kowno, worked for the German authorities in an X-ray lab outside the ghetto, where he had access to film and the equipment to develop his pictures.

Elly Gotz (centre), then a 16-year-old instructor, is seen in a secret photo taken by George Kadish in the Kowno Ghetto in 1944.

Gotz remembers when Kadish walked into the room where Gotz, then 16, was teaching metalwork and locksmithing. Kadish opened his coat, where he had hidden a camera, snapped some pictures in a few seconds, and quickly left.

Kadish, who escaped from Kowno in 1944, buried the film in metal crates in the ghetto. Later that year, when the ghetto was cleared and the surviving Jews were transported to Dachau, the Germans burned everything in the ghetto.

When the Russians arrived four weeks later, Kadish returned to the ghetto and secretly retrieved his films. He began sending his films to a kibbutz in Israel, where he later settled. In 1956, an Egyptian shell destroyed the building, and most of the film was destroyed.

The remaining film was later presented to the Holocaust Museum in Washington.

Born and raised in Kowno, Gotz was 13 in 1941 when he entered the ghetto. The ORT school's teachers built equipment there and taught the younger children trades; there was no other schooling. Gotz was first a student and later an instructor.

Looking at the picture, a copy of which he obtained from the Holocaust museum, Gotz said, "I loved teaching metalwork and toolmaking, [but] most of my students perished."

At Dachau, he explained, they needed technical people. "We were put to work building a giant subterranean factory for aircraft. It was a 12-hour work day and a hunger diet. Every day more people were dying of beatings, hunger and disease."

He says that working indoors saved his life and enabled him to get a job for his father. His mother was a surgical nurse.

"We all miraculously survived," he said.

After the war, Gotz, who is an electronics engineer, lived in Germany, Norway, Rhodesia and South Africa. He came to Canada in 1964 with his wife Esme and their three children.

In Toronto, he was a director of a Canadian plastics company and later managed several manufacturing businesses. Seven years ago, he became a director of the Toronto School of Business in Oshawa, Pickering and Cobourg.

"This is the only picture I have of the war years," he says. "The picture brought back my memories of being a teenager, which was very different from my children's teenage years. Life in Canada is wonderful, and I'm grateful that our children grew up in this wonderful land."

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Canada should speak

Poll after poll among both Israelis and Palestinians indicate that the majority of the two peoples still earnestly want the peace process to go forward. Of course there are profound differences between the two peoples regarding virtually every aspect of that process, in terms of its methods and its outcome. But it is nevertheless correct to say that the momentum of the current state of Israeli-Palestinian coexistence, as shaky as it is, inclines more to peace than to war.

In light of that majority inclination, it is very disappointing and disturbing that media analyst and political researcher David Bedein could find not even one example of materials or lessons within the Palestinian educational curriculum that promote peace with Israel.

Bedein goes even further. Not only was peaceful coexistence not being taught in the schools to young Palestinians in the self-rule areas, he told *The CJN*, but the curriculum actually displays "an attitude towards the inspiration of war."

If Yasser Arafat will not actively preach *and* practise peace towards the people of Israel, if he continues to ignore the entreaties of the Israeli government to prove his bona fides with deeds, then western governments should step in to forcefully make the case that a curriculum of war is intolerable and totally at odds with the promises and signed commitments he made to them and to Israel.

The government of Canada can and should play a role in raising the matter with him. Canadian funds may not be flowing toward the establishment of Palestinian school curricula, as Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) spokesperson Michelle Velleux advised *The CJN*, but Canadian funds are indeed flowing toward the establishment of a viable Palestinian economy.

It is quite appropriate for Canadian funds to be used to help prop up a Palestinian economy struggling to become self-sufficient. But it is absolutely inappropriate for those funds to be used to undermine the security of the Jewish state.

Canada, therefore, has both an economic interest and a moral obligation to speak out. We are listening.

Falwell's folly

The pages of *The CJN* have recently carried a number of stories and commentaries about the increase in some church activities, here and abroad, aimed at ushering in the next millennium by "co-opting" the Jews in one form or another. Whether the activities entailed proselytizing on the streets of Toronto or wreaking violent havoc on the streets of Jerusalem, the first targets are the Jews.

Now we read a report filed by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency out of New York of a different kind of Jewish "co-option."

Rev. Jerry Falwell has alerted his followers that the prelude to the Second Coming, within merely a decade, of the Christian messiah, will be the widespread of universal evil by an Antichrist who must "of course" be Jewish.

Falwell has a very large flock. His pronouncements are received by them, literally, as gospel.

We should be alarmed. These misguided, misinformed teachings are dangerous and contain within them the seeds of an outcropping of violence against Jews.

The leaders of the American Jewish establishment reacted swiftly and firmly to the reverend's foolish remarks. They branded his preachings for what they were: "anti-Semitism at best and anti-Semitic at worst," according to Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League.

But where are the voices of the Church leaders, whose words would have the greatest influence in setting the record straight?

WISDOM OF THE AGES
"And Moses said to the people: 'Don't be afraid. Stand aside and watch as God saves you.' " ***Parshat Beshalach***

Dry Bones

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Against barring non-Orthodox Jews from councils

On behalf of the 6,000 members of ARZA Canada, we recently wrote to David Sultan, the Israel ambassador to Canada, to express our distress at the passage of the first reading of the Religious Councils Bill, intended to bar non-Orthodox Jews from serving on religious councils. The bill violates the integrity of municipalities and regions to make their own decisions, as well as the spirit of religious tolerance enshrined in Israel's Declaration of Independence.

One cannot fault the minority Orthodox parties for acting in their own self-interest to attempt to preserve their monopoly over the definitions of Jewish religious practice and thought, even if such a stand is completely in violation of the democratic ideals upon which the Jewish state was created. It is unconscionable, however, for other members of Knesset to sacrifice these ideals for short-term political gain. We therefore urge you to communicate to the government our urgent wishes that they oppose any further action on this bill.

ARZA Canada, as the Zionist organization of the Reform Jewish movement in Canada, will continue in its ardent support of and commitment to the State of Israel, regardless of the outcome on this bill. We are also confident in the good sense and moral values of the people of Israel, such that passage of the Religious Councils Bill – or a revival of the notorious Conversion Bill – would only be a temporary setback in the development of a healthy non-Orthodox religious community in Israel. These actions, however, do have consequences. We can assure you that if these bills were to pass, the relationship between their supporters and their parties in the Knesset and the overwhelming majority of Jews in the Diaspora would irrevocably change.

Mark S. Anshan, President
Rabbi Paul Golomb, Director
ARZA Canada

All Jewish funerals went ahead, despite storm

Recently, Toronto was hit by storm after storm, bringing the entire city to a virtual standstill. The staff of the six Jewish cemeteries valiantly continue their job without interruption.

The Jewish community owes a debt of gratitude to the cemetery workers, who worked under these most extreme and miserable conditions. No Jewish funeral was either cancelled or delayed.

Rabbi Yehiel Ben-Ayon
Steeles Memorial Chapel

Clarifies views on spousal abuse

My interest in the question of spousal abuse, as dealt with in several recent issues of *The CJN*, lies in the Jewish concept of shalom bayit, peace and harmony in the home. When a married couple fail to achieve this, total war often ensues, and as I pointed out in an earlier letter, both partners have their own deadly weapons. One gender is not always totally to blame.

This invited Leslie Lutsky's response (*CJN*, Dec. 17). He chose to use my request for impartial understanding in marital breakdown to redirect the topic into criminal assaults against women. He supported his facts with alarming statistics drawn from the general population across the country. I suspect that, per capita, there are comparatively few Jewish rapists and Jewish murderers in Canadian jails.

Leslie Lutsky further implies that "every male" carries within him the seed of hostility towards women. This proposition of collective guilt would have to be examined by a professional analyst with extensive clinical experience.

However, the plight of women criminally attacked, as he strongly states, deserves society's serious attention and everyone's support.

Nathan Garnick
Toronto

UJPO protests anti-Semitism in Russia

In a letter to Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov, we wrote that we are disturbed by newspaper reports of growing manifestations of anti-Semitism in the Russian republic during the past number of months, including a bomb attack against a synagogue in Moscow last spring, the appearance of swastika-wearing neo-Nazis at Moscow underground stations, and the expression of violent threats against Jews by a "Communist" deputy, General Makashov in the Duma. Evidently, a motion of censure against his remarks was voted down by your parliament.

The statements by Makashov are reminiscent of the frightful era of the phony "Doctors' Plot" and the crimes against leading Jewish intellectuals in the last years of Stalin's life. We hope and trust that progressive politicians like you and others will do your utmost to curb the dangerous trend of renewed anti-Semitism from whichever quarter it appears. As has happened historically, this kind of racist incitement feeds on fear and insecurity and scapegoats selected ethnic groups, instead of tackling the real roots of discontent.

Military cemeteries throughout the Russian Republic, in Ukraine and other former republics of the U.S.S.R., bear witness to the large numbers of Jewish men and women who, together with other nationalities, laid down their lives in the heroic struggle against fascism. We urge you to do your utmost so that their immense sacrifice will not have been in vain.

David Abramowitz, President
Ben-Z. Shek, Secretary
United Jewish People's Order

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Perspectives

A problematic form of 'reconciliation'

By MARTIN LOCKSHIN

Most Jews feel that we have many legitimate historical grievances against the past treatment by the Church.

Many have been impressed and even pleasantly surprised by some of the steps taken by the Catholic Church in the last few years in its attempt to effect reconciliation with Jews and Judaism.

We carefully watch developments inside the Church with an eye to determining whether a new spirit really does exist there today.

In this context, was the recent decision to canonize Edith Stein a useful step towards rapprochement between Jews and Catholics?

As Jews we have no business telling the Catholic Church whom they should and should not canonize. But when we read newspaper reports suggesting that the canonization was part of the Vatican's efforts at reconciliation with Jews, we are perplexed.

Stein was born Jewish. After a period of years in which she considered herself an atheist, she converted to Catholicism. She became a nun and was eventually killed in the Shoah as a Jew.

The Catholic Church's recent decision to canonize her, i.e. to declare her to be a saint was not, at least in theory, connected to her Jewishness. Nor was it a result of her dying the death of a martyr.

A person is declared to be a saint in the Catholic Church only if it can be proven to the Church's satisfaction, that he or she performed some miracle.

A Church body investigated the claim made by an American couple that their sick baby was saved from death because of the miraculous intercession of Stein (to whom the couple prayed many years after her death). The Church was satisfied that a miracle had occurred and therefore felt that it was appropriate to canonize her.

Many Jewish writers commented negatively on this canonization, arguing that the Church was attempting on some level to Christianize the Holocaust, and was ignoring the fact that the grand majority of Jewish Holocaust victims were Jews who had not become Catholics.

To my mind, that aspect of the issue should not trouble us. If Catholics begin to pay more attention to the plight of Stein and other Catholics killed in the Shoah, it is possible that they will also pay more attention to the sufferings of our people.

What is more disconcerting is the rhetoric that surrounded this canonization. The Pope was quoted as having referred to Stein as a "great daughter of Israel."

Additionally, many newspaper reports characterized Stein's canonization as yet another example of the Church's new spirit of rapprochement with Judaism.

To understand why such assertions are disturbing, let us compare the story of Stein, the convert/apostate, to that of another convert/apostate, a man named Bodo.

He was descended from a noble family and served as deacon in the palace of Louis the Pious in France in 838. Bodo courageously risked his life by sneaking away from France to Spain where he was able to begin practicing the religion that he truly had come to believe in – Judaism. There he changed his name to Eleazar and wrote copiously in defence of his new religious beliefs.

If Catholics wish to understand how we Jews left when we heard that Stein was canonized, they should consider how they would feel if they heard that Jews had set up a new holiday to commemorate the life and works of the "apostate" Bodo-Eleazar.

Many Catholics might not have a problem with a Jewish decision to give new honors to Bodo-Eleazar. But thinking Catholics would laugh if anyone suggested to them that the Jewish decision to honor him should be seen as an attempt at reconciliation with Catholicism.

The comparison, to be sure, is imperfect. Even after her conversion to Christianity, Stein considered herself to be, in some sense, part of the Jewish people, and she was killed by the Nazis for that reason.

But I fear that many Catholics do not understand how offended most Jews are by her belief that she could be a nun and still be, in some sense, Jewish.

Perhaps the one and only aspect of the definition of "what is a Jew" that all Jewish groups currently agree on is that a Jew is someone who does not believe in another religion.

Here in North America that generally means that a Jew is someone who does not believe in the divinity and messiahship of Jesus.

For 2,000 years Christian and Jewish-Christian groups have been attempting to erode that consensus and to argue that Judaism is consistent with belief in Jesus.

Such attempts to challenge the right of Judaism to define itself continue. A recent (Dec. 21) full-page ad in the *Globe and Mail* asserted in very large letters, "Is it reasonable to be Jewish and believe in Jesus? We think so!"

It is crucial though that the Jewish community not abandon its hitherto united stance that the acceptance of Christianity represents an irreparable break with Judaism.

Many arguments can be cited for that position, but the most obvious one is the pragmatic one: once Jewish-Christianity becomes, God forbid, an acceptable form of Jewish identity, how long will it take for Jewish assimilation rates in North America to skyrocket to as yet undreamed of levels?

Stein was certainly a courageous woman who died for what she believed in. But Jews and Catholics must recognize that she pursued a path in her spiritual quest that is not consistent with Judaism.

When we hear that Stein was canonized we should not say to ourselves that the Church is reaching out to Jews in some new way.

Perhaps the canonization should best be seen as unrelated to any question of her Jewishness, and simply as a function of the Church recognizing a miracle story.

But if the canonization is related to Stein's Jewishness, then there is nothing new at all about this story and there is no new style of "reaching out" to Jews in the Church's decision.

A major problem for Judaism for most of the last two millennia has been the "reaching out" of the Church, at times aggressively, in an attempt to get Jews to cease practicing Judaism.

We are told that that is no longer the case. And then we see the Church conferring great honors upon a Jew who became a Christian and we are told how that reflects the new spirit of reconciliation within the Church.

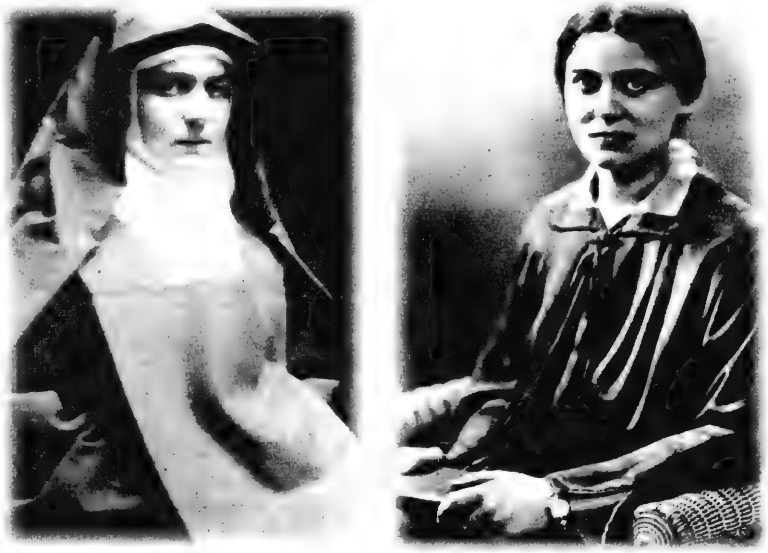
There is a strong temptation for Jews to say to themselves that the Church is delivering to us the same message that it delivered for most of the last 2,000 years: "We will show all love and honor to you Jews, as long as you cease practicing Judaism."

Let us not allow other religious groups to define for us what a Jew is. If Catholics wish to argue that Stein is their hero, that is certainly their right.

And while we may feel impressed by her courage, we must continue to say clearly that she chose not to be one of us.

Her canonization is, at best, to be divorced from the fact that she thought of herself as, to some degree, Jewish.

At worst, it should be seen as a step backwards, towards an outmoded and old-fashioned conversion approach to Jews and Judaism.



Edith Stein, in habit and plain clothes. [RNS/Reuters]

'Let us not allow other religious groups to define for us what a Jew is.'

Martin Lockshin is the associate director of the Centre for Jewish Studies at York University in Toronto.

Opinions

An ugly, fraternal argument

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

It's ugly, very, very ugly. Once again the so-called religious parties in Israel have gone into attack mode, defaming Jews both inside and outside Israel, seeking to strip Conservative and Reform rabbis of their title, and branding Jews who attach themselves to Reform and Conservative congregation as heretics.

Not since the wars of the mitnagdim against the nascent chassidic movement have such ugly words been spoken. Then it was the Gaon of Vilna who led the attack against the chassidic movement, which he considered heretical because of its approach to Judaism. Will we never learn?

Chassidism, whatever its faults (and they are many, including their joining with other ultras to delegitimize most of world Jewry) was not a heresy and has contributed incredibly profound insights into the nature of Jewish spirituality. But the ultras of Israel seem to be blithely unaware of the last outcome of such a fraternal argument – both chassidim and mitnagdim continue to exist side by side. And clearly they have no grasp of what happened the last time a real war between the Jews broke out.

Let me remind you.

The last time a war broke out between the Jews it lasted nearly a century, beginning with the rebellions against Rome that preceded the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE, and lasting until the slaughter of Bar Kochva and his troops in 132 CE. The Temple lay in ruins, Jews began a long, slow dispersion from the land of Israel and rabbinic Judaism had to begin the task of reconstruction.

Jews today are not the descendants of the zealots who died on Masada, or of the ordinary Jews and rabbis, like Rabbi Akiva, who saw Bar Kochva as their messiah. We are descended from the rabbinic mode that sought to live in peace with the secular world and with each other. We are the heirs of a tradition of dialogue and disputation, to be sure, but a disputation that seeks to draw us closer to the best we can be as human beings, not a gut-wrenching slanging match. There is no doubt that zealotry is an evil which has plagued us, but now to see it return in the parliament of the Jewish state, is disgusting.

And dangerous. One story from a religious friend. The bus was crowded with all kinds of Jews, black-hatted and bare-headed. The last to get on was haredi, and he asked those standing to move back. A bare-headed man half-way back responded, "The day you serve in the army is the day I'll make room for you on a bus." Within seconds most passengers were at each other's throats.

To see this dissension echoed in North American forums is even more frightening. It terrifies me to read in the *New York Times* letters from North American Orthodox Jews that we, the majority of North American Jews, are outside the pale. If it were not so ominous, it would almost be funny.

One of the favorite metaphors seems to be sports. It goes something like this: Sport has rules, and if you want to play baseball/football/basketball, you have to be inside the lines, playing by the rules. Otherwise you are out. You are playing some other game, but it isn't the one on the field.

Sport is not a metaphor for Judaism or any religion. Sports figures are elitist, overpaid, often violent on and off the field, and as individuals certainly are not the role models I would choose for my children. And rules unchangeable? No, they are not. They are certainly not Torah from Sinai, as any real fan will tell you. But whatever the case, I reject the sports analogy completely. And I wonder how the Reform rabbi I first heard use this analogy feels today, as he is "benched" by the Chief Rabbinate of Israel.

No, Judaism defies such glib analogies. It is not a contest, it is not a sport. It is a thriving universe of thought and argument, of insight into our most private fears and hopes, a river of ideas that is fed from many streams, each adding to the rush of waters.

And the arguments in the Israeli parliament hold no attraction for me; nor do they fill me with the kind of strength I seek from my religion. They are nothing but crass, political manoeuvres meant to wring more money out of the state (for which most of the constituents refuse to fight), to enlarge the power base of individuals who can teach no insights of Torah since they are blinded by hatred, and to defame and devalue other Jews whom they probably have never met in honest dialogue.

Ugly, very ugly. By the way, in the end, who won the wars between the Jews? The other guy.

Jewish input on protection of fetus needed

Bruce Elman in Edmonton

Last month, the Supreme Court of Canada heard arguments on a very difficult question: Can a child sue his mother for prenatal injuries caused by the mother's negligent operation of a motor vehicle?

The settled law in Canada is that a child – once born alive – may sue a third party for prenatal injuries caused by the third party's negligence. But whether the child can sue his or her mother for the mother's negligence during pregnancy presents the Court with a novel question and a complex one, for it ultimately involves the question of whether a pregnant woman owes a duty to the fetus she is carrying. (This explains the eagerness of anti-abortion and pro-choice groups to enter the case as intervenants.)

During the course of the hearing, Chief Justice Antonio Lamer cautioned that the Court might be usurping the role of the legislators with its decision. As reported in *MacLean's*, he said: "It's a legislature undertaking that is difficult for a court to do."

The latter is a familiar refrain in cases involving the protection of the fetus. In a 1997 case involving a young pregnant woman addicted to glue sniffing, the Supreme Court was asked to uphold an order which compelled the woman to "reside at a place of safety" and to "refrain from further consumption of drugs or other intoxicating substances until the birth of the child." The Court refused to uphold the order. The Court would not extend the common law jurisdiction of the courts, even to protect the fetus from the undeniably harmful effects of fetal alcohol syndrome.

On more than 20 occasions in its judgment, the Court stated that the matter was, more appropriately, one for the legislature rather than the courts. Even in the Morgentaler case, it was never suggested that the fetus be absolutely without rights throughout the entire pregnancy. In fact, Morgentaler is seen as providing the maximum opportunity for legislative decision-making. In another famous case, Tremblay v. Daigle, the Court suggested that the fetus could be treated as a person in order to protect its interest after it is born. The upshot of these cases is that the fetus should be provided with some protections during the pregnancy, but it is up to Parliament to define what those protections should be and when they should arise. Perhaps, some lessons can be learned from Halachah.

It is my view that Canadians are essentially balancers. When confronted with the conflict between the rights of the woman and the protection of the fetus, Canadians want to balance those interests. The position of the unborn child in the Talmud provides an interesting example of balancing. If the life or health of the mother is in danger, the mother takes precedence over her unborn child, for the unborn child does not have the status of a person in talmudic law.

Thus, abortion for the purpose of safeguarding the life and health, physical or psychological, of the mother is permissible in Jewish law. Otherwise, however, the potential future life of the unborn child is worthy of protection. For example, one may desecrate the Shabbat to save an unborn child, even if there is only a potential for danger, or even if the life saving measures may prove fruitless.

Halachah, generally, places an emphasis on obligations as opposed to rights. It is the obligation of the mother (and the father as well) to safeguard the unborn child. Thus, lifestyle preferences which harm the unborn child would be a violation of the obligation to safeguard the fetus. It is also the obligation of others to ensure that the obligations of the parents towards the unborn child are being fulfilled.

One might argue that, based upon this analysis, Canadian law should provide that once the mother has decided, by action or inaction, to bring the unborn child to term and not to have an abortion, an obligation arises upon the mother (and the father) to protect the fetus from harm that will be manifested once the child is born.

Over the past decade or more, the organized Jewish community of Canada – usually through the auspices of the Canadian Jewish Congress – has been involved in many social justice issues: capital punishment, day care, gay rights and others. Perhaps, in accordance with the general spirit of Halachah, advocating a balanced approach to the protection of the fetus should be Congress' next task.

Parents or peers: who's more important?

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

I am greatly indebted to Gordon Wolfe, executive director of the Jewish Family & Child Service of Toronto, who permitted me to use excerpts from an article he published recently. It appeared in the agency's publication *Family Matters.*

Wolfe outlines the fallout from a new book by Judith Rich Harris entitled, *The Nurture Assumption: Why Children Turn Out The Way They Do.*

Harris deals with the phenomenon that children who are brought up by loving and caring parents, and who are taught decent and thoughtful behavior towards others, occasionally turn out to act very differently. In such cases, their behavior is usually influenced by their peers: they have joined the wrong group, and its morals displace the parental nurture. That is the reason for the occasional terrible happenstance of which we read in the papers, that children from good homes commit crimes.

Harris draws the unpopular conclusion that "there is little evidence to support the idea that good parenting is responsible for the development of positive behavior, or conversely, that inadequate parenting produces problem offspring."

In response, Wolfe says there is no question that as children move through their adolescence, they begin to rebel against society and parental values, and seek acceptance and support from peer groups. However, it is also true that the less acceptance and support adolescents get at home, the more they will seek from their peer group.

Wolfe quotes child psychiatrist, Dr. Paul Steinhauer: "Although adolescents are influenced by their friends, deep down, the family's values are a core influence."

Wolfe believes that "many teenagers select precisely those friends whose values are congruent with those of their parents. But it would be erroneous to assume that either peer or parental values are all-embracing. In the large majority of families, the opinions of parents will be more salient on some issues, while those of peers will seem to be more relevant to a different set of problems, especially where the adolescent has no parental support on which to depend. The need to conform to pressures, whether they be from parents or peers, will vary. Personality, maturity, family relationships, as well as variables, all need to be considered."

Wolfe admits that Harris' book may help to widen our understanding of the role that the playground has in our children's lives, and pay more attention to the school yard, the role of teachers and the neighborhood, as well as other settings where children interact with their peers.

Harris may indeed have rendered an important service, in that she has called the family's attention to the friends their children acquire. The home should not assume that its values are automatically transferred to peer relations, but neither must parents believe that their teachings – and even more important, their example – have little influence on their offspring. Life is complex, and in this case it is both family and peers, home values and those of society, that help to shape a child's future.

The Kirshner File

Kay's fantasies capture world-wide audience

Once the stock-in-trade of lurid pulp magazines, fantasy has achieved a measure of respectability thanks in no small part to writers like J.R.R. Tolkien (*The Lord of the Rings*) and Frank Herbert (*Dune*).

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

But of late, Guy Gavriel Kay, a Canadian who has become one of Canada's bestselling authors, has played an integral role in the process of de-stigmatizing the genre.

Kay, David Ketterer writes glowingly in *Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy* (Indiana University Press), is "a storyteller of genius." Even allowing for hyperbole, Kay has certainly made an indelible impression where it really counts.

Translated into 14 major languages, his books have sold 1.2 million copies. And now his latest novel, *Sailing to Sarantium* (Penguin), his seventh since 1984, has recently been published.

Inspired by the reign of Justinian and Theodora in the Byzantine empire and the construction of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople, *Sailing* tells the tale of a Caius Crispus, a master craftsman who is caught between political battles and spiritual struggles.

Though Kay enjoys an international following, and is especially popular in Britain and Germany, his chief per-capita market is currently Canada.

"I can't complain of being a prophet without honor in my own country," he said the other afternoon in an interview. "I've been generously received here."

Kay, a former lawyer, is particularly grateful to Tolkien for having, almost single-handedly, created a huge market for fantasy.

"Fantasy is growing rapidly," he said. "It's no longer on the fringe. Look at *Star Trek* and the *X-Files*. They're in the dead centre of mainstream culture. Fantasy has the capacity to be as ambitious, as important and as thought-provoking as any form of fiction."

And in commercial terms, fantasy – and science fiction – are bestsellers in bookshops, he added.

The son of a surgeon and an artist, Kay, 43, was born in Weyburn, Sask., W.O. Mitchell's hometown. Mitchell set his novel, *Who Has Seen the Wind*, in Weyburn.

When he was two years old, his parents, Sam and Sybil, moved the family to Winnipeg's River Heights district. Kay was raised in a traditional Jewish home where books and learning were highly valued. As a child, he was an omnivorous reader and a natural writer. Though his reading tastes were eclectic, he was intrigued by myths, folklore and fairy tales, the pillars of fantasy.

At the University of Manitoba, he majored in English literature and philosophy, thinking he would teach or practise law. But midway through his studies, he was introduced to Tolkien's son, Christopher, by mutual friends.

Two years later, Tolkien asked Kay to spend a year in England helping him edit his father's final work. It was a remarkable opportunity which Kay gladly seized. "It crystallized in me an awareness that I wanted to write," he explained.

But urged on by his practical-minded father, Kay went east to study criminal law at the University of Toronto. However, he promised himself a sabbatical after his graduation. When he finally finished, Kay went off to Greece, to a fishing village, to write what turned out to be a much-praised but unpublished novel.

Back in Toronto after a year abroad, Kay entered Eddie Greenspan's law firm as an articling student. At the end of his first year there, he began to write *The Summer Tree*, the first volume of his trilogy, *The Finovar Tapestry*.

Kay submitted seven chapters to a British publisher and, much to his delight, the manuscript was accepted. After passing his bar admission test, Kay returned to Greece to complete this novel. His first editor, Linda McKnight, is now his agent.

By the age of 26, Kay turned his back on the law and began working as a consultant for CBC's acclaimed series, *Scales of Justice*. He remained with the show for about a decade as a writer, producer and director.

On average, he devoted seven to eight months of the season to *Scales of Justice*. The rest of the time, he worked on his books, conducting the research and the writing in Greece, France, Italy and New Zealand.

Today, due to family commitments, he writes exclusively in Toronto. He and his wife, Laura, a specialist in marketing for the performing arts, have two young children, Sam and Matthew.

Thanks to his success, Kay can afford the luxury of taking two to three years to write a novel. Apart from *The Summer Tree* and *Sailing to Sarantium*, his body of work consists of *The Wandering Fire*, *The Darkest Road*, *Tigana* (his breakthrough novel, he says), *A Song for Arbonne* and *The Lions of Al-Rassan*.

When the adrenaline is flowing, Kay writes approximately 1200 words a day. Although he plots out the theme and the characters in advance, he never knows where they will lead him. This uncertainty is a source of both stress and exhilaration. "I'd be bored if I knew the way a book was going," he said, subscribing to Graham Greene's famous dictum.

Kay is most at ease with the British style of fantasy, which requires a great deal of control and discipline.

"The perception that fantasy is written out of some amorphous, hazy daydream about dragons and elves is simply wrong."

Kay realizes that fantasy still has a credibility problem in some literary circles. Nevertheless, he is proud of his escapist fiction, a subject he likes to expound upon.

"Critics claim that fantasy hides from the real world. Yet the criticism ignores some obvious truths. All good storytelling is escapist in a very basic way. We are emotionally moved and intellectually engaged by what happens to the invented. This is true of all polished storytelling.

"In some ways, the journeys, quests and motifs of the best fantasy works can come closer to mirroring the inner journey of the human spirit than anything else. The patterns of myth, folklore and fairy tale that can be embedded in fantasy are ancient and immensely powerful.

"But fantasy is not just about magic and myths. It is also a way of dealing with history, with elements of the past, and this fascinates me."

Fantasy enables Kay to universalize a story. As he put it: "It takes incidents out of a very specific time and place and allows the author – and the reader – the possibility of seeing the themes, the elements of that story as applying to a wider range of times and places.

Guy Gavriel Kay

"It detaches a story from a narrow context and permits those aspects of it that engage the writer to be considered by the reader as broadly based."

In only one novel, *The Lions of Al-Rassan*, set in Moorish Spain against the backdrop of romance and divided loyalties, has Kay woven explicitly Jewish characters into the narrative. In this instance, they are a vizier and a physician.

"I was interested in the relationship between Jewish, Muslim and Christian cultures ," he said. "That struck me as a classic way to use fantasy."

In the future, he may well build a novel around a Jewish theme. "There is," he observed, "so much richness and complexity in Jewish history."

Hollywood film studios have expressed an interest in buying Kay's novels, and although nothing has been finalized as yet, Kay seems hopeful. Recently, New Line Cinema announced it would produce three films based on *The Lord of the Rings*. Hope springs eternal. Or so it would seem.

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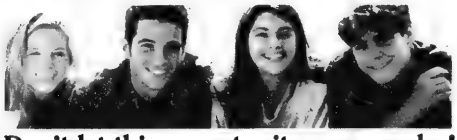

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Guest Voices

Hatikvah in Istanbul

By MAYA SHAPIRO

On a crowded balcony that frames the entire room, sits a middle-aged woman clutching the railing in front of her, and peering over the edge to watch the activity below.

The balcony railing is lined on all sides with gripping hands, some wrinkled and aged, others chubby and small.

From the packed floor of this modern but elaborately decorated synagogue in east Istanbul, rises a religious prayer sung loudly to the tune of Hatikvah, Israel's national anthem. Everyone is singing proudly in an ancient Hebrew that is tinted heavily with their Turkish accents. It is likely that they don't understand the words of the anthem, but the spirit is there.

The middle-aged woman grins secretively as she speaks the actual words to the Zionist anthem, and nudges the young girl beside her to join her mild rebellion. On this night, her personal plea for Eretz Tzion is drowned out by the prayer being sung. But in Istanbul's bold Jewish community, her voice is not alone.

On a recent trip to Istanbul, I had the pleasure of being a part of Turkey's Jewish community. I was struck first with the open and hospitable nature of the people I encountered, but what I remember most was the uniqueness of the community.

Turkish Jews are modern Orthodox. They are powerfully Zionistic and culturally connected to today's Israel. But they do not let their contemporary views interfere with a deep respect for traditional observance. In the absence of Jewish schools, Turks must learn this two-sided appreciation from each other.

The middle-aged woman who sat in front of me in the synagogue, was trying to pass on the love for Israel that she had learned in her youth. Her young relative was responsive, interested, and eager to participate; these are qualities that are quite common to the youth of Istanbul's Jewish community. They grow up proud and connected to their roots, despite an environment that does not at all foster the continuity of Zionism.

The singing of Hatikvah, or any Zionist song, is strongly discouraged by Turkey's adamantly nationalistic government.

Turkey is arguably Israel's most useful ally after the United States. It's geographical closeness, military strength and conflicts with Syria make Turkey a dependable friend to Israel. But Zionism is not allowed to be officially promoted, and any efforts to do so are kept secret.

The purpose of my trip was to meet with representatives from around Europe who are part of the same Zionist youth movement to which I belong. In Canada, it is called Young Judaea, and is most recognized by the six summer camps that it sponsors around the country. In Istanbul there is a chapter as well.

The members that are under the age of 18 know it as a club they participate in weekly. There, they learn Israeli folk dancing, interact with other Jewish children their age, and participate in programs where they learn about Israel and its relevance to their life.

In the midst of the seminars, discussions and programs that filled my days while I was in Istanbul, I was able to visit the synagogues and observe the vibrant Jewish community that my fellow members of the movement try so hard to preserve.

The image of that middle-aged woman clutching the railing and whispering words of Hatikvah will forever represent the community I found in Istanbul. And as I continue in my efforts for Canadian Young Judaea, I will encourage my friends here to develop the strength and promise that the Turkish community has mastered, with the hope that power does not only come from defiance, but from the freedom that we, as Jews have struggled so hard to enjoy.

Maya Shapiro is a student in Toronto.

Learning the Mishnah

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Next week's Torah reading is one of the most famous and dramatic of the entire year as Children of Israel receive the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai **[http://bible.ort.org/bible/htm/exodus/torah/19252001.htm].** But Jewish tradition has held that in addition to the written law, the oral law was also handed down at Mount Sinai. Without the oral law, along with the later rabbinic interpretations that were codified into the Mishnah and Gemarah, practising the commandments of the Torah would be impossible.

Because of its clarity, many people feel comfortable attempting to learn Hebrew-language Mishnah before taking on the Aramaic-language Gemarah.

Here are some places to start.

Virtual Jerusalem provides a good basic introduction to the Mishnah **[http://www.virtual.co.il/depts/torah/literature/mishna.htm]** but the best overview that I have found on line is written by Rabbi Simchah Roth **[http://www.jtsa.edu/lists/rmsg/intromishna.html].** It follows the development of the oral law and the reasons for its eventual written codification despite the original prohibition against doing just that.

To get the real feel for a page of Mishnah, take a look at Eliezer Segal's beautifully constructed work **[http:// www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/TalmudMap/Mishnah. html].** Segal has reproduced a typical page of Mishnah, this one from the tractate of Megillah, chapter four, which deals with the halachot of reading from the Torah and the Prophets. When you click on the text, you can get an excellent insight into the structure of a page of Mishnah, and the annotation which is indispensable to its understanding.

Although it will never replace a printed set of Mishnahs, you can read the entire Mishnah in Hebrew on-line, if you have Hebrew fonts installed. It can be found at the Hebrew University site **[http://www1.snunit.k12.il/kodesh/mishna/].**

There is a long tradition of learning and reciting Mishnahs in memory of the departed. The Torah V'chaim site **[http://www.yahrzeit.org/mishnah.html]** provides an explanation: "The Hebrew letters of Mishnah and of soul (neshamah) consist of the same Hebrew text. Thus referencing that the soul (neshamah) and the Mishnah are attached on a spiritual level."

V'Dibarta Bam is an Israeli organization that promotes the recital of mishnayot as a way of remembering the children who were murdered in the Shoah **[http://www.pirchei.co.il/toraorgs/vdibarta/index.htm].** Each school-aged participant is given the name of a child who perished in the Holocaust in whose memory they are learning mishnayot. Since the project was launched seven years ago, the V'Dibarta Bam program has completed five full cycles of learning an incredible six million mishnayot in memory of the young victims of the Holocaust.

Another ambitious project makes heavy use of the Internet to promote the study of Mishnah. The Rabin Mishnah Study Group **[http://www.jtsa.edu/lists/rmsg/]** is an e-mail list which "is dedicated to the daily study of Mishnah by lay people in memory of Yitzchak Rabin in the spiritual climate of Conservative Judaism." A Mishnah is presented in modern English with basic explanatory notes, and then members post their comments, queries and responses to the list. When discussion seems to be complete on one Mishnah, the process is repeated with the next. The discussion is lead by Rabbi Simchah Roth of the Rabbinical Assembly in Israel whose world-wide virtual classroom now boasts over 700 participants.

Next week, we'll continue our look at the Mishnah on the Jewish Highway and focus on its most famous tractate, Pirkei Avot, the Ethics of our Fathers.

***

Mark Mietkiewicz is a television producer in Toronto with an interest in the Internet. He can be reached at mdm@inforamp.net.

Rabbinic Reflections

Tu b'Shvat higi'a

By RABBI MOSHE J. YERES

Once again, Tu b'Shvat beckons us. As a young child, I recall being taught of its designation as the "Jewish Arbor Day." I remember sitting in a classroom, where every year our teachers would affix pictures of trees to the wall. We students would eagerly bring in dimes to purchase "leaves" to fill the tree. Ten dimes, 10 leaves, another JNF tree on the wall to which we could point with pride.

And we always ate figs and dates and *bokser* (even before carob became a health food) to recall the traditional fruits of Eretz Yisrael.

But Tu b'Shvat was always something more. To my teachers and rabbis, it was always a lesson on how Diaspora Jewry retains its connection to the Holy Land. The seasons of the year, the agricultural *Shalosh Regalim* were grounded in the climactic conditions of a country thousands of miles away, a country of which we, as youngsters, only caught glimpses, in black and white photos and pictures.

The centrality of Israel in our theology, philosophy and way of life was always a prime lesson of Tu b'Shvat and continues, of course, in our daily life. *Libi bamizrach* – my heart is in the east – was not only the call of Rabbi Yehuda Halevi, but of every Jew.

But permit me to share with you the philosophical feelings of a school boy. Tu b'Shvat to me was a transition day. In Israel, the almond trees were blooming, birds were singing from every rooftop, or so the Hebrew song went. Could spring be far behind? Besides the religious and naturalist nature of the day, Tu b'Shvat to me was a lot like Groundhog Day. *Tu b'Shvat higi'a* – spring is coming! There may be snow piled high outside, but old man winter is on the wane.

Without a doubt, the grass would soon be green again. Was this the overactive imagination of a young boy? Perhaps, but in truth, the rabbis of yore were aware that nature undergoes a change on Tu b'Shvat. The Talmud, in tractate Rosh HaShabna (Talmud Bavli 14a and Talmud Yerushalmi 1:2), suggests that nature is in transition at this yearly juncture.

One opinion notes that most of the rains (dare we Torontonians read here snow?) have ended; another states that until this day, the trees have drawn their sustenance from last year's rain; from today onwards, they draw their life force from this year's precipitation. Nature is changing.

So soon it will be spring, the snow will be melted, and we'll enjoy the warmth and green. Yet it is not by chance that the rabbis tied this transition day, this day of looking to the next season, to the *ilanot*, the trees. Trees, of all the world's flora, stand as symbols of permanence. Trees represent longevity, strength, imperviousness to the forces of nature. Trees represent the future, as much as they represent the past.

The verse in Deuteronomy 20:19 *Ki ha'adam etz hasodeh* is read by many commentators as a statement: Man is as the tree of the field. Tu b'Shvat looks ahead to what will come; yet the trees hark back and remind us of what was. The mighty oak with its strong, deep roots, with a trunk that withstands the harshest winds, can only offer us the message that we, as a people, Klal Yisrael, can only survive with firm grounding in our tradition.

Many peoples have tried to pull us down, to weaken us, to destroy us. But the trunk has remained strong, even if at times it is scarred. The tree has remained standing because it is grounded in firm roots. Our strength for the future is guaranteed only when we reinforce our past.

Rabbi Moshe J. Yeres is rosh hayeshiva at Bnei Akiva Or Chaim/ Ulpanat Orot Girls' School.

Books
Bernard Baskin

A colossus in history

***Moses A Life*, by Jonathan Kirsch (Random House, $38.50).**

Heinrich Heine marvelled, "How small Sinai appears when Moses stands upon it." A well-known historian wrote that Moses is the most exalted personality in ancient history. Another has stated that he is "A colossus among the great mythical figures of humanity." And the book of Deuteronomy concludes, "There has not arisen a prophet since Moses whom the Lord knew face to face."

Hollywood's latest celebration of Moses is an expensive animated epic, *The Prince of Egypt*.

Tradition has preserved Moses for us as an impetuous man; an intervener on behalf of the oppressed; an adjudicator, a person who shrank from his hard commission; was slow of speech; rose to the challenge of faith; a worker of miracles; a fighter grappling even with the Pharaoh and prevailing; a bearer of his people in his bosom; a provider; an intercessor who was humble, selfless, prodigious in his power to work, never rested, never gave up.

Yet, he is also described as a ruthless man of war, a punishing inquisitor, a figure of passion, contradiction and mystery.

There is no hard evidence that Moses ever lived. All that we can say about the historical Moses, states the author of this latest biography, is that "someone like the man described in the Bible might have lived at some unknowable time and place in the far-distant past, and his exploits might have been the grain of sand around which the pearly accretions of legend and lore slowly built up over the centuries, until he became the rich and provocative figure whom we find in the pages of the Bible."

But does his actual existence really matter? At the turn of the century, Achad Ha'am, famous Zionist, wrote: "Even if you succeeded in demonstrating conclusively that the man Moses never existed, or that he was not such a man as we supposed, you would not thereby detract one jot from the historical reality of the ideal Moses, the Moses who has been our leader, not only for 40 years in the wilderness of Sinai, but for thousands of years in all the wildernesses in which we have wandered since the Exodus."

Until the appearance of Moses, the ancients were open-minded about matters of faith: They freely borrowed each other's gods and goddesses; they sacrificed at each other's temples; and if they engaged in acts of terrible brutality toward one another in both war and peace, the carnage had nothing to do with fear or hatred of a rival faith. A kind of rough-and-ready utilitarianism was at work – if a strange new god or goddess seemed attractive or effective, then he or she would be embraced.

Moses changed all that. He insisted that all gods but the God of Israel were false. Moreover, he taught that the worship of false gods was not merely futile but utterly corrupt and perverse – an abomination.

Jonathan Kirsch, in retelling the biblical episodes involving Moses, interprets the familiar material in a keen, imaginative manner. More importantly, he brings pertinent material from the Talmud, Midrash and modern academic scholars. Often the views are contradictory or antagonistic and the result is a kind of jumble – but not too difficult to sort out.

It is curious that the name of Moses is seldom found in the writings that follow the Pentateuch. He is hardly mentioned in the Psalms or the prophetic books, and there is only one oblique reference to him in the Haggadah.

The rabbis venerated him as lawgiver and teacher, but they were always reluctant to overpraise him, for fear that God would be denied his due for the "signs and wonders" of the Exodus.

Moses, A Life is easy to read, undogmatic, covers a wide range of scholarly material, and introduces a wealth of kindred topics and subject matter that both teach and stimulate.

It is surprising that the author is not a trained scholar, but a student of the Bible whose previous book *The Harlot by the Side of the Road* was widely read and discussed.

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JTS honors Toronto educator

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A longtime Jewish educator was honored this weekend as part of a special convocation at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) in New York.

"This is a very special occasion for me. I feel like it's a culmination of a lifelong effort, and it's very exciting," said retired principal Esther Gold, whose 43-year-career included lengthy stints at United Synagogue Day School (USDS) and Adath Israel Congregation's supplementary school.

Gold was one of 10 educators to receive honorary degrees at the ceremony.

A native of Israel, Gold was born in Tel Aviv and raised in Bat Yam. Her parents, Rachel and Jacob Eisenstat, were Polish immigrants who met and married in Toronto before moving to Palestine.

Esther Eisenstat immigrated here in 1957, and entered the field of Jewish education "quite by accident," she told *The CJN* in an interview at her Thornhill home.

An alumna of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where she studied math, physics and statistics, Gold originally planned to become an architect.

But her father, who had close relatives in Toronto, moved here in 1956, and the rest of the family soon followed.

Gold took a job as a Hebrew teacher at Associated Hebrew Schools' Talmud Torah, a now-defunct, five-day-a-week supplementary school. She also taught Grade 2 Hebrew at its day school.

Her plans to move back to Israel changed when she met her husband, David, a native of Pinczow, Poland. They married in 1958.

Although Gold had four years of teaching experience when she was a student in Israel, and a strong Jewish background, having grown

Esther Gold

up in a religious home, she arrived here with no teaching certification – a situation she was quick to remedy. She graduated from Toronto's Midrasha L'Morim in 1960.

When Gold's first son was born that same year, she decided to stay home and "be a mama."

Her re-entry into the Jewish education world came when she inquired at Adath Israel's supplementary school about job opportunities for her sister-in-law, who had just arrived from Israel. Instead, she was offered a job herself.

Although Gold wasn't eager initially, she eventually accepted an eight-hour-a-week position teaching the honor class, which had an expanded curriculum.

After nine years of teaching and raising her two sons, she became principal of the school, a position she held for half a dozen more years.

She then spent two years as Hebrew principal of Associated's Finch branch, as well as a a smaller satellite branch, before moving in 1977 to USDS.

When her own children were young, day school wasn't a popular option, she recalled. "Now it's not just acceptable, it's almost trendy to send your children to day school, and people don't always do it for ideological reasons."

At USDS, she said, it was "very important that everything should be meaningful to the child."

Before retiring in 1994, Gold served as director of the Hebrew program at USDS's three campuses. Before that, she was a vice-principal and then principal of Hebrew studies.

Over the years, she upgraded her qualifications at JTS, earning a Master's degree in Jewish Education and a principal's certificate after several summers of study in New York.

For three years she was a member of the national board of the Jewish Educators' Assembly (JEA), the Conservative organization that nominated her for the honorary doctorate. She also served as president of the association's Canadian region.

Through her contacts elsewhere in North America, she realizes that "the level of Jewish education in Toronto is very high."

There are several excellent schools in Canada, she noted.

Since her retirement, Gold served for two years as co-chair of United Jewish Appeal's education division, and she has reviewed day school curricula on two occasions, once here and once in Winnipeg.

Although she misses her students and staff, she is delighted to have time to pursue other interests. She has joined two Hebrew literary clubs that enrich her life, she said with a broad smile.

Gold attributes her love of learning to her father, a self-educated man who "always had a book in his hand. He taught himself Bible and Gemarah, and he taught himself how to speak French... He always had very high aspirations for me. Not a big house or to marry a rich man – that was not important – but to be educated and to do things that are important to society, that was important to my father."

Amy Sky to perform at USDS reunion

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Popular singer and songwriter Amy Sky will be the feature entertainer at a reunion gala marking the 36th anniversary of United Synagogue Day School.

The event will be held Feb. 1, 7 p.m., at the Ford Centre for Performing Arts.

The gala will also kick off the school's first fundraising campaign in 10 years. The "Above and Beyond Excellence Fund" will be used in such fields as technology and arts integration.

The evening will include Jewish music, a video tribute, a silent auction and raffle, a light kosher supper and a dessert reception.

Publicity co-chair Rhonda Katz told *The CJN* that organizers want to encourage "parents, grandparents, teachers, staff and alumni" to attend, and have deliberately kept the cost low – $36 per person.

Students at each of the three USDS campuses are creating a quilt, which will be displayed at the gala. Afterwards, the quilts will be sent back to the schools from which they came.

"Everyone is very excited," Katz said.

Amy Sky

USDS is the largest Solomon Schechter day school in the the North American Conservative movement, according to a school publicity brochure. It was founded in 1961 as a Foundation Day School at Beth Tzedec Congregation. By 1962, it became the United Synagogue Day School, with an enrollment of 114 students.

The school expanded with the Jewish community, and in 1969 opened the Bayview Campus at Beth Tikvah Synagogue, followed in 1987 by the Richmond Hill Campus at Bayview and 16th.

It now has over 1,400 students, from nursery to grade 8.

For more information, or for tickets, call the school administration office, (416) 225-5928.

MINYANIM IN THE GTA
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Synagogue	Address & Tel.	Fri. Night	Shabbat	Sun. A.M.	Daily A.M.	Daily P.M.
Adath Israel (C)	37 Southbourne Ave. (416) 635-5340	5:05 PM	9:00 AM	8:00 & 9:00 AM	7:00 & 7:45 AM	5:25 PM
Anshei Minsk (O)	10-12 St. Andrews St. (416) 595-5723	5:14 PM	9:15 AM	9:15 AM	7:15 AM	5:05 PM
Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am (C)	55 Yeomans Rd. (416) 633-5500	5:15 PM	9:00 AM	8:30 AM	7:00 & 8:00 AM	5:30 PM
Beth Radom (C)	18 Reiner Rd. (416) 636-3451	5:15 PM	8:45 AM	9:00 AM	8:00 AM	5:30 PM
Jewish Russian Community Centre (O)	18 Rockford Rd. (416) 222-7105	5:06 PM	9:30 AM	9:00 AM	7:00 & 9:00 AM	5:00 PM
Kehillat Shaarei Torah (O)	2640 Bayview Ave. (416) 229-2600	5:06 PM	9:15 AM	9:00 AM	7:00 AM	----------
Sephardic Kehilla Centre [Abir Yaacob] (O)	7026 Bathurst St. (905) 669-7654	5:06 PM	8:45 AM		6:45 AM	5:05 PM
Shaarei Shomayim (O)	470 Glencairn Ave. (416) 789-3213	5:15 PM	8:45 AM	8:30 AM	7:30 AM	5:15 PM
Temple Emanu-El (R)	120 Old Colony Rd. (416) 449-3880	7:30 PM	10:30 AM	8:30 AM	7:30 AM	----------
Temple Kol Ami (R)	36 Atkinson Ave. (905) 709-2620	7:30 PM	10:30 AM	----------	----------	----------

This is not a comprehensive listing of the synagogues in the Greater Toronto area. The information is provided by the Vaad Harabonim of Toronto and the Toronto Board of Rabbis. The Vaad and the Board will periodically revise the listings. For statutory holidays, please call the Synagogue for any changes in times.

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Greater Toronto Area

Educating the public is key to school funding advocate

Continued from page 3

Charter couldn't compel the government to fund non-Catholic religious schools, neither did it preclude the government from doing so. The court left it up to the provincial government to do so, Levin said.

"People are surprised" when the decision is explained to them. "You don't overcome that skepticism overnight. It takes time," he said.

Furthermore, religious leaders and heads of congregations have to be convinced to lend their support to the community mobilization effort he and other volunteers have undertaken, he continued. "People don't want to be associated with a losing cause."

So far, Levin believes, he has made some progress in that regard. At Netivot HaTorah, parent volunteers have joined the effort in seeking additional signatures for the petition. Other schools have also cooperated by informing parents about the effort and circulating the petition, but more work needs to be done, Levin said.

"It's important to generate numbers to show the politicians" the breadth of the community's concern about the funding issue, Levin said.

Under current Ontario practice, Roman Catholic schools receive funding while Jewish and Protestant religious schools do not.

Levin believes the time is ripe to lobby provincial politicians on the issue, particularly since the Tories have announced they are intent on reforming the education system.

John Vannesalt, director of communications for the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools (OACS), pointed out that the Conservatives promised in their 1995 document, *Blueprint for Learning in Ontario*, to "examine the inclusion of denominational and other private schools in the [education] system."

Mike Harris, before he became premier, called on the former NDP government to seriously consider the issue while there have been other indications that the Tories are open to changing the current funding practice, Vannesalt said.

Congress has pushed for public funding for years

PEC was formed about one and a half years ago under the auspices of the Ontario Alliance, which represents 73 schools educating 13,000 students across the province. The purpose was to give parents the opportunity to get involved in political lobbying and speak on their own while "releasing them from organizational obligations," Vannesalt said.

Canadian Jewish Congress, OACS' counterpart in the Jewish community, supports PEC's grassroots mobilization. The Jewish organization, which has pushed for public funding for years, backed the court challenge to provincial funding practices and is now engaged in political lobbying.

The efforts of the Jewish and Protestant communities complement each other nicely, Vannesalt said. The Jewish community schools are centred primarily in Toronto while OACS' schools are located throughout the rest of the province.

Vannesalt and Levin say one strategy PEC is considering is presenting the completed petitions to local MPPs and asking them to read them in the legislature.

Vannesalt believes "there's a lot of sympathy for our position, especially within the government caucus, but that doesn't necessarily translate into action."

PEC is considering other high profile events in the Jewish community to raise its profile and mobilize public support, Levin said.

In a conversation with a senior politician, Levin was told the Ministry of Education received 86,000 letters, but " 'how many do we get on this topic? If this is such a bad burden, why aren't we writing?'

"We have to do things that make it clear we're not accepting this anymore," Levin said.

New venue for Yiddish scholar

Prof. Dovid Katz, Yiddish scholar and professor at Oxford and Yale universities, will lecture in Yiddish on the Jews of Lithuania and Belarus, on Feb. 1, 8 p.m. at Beth Tzedec Congregation, 1700 Bathurst St.

The lecture is sponsored by the Committee for Yiddish-UJA Federation and co-sponsored by Masada Chapter Farband of Lithuanian Jews, Friends of Yiddish, Kultur Gezelshaft and the Adult Education Committee of Beth Tzedec.

Katz's visit to Toronto is being sponsored by the Centre for Jewish Studies at York University as part of the inauguration of the Rabbi Nachman Shemen Yiddish collection at the University's Scott Library.

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Greater Toronto Area

Book on wartime Swiss refugee camps planned

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO – A Toronto woman is writing a book about a little-known aspect of the Holocaust – Jewish refugees in Switzerland during World War II.

Frieda Forman, 61, has first-hand knowledge of the subject. She and her parents, Austrian Jews from Vienna, lived in two Swiss refugee camps from 1942 to 1946.

They were among about 30,000 Jewish refugees admitted into Switzerland from the late 1930s onward. According to historians, the Swiss authorities turned away an equal number of Jewish refugees, abandoning them to their fate.

"The story of Jewish refugees in Switzerland has been virtually absent from accounts about the Holocaust," Forman said. "Though historical and biographical works are available in French and German, the documentation in English is so sparse that this aspect of the Holocaust is in danger of vanishing entirely."

Forman has read books which deal peripherally with her topic, among them being Yehuda Bauer's *American Jewry and the Holocaust* and Alfred Haesler's *The Lifeboat is Full.*

"These essential works, however, do not begin to touch upon the details of the camps, their social organization, daily life and cultural and religious activities."

In gathering material for her book, Forman researched the archives of YIVO (Institute for Jewish Research) and the American Joint Distribution Committee in New York City. The Joint, she said, helped finance the wartime refugee camps.

She hopes to study archives in Switzerland and Israel in the near future.

One of the documents she found was a press release issued by the Joint Distribution Committee in 1943 listing the names of more than 100 Austrian Jews who had found refuge in Switzerland.

Amazingly enough, she and her brother Max were on the list, as well as their parents, Kasiel and Malka Johles.

Although Forman has amassed a fair bit of research data so far, she has been largely unsuccessful in tracking down Jewish refugees, like herself, who went through the experience of living in Swiss camps.

She has interviewed four such persons, but none in Toronto or Montreal. She can be reached at 531-2905.

Forman and her family left Vienna in 1938, shortly after Germany annexed Austria. They went to Brussels, and when the Germans occupied Belgium, they fled to Lyons, France.

In 1942, her father, who had been a grocer in Vienna, was arrested by the Vichy French government and taken to a labor camp.

Morgins – a Jewish refugee camp in wartime Switzerland.

He was released a month later on medical grounds.

During that summer, just before the Swiss government closed its borders to refugees, Forman's family crossed into Switzerland from France.

They made their way to Geneva, and then were directed to a family camp in Morgins in the Valaisian Alps, a scenic region of immense fir woods known for its ski and tobogganing runs and ice hockey and curling rinks.

Morgins, some 60 km from Geneva, housed 400 or so Jewish refugees, mainly from France, Belgium, Holland, Austria and Germany.

After Morgins, Forman and her parents lived in another camp, Clarens, a suburb of Montreaux. Her brother was never in a family camp, spending the duration of the war in a Zionist training camp in Switzerland which prepared him for aliyah.

Jewish refugees themselves administered Morgins and Clarens, two of numerous such camps in Switzerland, and achieved a great degree of autonomy.

At these camps, Forman recalled, there were schools, synagogues, theatres, newspapers and other communal institutions. "In general, one was able to make a good life for oneself. It was a humane situation."

But, as she pointed out, the refugees, set apart by class and educational disparities and political and religious dissonance, did not always get on.

As for the Swiss, they treated the refugees with respect, but as outsiders.

In her research, Forman has discovered that conditions in camps were better in the French sector of Switzerland than in German-speaking areas.

She has also learned that Swiss refugee policy varied, depending on the currents of war. When the Allies were on the ascendancy, she observed, the Swiss tended to be more liberal.

Forman has mixed feelings about Switzerland. She is eternally grateful that the Swiss admitted her and her family. But she strongly believes that Switzerland could have let in many more Jewish refugees. "It's a story of good and evil," she said.

In the aftermath of the war, Forman and her parents, now deceased, resided in Geneva before immigrating to the United States. At City University in New York, she acquired an MA in philosophy.

After settling in Toronto, Forman – the divorced mother of two grown children, Gideon and Jessica – founded the Women's Educational Resources Centre at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

In 1994, she was co-editor of *Found Treasures: Stories by Yiddish Women Writers* (Second Story Press).

Shmuel Zahavy Cheder Chabad
mourns the loss of
ALBERT MANDEL ז"ל
We extend our condolences to his wife Hilda,
his children Cathy & Arthur Haladner,
Butch & Marlene Mandel, Tracey & Fred Rubinoff
and to his grandchildren.
Rabbi Yona Shur, Executive Director

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Greater Toronto Area

Prof. searches the world for Holocaust survivors' accounts

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Whether he is abroad on business or pleasure, Alain Goldschlager never fails to visit second-hand bookshops in his incessant hunt for Holocaust witness accounts.

Since 1986, when he started collecting the published writings of Holocaust survivors, this dogged University of Western Ontario French professor has amassed one of the world's largest collections of its kind.

His collection, housed in the university's Holocaust Literature Research Institute, which was formally established in 1996, now stands at about 1,700 volumes in a myriad of languages running the gamut from Yiddish, Hebrew and French to German, Polish and English.

As far as he knows, 6,000 such works exist, many self-published and out of print. His goal, daunting though it may sound, is to track down and buy every last one.

"It is a life-long mission," said Goldschlager, a 52-year-old shaggy-haired scholar who was born in Belgium and settled in Canada 30 years ago.

But realistically, given the fact that self-published books are uncatalogued, he does not expect to find more than about 3,000 of these memoirs.

"Anything over that figure will come to me in dribs and drabs," he said resignedly.

Goldschlager, whose paternal grandfather died in the Theresienstadt concentration camp in what was then Czechoslovakia, regards witness accounts as exceedingly important.

"Survivors endow the Holocaust with a human face. They remind us that it was not an abstract experience."

However, he acknowledges, professional historians tend to neglect witness accounts. "They are uncomfortable with personal narratives. They bring a neutral position toward events and see them as comprehensively as possible. As a result, an emotional and individualistic approach is not welcomed."

He added, "Historians spend countless hours sifting through objective documents, but they are reluctant to give too much weight to personal accounts because of their openly subjective stance."

Although he understands their concerns, Goldschlager ultimately parts ways with scholars who underestimate the value of survivors' testimonies.

Such Holocaust literature has interested him since Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel's second trial in Toronto in the mid-1980s. At his discovery, Zundel described Adrian Arcand, the Quebec fascist leader of the 1930s and 1940s, as a "gentleman." Alarmed by Zundel's benign characterization, the B'nai Brith's League for Human Rights recruited Goldschlager, an authority on Arcand, as a resource person for the prosecution.

As it happened, Goldschlager did not testify against Zundel. But in following his trial, he was struck by the importance of survivors' first-hand accounts.

"These witnesses made a difference," he recalled.

After the trial, Goldschlager began collecting Holocaust memoirs, though his original purpose had been to compile an annotated data base for combating revisionists like Zundel. Late last year, he finally transferred the material to the Internet.

Asked to assess the quality of eye-witness accounts, he said they vary. "Some are really extraordinary, while some are fairly laborious. At the highest level, you have Primo Levi, Elie Wiesel and Anne Frank."

At his own expense, Goldschlager has travelled as far afield as Brazil and Morocco to acquire books. He has spent roughly $30,000 on this quest, but says that his late sister, Isabelle, helped.

He and the University of Western Ontario are seeking private funding for the Holocaust Literature Research Institute. It is dedicated to David Blume, Goldschlager's maternal grandfather, who founded Belgium's public library system.

Funds will be used in the search, acquisition and analysis of texts.

Apart from housing and expanding the collection, the goals of the institute are manifold: to create an annotated bibliography of Holocaust literature produced by survivors; to operate a resource centre for professors and graduate students; to generate interest in a centre for Holocaust literature courses on the undergraduate and graduate levels; to organize seminars; and to establish links with other academic Holocaust research centres.

Wake-up call to Zionism

Born in Brussels, Goldschlager was raised in a secular household. His father, Shlomo, was a diamond broker who commuted to Antwerp. An Austrian Jew from Bukovina, he became stateless after Germany's annexation of Austria in 1938. By contrast, Goldschlager's mother, Edith, was a Belgian citizen.

During the German occupation, the Goldschlagers, including their son Christian, went into hiding. They were aided by gentiles.

An atheist, Goldschlager said he "woke up" to his Jewishness during the 1967 Six Day War. "We were worried Israel would be destroyed. It was our wake-up call to Zionism."

After studying French literature at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, he left Belgium, confident that he could advance his career faster in Canada.

"I didn't like the European mentality," he explained. "There was a lack of energy and drive. I felt constrained. My youngest professor at university was 48. He was a baby!"

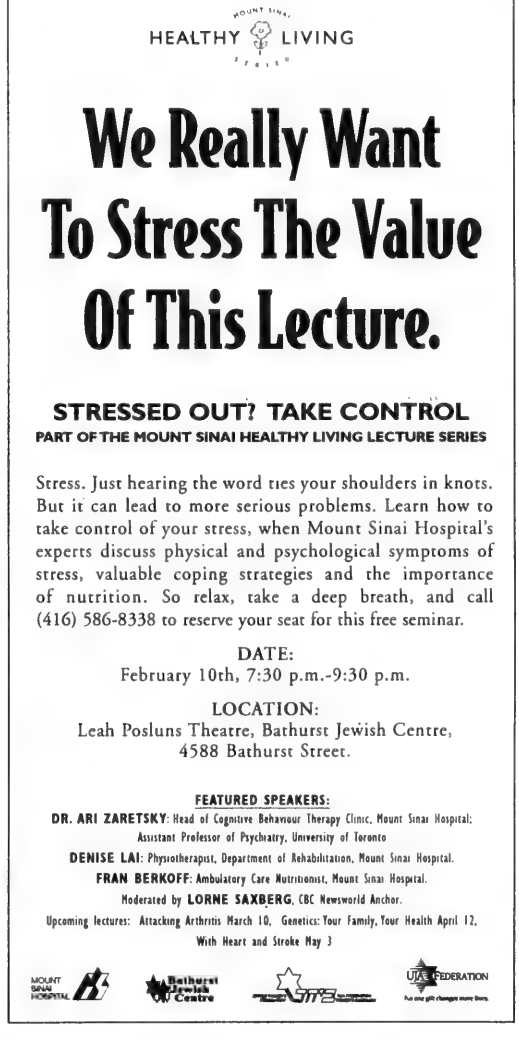
From 1969 until 1975, he studied at the University of Toronto. His PhD thesis was on Dutch philosopher Benedict Spinoza's influence on French religious writer Simone Weil. By the time he received his doctorate, he had already been a lecturer in French for four years at the University of Western Ontario, based in London.

Goldschlager and his wife, Lea, an Israeli-born primary school teacher, live in London with their four children.

A busy man, he is also national director of the Canada-Israel Foundation for Academic Exchanges. Its objective is to foster a better understanding between Canadian and Israeli scholars through exchange programs. Since its inception in 1974, the foundation has arranged about 300 exchanges.

Goldschlager's fascination with Holocaust witness accounts remains undimmed. Last October, he edited and contributed two essays to *The Shoah: Impossible Testimony*, a book about survivors' memoirs. And in November, he organized a conference in Ottawa dealing with memory and the Holocaust.

Alain Goldschlager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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Feb. 1, is deadline for Feb. 11 issue, and Monday, Feb. 8, is deadline for Feb. 18. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Friday, Jan. 29

SHABBAT SHIRA

Temple Sinai's Our Musical Legacy welcomes the Amadeus Chamber Choir, under the leadership of **Lydia Adams**. This Oneg Shabbat concert features works of Jewish interest. Services 8:15 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 30

CIRCUS PALESTINA

Beit Halochem Canada, Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel (Canada) Jerusalem chapter presents *Circus Palestina* (in Hebrew with English subtitles), about a small circus from eastern Europe coming to the Holy Land, two showings 7 and 9 p.m., Ontario Science Centre. $20 (students $10 limited amount) Reserve. Beit Halochem 787-8950 or Hana 905-707-5665.

TU B'SHVAT SEDER

Shaar Shalom Sisterhood celebrates the Anniversary Shabbat of Women's League for Conservative Judaism with a Tu b'Shvat seder. 905-889-4975.

THE SABBATH OF SONG

Beth Tzedec Shabbat Shira services with synagogue music from biblical to modern times. 8:45 a.m. Understand the meaning of prayers through beautiful musical interpretations of the sacred texts.

Sunday, Jan. 31

FAMILY PROGRAM

Ohr Somayach's Tu b'Shvat program, Endangered Species, a hands-on presentation by the Metro Toronto Zoo featuring animal skins, sheds and skulls. Children will also craft their own natural habitat. A lecture for adults by **Rabbi Eliezer Breitowitz** entitled After the Rainbow: Will God Let Us Environmentally Destroy the World? 10 a.m. to noon at 613 Clark Ave., Thornhill. 905-886-5730.

ORAYNU DISCUSSION

Oraynu Community for Secular Humanistic Judaism discussion, part 2, led by **Prof. Barry Olshen**, professor of Hebrew Bible, York University, on The Bible: Some Simple Theoretical Premises, 7:30 p.m., Bathurst Jewish Centre. Non-members $8. Reservations/information 385-3910.

RESOURCES IN ISRAEL

At Beth Tzedec Men's Club breakfast **Col. (Ret.) Yaen Vered** of Israel speaks on Natural Resources in Israel. Combined program with Jewish National Fund. Service 9 a.m., breakfast (nominal charge) 9:30, speaker at 10 a.m.

JEWISH WOMEN, FILM

Jewish Women, Jewish Film is the topic of Temple Sinai lecture with **Marsha Nicols.** 10 a.m. $3.

Monday, Feb. 1

MIDRASH AND MOVEMENT

Adath Israel and Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregations series Expressions of Judaism Through the Arts continues with Midrash and Movement, a dance presentation choreographed by **Shula Saltzman**, 8 p.m., Adath Israel.

Tuesday, Feb. 2

JEWISH PARENTING

Downtown Jewish Learning Council series Jewish Parenting in a Modern World continues with instructor **Rabbi Chezi Zionce**, 8 p.m., First Narayever Congregation, 189 Brunswick Ave. 924-6211.

Wednesday, Feb. 3

A PALESTINIAN STATE

A public lecture, Facing the Prospect of a Palestinian State, by **Dan Schueftan**, lecturer, University of Haifa, 7:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation. Sponsored by Insti-

Continued on page 19

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Greater Toronto Area

Shaare Zedek's Dropkin retires after 18 years

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Sheila Dropkin, national director of Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation, recently retired after 18 years with the foundation.

"During my tenure, the foundation has grown into a major Canadian institution with supporters across the country.

"Visitors to Shaare Zedek Medical Centre in Jerusalem are surprised to see the hundreds of plaques throughout the building bearing the names of Canadian supporters, and to learn of the many projects in the medical centre that are endowed by Canadians."

Dropkin, who was born and educated in New York City, received a bachelor's degree in journalism from New York University. She worked as an editorial assistant for *Mademoiselle* magazine.

In 1961, she and her husband Arthur moved to Montreal, where she was a volunteer director of public relations for the Cancer Research Society and a feature writer for *The Suburban Newspapers*. When the family moved to Vancouver, she established a local office of the Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science.

Shortly after moving to Toronto in 1979, she worked part time as public relations director at Shaare Zedek. She worked as assistant national director before becoming national director 14 years ago.

Bernard Abrams, national president of the Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation, is seen with Sheila Dropkin, former national director, at a retirement lunch in her honor.

"It's been a true pleasure and honor to work with the Shaare Zedek board in Canada, and on behalf of this outstanding institution. It is one of the foremost health- care institutions in Israel, with a remarkable staff, some of whom are originally from Canada. I'm proud to have had a role in its development and growth."

While with Shaare Zedek, Dropkin helped raise funds for the new Jesselson Heart Centre and the Woman and Infant Centre.

Renee Solursh, immediate past national president of the Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation, says, "Shaare Zedek Medical Centre and Sheila Dropkin became synonymous because of Sheila's keen sense of the needs of the hospital."

Dropkin also serves as national director of Canadian Friends of Massuah, a Holocaust education centre located on a kibbutz near Netanya. "I plan to continue with this position in my retirement and also hope to do more writing. Perhaps I will undertake public relations and event planning assignments for other organizations."

The Dropkins are members of Beth Tzedec Synagogue, where she is in the second year of a two-year adult bar/bat mitzvah class.

She is a member of Hadassah-WIZO, the Baycrest Centre Women's Auxiliary and she works out six days a week at the Bathurst Jewish Centre.

"There's a special camaraderie among those of us who are there at the crack of dawn, winter and summer, which has evolved into a family-like atmosphere."

What's New

Continued from page 18

tute for International Affairs of B'nai Brith Canada and Beth Tzedec.

And What Else Is New

ISRAELI POLITICS

Moshe Ronen, national president, Canadian Jewish Congress, presents Israeli Politics: An Update on the Middle East Peace Process, Sunday, Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m., Shaar Shalom Synagogue, 2 Simonston Rd., Thornhill. **Max Peters** 905-764-9915.

SHABBATON

Ohr Somayach Thornhill Shabbaton with **Rabbi Dovid Orlofsky** of Ohr Somayach Jerusalem, Feb. 5 and 6 at 613 Clark Ave. W. Rabbi Orlofsky will speak at Oneg Shabbat, Shabbat morning services and at shalosh seudot. Ohr Somayach will try to provide Shabbat home hospitality to all interested in coming to Thornhill to participate. For times and details, 905-886-5730.

A MUSICAL SOIRÉE

A Musical Soirée, presented by Hachnosas Kallah, starring **Julia Blum,** featuring Purim dances and introducing **Rinat Orr**, Sunday, Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m., Ford Centre for the Performing Arts. Women only. **Tami Janowski** 633-2479 or **Nise Rabinowitz** 785-7258 or **Sara Green** 905-764-5932 or **Faigy Lebovic** 781-0819.

AGNON'S ART

Downtown Jewish Learning Centre classes, Agnon's Art: Four Great Israeli Stories Revealed, focusing on Jewish short stories by Nobel Laureate for Literature **S.Y. Agnon**, Mondays, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, 8 p.m. at Bloor Jewish Community Centre. Instructor **Prof. Reena Basser,** director of Jewish Studies, Queen's University. $40. Information/registration 924-6211.

FIRE & ICE

Israel Cancer Research Fund's Young Associates party for those in their 20s and 30s at Easy & the Fifth (aka The Big Easy), Sunday, Feb. 7, 8 p.m. DJ, dancing, prizes, refreshments. $25 in advance, $30 at door. ICRF office 487-5246.

A BALCONY OASIS

Horticulture specialist **Felicity Lukace** and Sheridan Nursery manager **Amin Datoo** are co-sponsoring a gardening program at the Wagman Centre. Four sessions run Mondays, 2-3 p.m.: Introduction to Gardening, Feb. 8; Balcony Gardening, March 8; Germination and Seeding – "How to," April 12; and Containers/Planting/Transplanting – Your Soil, May 20. Cost for four sessions: members $12, nonmembers $20. Register at Wagman Service Desk by Monday, Feb. 1. **Mara**. 785-2500, ext. 2275.

FOR MUSIC LOVERS

B'not Aviva, Toronto Hadassah-WIZO presents a music lover's fundraiser For the Love of Opera with **Eric Domville**, Monday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m., 5 Glen Park Ave. $18. Information/tickets, **Bari** 658-0877.

ISRAELI DANCE & MUSIC

The date of the Ontario Folk Dance Association gala celebrating Israeli culture has been changed to Saturday, Feb. 27, (previously listed in Jan. 21 column). **Myrna Levine** 499-2283

BOOK DISCUSSION

Fugitive Pieces by **Ann Michaels** will be discussed at the Feminist Book Discussion Group, North York chapter, Older Women's Network, 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 7, Barbara Frum Library. **Mildred Selznick** 488-2287.

ART AUCTION

Creative Spirit Art Centre annual Straight From the Heart Silent Auction fundraiser supports Creative Spirit, a place dedicated to help people with disabilities find a voice through the creation of art. Opening reception Wednesday, Feb. 3, 7-9 p.m. and closing reception and final bidding Sunday, Feb. 14. Auction takes place at Creative Spirit, 1071 Bathurst St., and La Parate Gallery, 1086 Bathurst St. 588-8801.

SINGLES SCENE

Oneg Shabbat: 25-35 group, Friday, Jan. 29, 7 p.m. $20. and for 35-55 group, Friday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m. $20. Reserve. 633-3838.

Ski Sunday, Feb. 14, at Horseshoe Valley, includes bus ride up. Reserve. 905-731-9441 (20 people from each group).

Upcoming events: Trivia Night, Bowling, Comedywood.

JF&CS

Jewish Family & Child Service **Pat Lieberman** 638-7800, ext. 215

Separation & Divorce Workshops:

When You're About to Separate: What to Tell the Kids, Feb. 2. Facilitator **Elinor Gertner**.

Shared Parenting: Making It Work, Feb. 23. Facilitator **Nancy Kumer**.

Groups: Positive Parenting, daytime and evening, begins Jan. 28; Do Your Kids Have Trouble Making Friends?, 7-12 years, begins Feb. 1; Parenting Teens: How to Live With the Challenge of Teenagers begins Feb. 17; Separation & Divorce begins Feb. 16.

FOR SENIORS

Beth Tzedec Seniors Haverim program, *A Place to Save Your Life*, a documentary of Jews in Shanghai by producer/writer **Karen Shopsowitz** , Monday, Feb. 1, 1:30 p.m.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Jan. 28 is an evening of song. **Jerry Bengall** 905-707-7334.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club: Israel trip Feb. 28, with nine full days of touring; In the planning, two musicals. *A Foggy Day* at Shaw Festival, and *West Side Story* at Stratford, cruises. **Lena** 785-5773. Golden Book donations go to Laniado Hospital in Israel. **Dorothy Bloomfield** 787-1526.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club Casino Rama trips, Feb. 10, 24, March 10, 24. membership open $12. 395-7881.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

Low Vision Support Group Tuesday, Feb. 2, 1:15-2:30 p.m. **Dr. Lois Calder**, optometrist, Update on Macular Degeneration.

Intergenerational Choir performance to celebrate Tu b'Shvat with Bernard Betel Centre Choir and Students' Choir from United Synagogue Day School, Wednesday, Feb. 3, 1:15 p.m.

Caregiver Education series continues with **Linda Gautier**, Canada Mortgage &Housing Corporation, discussing Subsidies for Home Adaptations for Seniors Independence – What Is Available? and occupational therapist **Judy Kurtz** presenting Getting You Through the Front Door, a review of home modifications and self-care aids. Thursday, Feb. 4, 1:15 p.m.

Arthritis Management Clinic, **Bev Tobe,** therapist with Arthritis Society, individual assessments, pain management. Thursday, Feb. 4, 1-4 p.m. Make appointment at Wellness Desk.

Israeli Club Etrog meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays for music, sing-alongs, lectures, bingo, dances. Feb. 2 is a Tu b'Shvat party. **Anna**.

BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

Books and Bagels welcomes **Ben Schlesinger**, professor emeritus, Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto, Sunday, Jan. 31, 11 a.m. He will read and discuss his latest book, *The Family Squeeze: Surviving the Sandwich Generation*, co-authored with **Suzanne Kingsmill**. 11 a.m. Non-members $8.

Seniors Club: Scientist **Steve Mann** from the Rotman research Institute at Baycrest Centre speaks about Memory, Aging and the Brain, Thursday, Jan. 28, 2 p.m. **Judy**.

BATHURST JC

Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 633-1880.

My Jewish Discovery Place Children's Museum Tu b'Shvat Holiday Happening, singing, dancing, treeplanting, storytelling, games, ritual meal, Sunday, Jan. 31, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. $2. members free. ext. 456 or 390 .

Nursery daycare spaces available. Enriched program includes Hebrew, music and swim, ext. 248.

ABOUT PEOPLE

BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS

Steven Rosenhek has been elected president of Canadian Bar Association – Ontario (CBAO) for the 1998-99 year. a CBAO member since 1983, Rosenhek received his BA from Carleton University,his LLB from the University of Toronto and his LLM from Cambridge University. He was called to the bar in 1984 and is a partner in the litigation department of McCarthy Tétrault in Toronto. He is a special lecturer at the Faculty of Law at U of T.

Steven Rosenhek

GUEST SPEAKER

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section, and Jewish Women's Federation sponsored New York archivist Bonnie Gurewitsch talking on The Camp Sister Relationship, from her book *Mothers, Sisters, Resisters*. From left, Roz Fine, president NCJW, Toronto Section; Janice Langer, president, Jewish Women's Federation; Bonnie Gurewitsch, guest speaker; Howard Driman, 1998 chair of Holocaust Education Week.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20

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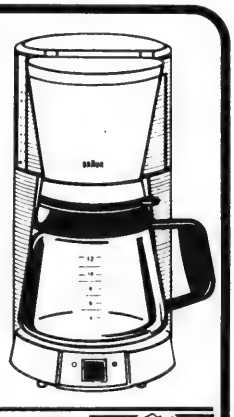

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Canadian to deliver prestigious lecture in Scotland

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO – For the first time, a professor at a Canadian university has been selected to deliver the prestigious Lord Hay of Seaton Lecture at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

Prof. David Novak, the J. Richard and Dorothy Shiff Chair of Jewish Studies and the director of the Jewish studies program at the University of Toronto (U of T), will deliver the Seaton lecture on Feb. 16.

The following day Novak will present the same lecture, entitled Judaism and Christianity and the Moral Crisis of Our Time, at the Jewish Policy Centre in London, England.

According to Novak, the late Malcolm Hay, who was the last Lord of Seaton and heir to one of the greatest and oldest estates in Scotland, became deeply concerned about the Jewish victims of Nazi persecution during World War II, and thus he devoted considerable effort to saving as many Jewish lives as he could.

Prof. David Novak

Novak said Hay subsequently dedicated himself to fighting sources of anti-Semitism and published a widely acclaimed book, *Thy Brother's Blood*. After his death in 1960, his widow continued his work and upon her death, she left a bequest for a lecture in her husband's memory to be given from time to time on Jewish-Christian relations.

Previous Seaton lecturers have included Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, head of the Vatican Secretariat on Jewish-Christian Relations, and Abba Eban, the former foreign minister of the State of Israel, Novak noted.

The U of T professor, who teaches in the philosophy and religion departments as well as the Joint Centre for Bioethics and the Institute of Medical Science, was the Edgar M. Bronfman Professor of Modern Judaic Studies at the University of Virginia from 1989-97.

Novak has had 10 books published, the latest being *Natural Law in Judaism* (Cambridge University Press, 1998). His 11th book, *Covenantal Rights*, is slated to be published by Princeton University Press in 1999.

He said that as totalitarian regimes have receded in the last two decades, there is less internal unanimity in the West on moral questions.

In the Seaton lecture, Novak said he will discuss the secular and Jewish responses to such important moral issues as the beginning and end of human life, human relationships, and the deep divisions in democratic societies.

"Clearly, religious communities cannot be oblivious to this state of affairs," he told *The CJN*.

He noted that the difference between Judaism and Christianity is over what constitutes the fullest possible relationship with God in this world, and who will bring about the future kingdom of God.

"The crucial difference is not moral," he said. "In morality there is or can be virtual unanimity between these two communities, one that is more than a matter of historical remembrance alone."

He said he believes that Judaism and Christianity, "even though well known for their historical animosity one to the other, can now constitute a new relationship of dialogue and cooperation when that relationship is centred on their joint moral message for the world at large."

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The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries they may have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.

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FIRE & ICE - ICRF's Young Associates invite all those in their 20's & 30's to party @ Easy & the Fifth (A.K.A. **The Big Easy**) **Sun. February 7, 8p.m.** We promise a Great Party! D.J! Dancing! Refreshments! Prizes! **Tickets - $25 in advance,** $30 @ door. For tickets call ICRF office at 416-487-5246.

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PA 'preparing children for war'

Continued from page 1

During his North American visit, he also travelled to Washington to brief congressional staffers on his findings.

The United States along with several European countries and even Canada help finance Palestinian schools through the PA' s ministry of education, he said. Educators from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and from among the Palestinians themselves help create the curricula used in PA schools, he added.

CIDA spokesperson Michelle Velleux rejected suggestions that Canada had helped fund Palestinian education programs.

After checking with its Ramallah office, CIDA concluded, "We are not funding any project involving financing of curricula."

Bedein has been drawing attention to warlike Palestinian rhetoric for some time, but he believes the situation has worsened in recent months.

"Before there were intermittent instances of Palestinian children being called to war. Now it's the official curriculum of the Palestinian Authority," he said.

During celebrations marking the fifth anniversary of Oslo last year, Bedein met with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat and asked him about the school curricula.

Arafat denied Palestinian children were being taught anything "against the Jews and he spoke about people-to-people programs for Israeli and Palestinian children," Bedein said.

But after further investigation back in Israel, "I found out that the PA had vetoed the programs after they had received funding for them." Bedein claimed the programs were cancelled "on Arafat's orders."

"There is no evidence that the PA ever had intended to have a peace curriculum," he said. "This was a means of getting easy money from foreign governments."

Bedein believes Arafat, the PA and the Palestine Liberation Organization "have a purpose. Their purpose is to reclaim the land of Palestine...and to train its children to do so."

Arafat, he added, continues to plan for the day when a Palestinian state will replace the State of Israel.

'Take a look at the reality'

That analysis helps explain the day-to-day difficulties in the peace process. "Hundreds of different circles in Israel and abroad give the impression there are no real problems with the peace process, just a few technical things to work out.

"The reality, however, is that the PA is implementing a school curriculum that "fights against peace...People should suspend their own views of the peace process and take a look at the reality on the ground," he said.

Bedein, who acknowledges his views place him on the right wing of Israeli politics, said his news agency is supported by private contributions from the United States and Israel – particularly from Holocaust survivors.

His major supporter is the Daniels Foundation of Florida while three other U.S. families and some in Israel also provide him with financial backing.

On Campus

Journalists discuss media's coverage of Middle East

By ELISE LEVINOFF
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Students at York University got the scoop on Israel and the media, as part of Israel Week on Campus.

Mordechai Ben-Dat, *CJN* editor, and Eliot Zimelman, assistant foreign editor of the *National Post*, spoke about the current situation regarding Israel and the media at a recent program.

The program dealt with perceptions of how western journalists report current events from Israel. It also gave students a sense of how journalists in Israel deal with news-breaking stories without allowing their opinions to overshadow their report.

Ben-Dat, speaking about bias in media coverage in the Diaspora, said it is important for Jewish readers to be able to recognize what is misleading in the media.

He said that reporters in general, and especially those covering Middle East affairs, tend to work in packs, and that the western world tends to be more sympathetic to the Palestinian cause than to the Israeli cause.

Zimelman, who worked for nine years at the *Jerusalem Post*, as page designer, copy editor and night editor, said Israeli and western journalists shared similar problems. He said the Israeli media tends to be provocative against the government in power and also has a tendency to attack the right.

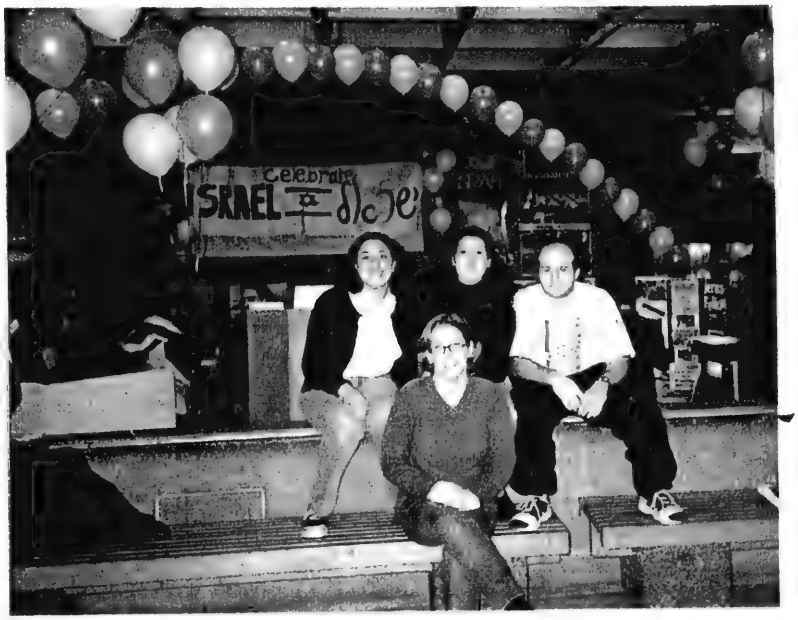
Objective reporting

Zimelman also spoke about how Israeli journalists reporting in Israel need to separate themselves from their passion for Israel, and report in an objective manner. When he covered Yitzhak Rabin's assassination in 1995, he needed to be objective, and at the same time, deal with his own issues about the tragedy, he said.

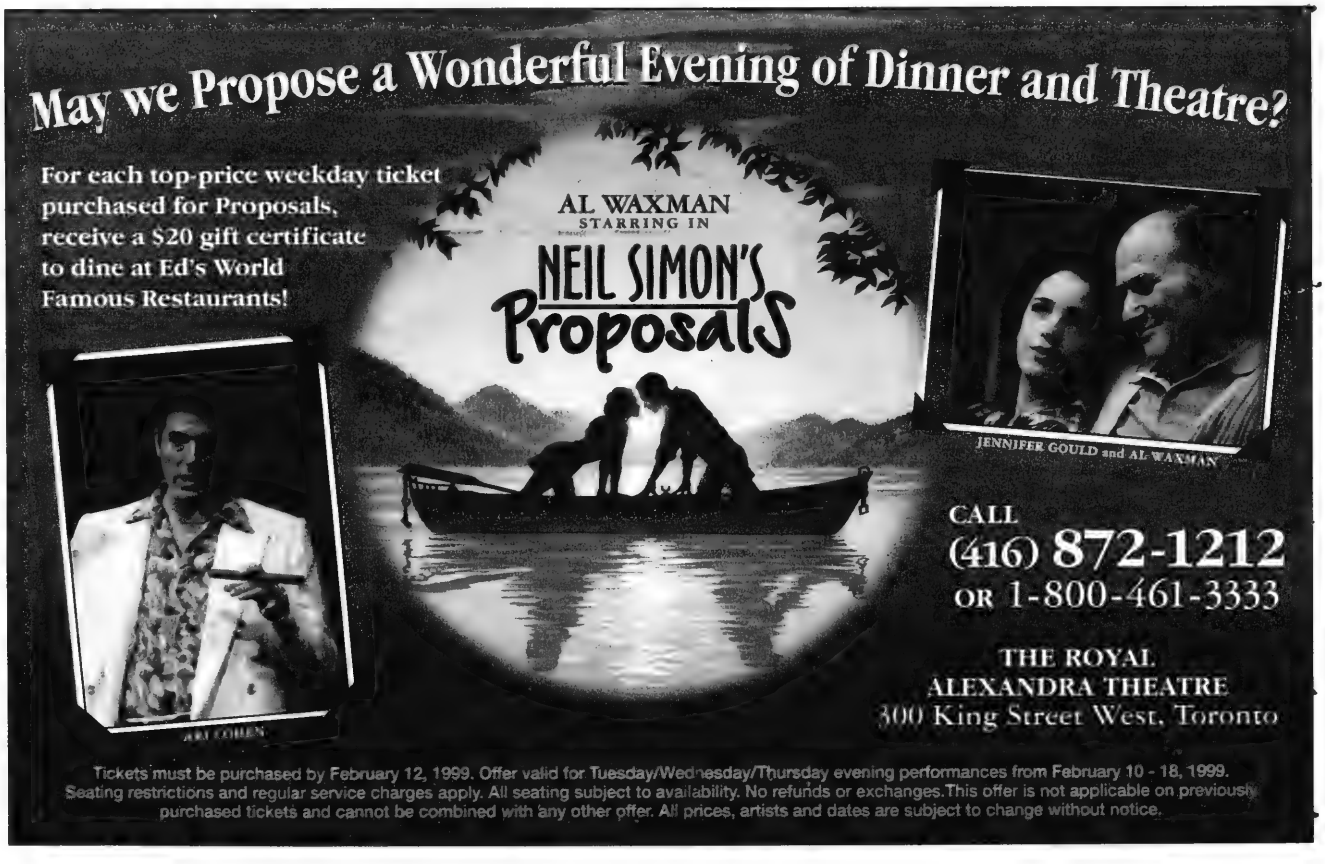
The event, sponsored by Jewish Campus Services, was one among several planned by York students.

There was also an Israel Fair supplying information about Israel's people, history, religious affiliations, technology and summer programs.

Elise Levinoff is a student at York University. She co-chaired Israel Week.



York University's Bear Pit was the scene of an Israel Fair during Israel Week on Campus. Ellie Richmond, president of the university's Jewish Student Federation, is in front. Behind her, Stephanie Wener, JSF program director, is flanked by Israel Week co-chairs Elise Levinoff (left) and Sharon Aba.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Coast to Coast

Winnipeg Reform rabbi to marry same sex couples

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — After an almost eight-year struggle to get the Reform movement accepted within the greater Jewish community here, Temple Shalom's new spiritual leader, Rabbi Michael Levenson, is in the middle of a controversy.

The board has approved the rabbi's request to perform mixed and same sex marriages in Winnipeg for the first time.

"I have heard the arguments that this decision will hurt the community and weaken the Jewish people," says Rabbi Levenson, who took over the pulpit from Rabbi Jeffrey Gale in the fall. "I sympathize with my colleagues and other critics' position, but I disagree. I believe this will strengthen the community by bringing in more people than we lose."

The widespread national publicity that his position has garnered, Levenson says, has also resulted in a torrent of hate mail, much of it from Alberta.

Rabbi Levenson, who was ordained from Hebrew Union College about 20 years ago, grew up in an Orthodox home in Montreal, but turned to the Reform movement in his teens. He led congregations in the United States, and for the past two years, had been back in Montreal.

"I wanted to stay in Canada within the Reform movement," he says.

"There was an opening, and Winnipeg seemed to be a nice place to settle. This is a warm community.

"The challenge is to build up a relatively small congregation in a somewhat declining, largely Conservative and traditional Jewish community."

Levenson notes that his decision to perform mixed and same sex marriages is a position that has evolved over the years. "The Reform movement does not encourage this. Rather, the decision is left to the individual rabbi.

"I have given this tremendous thought. When you are young, your principles are intact. When you are older, you see more clearly the subtleties. It disturbed me to see the growing number of gay congregations for example. We need to include all Jews in the community, not segregate some as pariahs."

When Rabbi Levenson was interviewed at Temple Shalom, he made clear his intention to perform mixed and same sex marriages. The congregation was willing to accommodate his desires.

"We didn't rush into this," says Joann Greisman, the congregation's president. "It took us four months to write our new policies. Rabbi Levenson obviously has given his position a great deal of thought, and that impressed us."

Levenson says that the board and the congregation have backed him despite the controversial nature of the decision. He says that half the members are from interfaith marriages or partnerships where one person is a convert.

Although Rabbi Levenson has yet to perform a marriage ceremony for a gay or an interfaith couple, he has a number scheduled for the spring.

He emphasizes, however, that he doesn't intend for Temple Shalom to become an "interfaith factory," where couples come for quickie marriages and disappear. He will insist that bride and groom (or the gay partners) study Judaism with him for a year, and participate actively in the synagogue and Jewish community.

"There has to be a spiritual commitment, whether those involved are Jewish or non-Jewish," he says.

Since Rabbi Levenson came to Temple Shalom, between 20 and 25 new families have joined, boosting membership to about 112 people.

Kallah an eye-opener for Ontario teens

BARRIE — Twenty teengers and seven staffers took part in this year's Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario region (CJC) high school outreach program for teens living in small communities.

For 13-year-old Steve Gillman of Peterborough, and other participants in the program, the kallah was "an eye opener. I joined the three-year education program because I wanted to learn more about the Holocaust and contemporary Jewish history," said Gillman, following the weekend program at the Wildfire Outdoor Education Centre.

After a talk on racism and neo-Nazism in Canada, by Dani Fine, CJC, Ontario region's director of community relations, Gillman said, "I did not realize that there had been lots of Neo-Nazi and racist activities in Canada in recent times."

Leanne Rosen, program coordinator, said that Fine's address "provoked much discussion. We talked about scapegoating, how people become racist and hatemongers, and how to react to anti-semitic or racist incidents."

The group is planning a trip to Washington during March break, which will include a visit to the U.S. Holocaust Museum.

Seth Winberg, 15, of Oakville felt that "We really jelled together as a group at this kallah."

Volunteer Ari Shapiro observed "lots more cohesiveness and friendships among the teenagers."

Rosen organized activities such as the Jewish Survival Game, in which teens were divided into groups, and had to decide which three aspects they chose as critical to Jewish survival.

All four groups selected God and Torah as Rosen expected, but she found it interesting, she said, that they also chose Jewish friends and youth groups.

"Because the youngsters live in small communities, where they may be the only Jew in their high school, Jewish friends and youth groups become a more important issue than keeping kosher and keeping the Shabbat."

Debates by Michael Soberman, CJC Ontario region's director of community services and youth activities, and volunteer Michael Ostroff, featured such topics as the use of research from medical experiments during the Holocaust, and Faith and God after the Holocaust.

Kallah participants voiced their opinions and questioned the panelists. There was also a discussion following the viewing of the film *Schindler's List.*

Emmalea Davis, 13, of Dunsford (near Peterborough) said, "I was most interested how people reacted or did not react to the Holocaust," she said.

Volunteer Sarah Chalmers, 18, of Peterborough, an alumnus of the last outreach program, was asked several questions about Israel. The three-year outreach program culminates with a trip to Israel in the summer of 2000.

At the winter kallah near Barrie students come together in a sing-along. Clockwise from Seth Winberg, Oakville, on guitar, are Sarah Albert, Peterborough; Michael Brenner, Barrie; Adam Levine, Barrie; Alexandra Rawek, Peterborough; Leah Chalmers, Peterborough; Sarah Chalmers (alumnus), Peterborough; and Steve Mendel Burlington.

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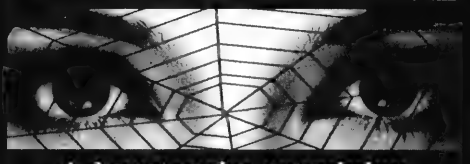

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Coast to Coast

יידיש ווינקל
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רעדאגירט פון ש. ליפשיץ

90 יאָר זינט דער גרינדונג פון „היינט" אין פּוילן
פון אַלעק סילווער

וועגן דער שווערער לאַגע פון דער יידישער פּרעסע אויף דער וועלט איז שוין זייער אַ סך געשריבן געוואָרן. צום באַדויערן ווערט די לאַגע ערגער פון יאָר צו יאָר. דאָס איז נישט קיין סוד פאַר קיי-נעם, ספּעציעל נישט פאַר די יידיש־לייענערס, וואָס זעען ווי זייער יידיש לייען־מאַטעריאַל ווערט שנעל איינגעשרומפּן. נישט נאָר איז די דאָזיקע לאַגע באַשריבן געוואָרן אין יידישע צייטונגען, וואָס ראַנגלען זיך פאַר זייער עקזיסטענץ, נאָר עס איז אויך באַשריבן גע-וואָרן אין יידישע אויסגאַבעס, וואָס דערשיינען אין אַנדערע שפּראַכן, ספּעציעל אין ענגליש אין אונדזערע מקומות.

צו אונדזער גרויסן ווייטיק זיינען פאַראַן יידישע שרייבערס און זשורנאַליסטן, וואָס שרייבן וועגן דעם אָנגעווייטיקטן ענין מיט שאָדנפרייד. זיי שרייבן נישט אין יידיש, קענען נישט און ווילן נישט קענען קיין יידיש, אָבער זיינען צופרידן, וואָס זייער „פּראָגנאָז" וועגן „אונטערגאַנג פון יידיש" ווערט פאַרווירקלעכט. צום גליק אָבער האַנדלט זיך דאָ וועגן אַ קליינער מינדערהייט.

די מערהייט יידישע שרייבערס און זשורנאַליסטן, אָן אונטער-שייד צי זיי שרייבן אין ענגליש, עברית, פּויליש, רוסיש, שפּאַניש, פּאָרטוגעזיש אָדער פראַנצויזיש, באַדויערן אויפריכטיק די טראַגישע מערכה פון דער יידישער פּרעסע. זיי וואָלטן גערן געהאָלפן, אויב זיי וואָלטן געקענט. זיי דריקן אונדז אויס זייער „מיטגעפיל", אַזוי צו זאָגן. אָן צווייפל סאָלידאַריזירן זיי זיך מיט די יידיש־לייענערס און ווייזן אַרויס זייער סימפּאַטיע צום גורל פון דער יידישער פּרעסע. דאָס איז אפשר אַ קליינע טרייסט, אָבער עס איז דאָך אַ פּאָזיטיווע דערשיינונג, ווייל דאָס באַווייזט, אַז אַ סך מער מענטשן פאַרשטייען וואָס די יידישע פּרעסע באַדייט און קען נאָך באַדייטן פאַר די הונ-דערטער טויזנטער יידן אין יידישע ישובים איבער דער וועלט.

אין אַ דיסקוסיע צווישן אַ גרופּע יידיש־לייענערס זיינען די אויבן־דערמאָנטע פאַקטן פאַרגליכן געוואָרן צו דער אַמאָליקער יידישער פּרעסע, וואָס יעדער איינער פון אונדז געדענקט נאָך גוט. ווייל מיר זיינען אַלע פּויליש־געבוירענע, איז דערמאָנט געוואָרן די גרעסטע און בעסטע יידישע צייטונג „היינט". און יעדער פון אונדז האָט דערציילט זיינע דערינערונגען וועגן דער דאָזיקער צייטונג.

אין גאַנג פון דעם שמועס האָט זיך אַרויסגעוויזן, אַז די יידישע ליטעראַרישע וועלט האָט פאַרגעסן אָפּצומערקן אַ וויכטיקע דאַטע אין 1998 — דעם 90־סטן יאָרטאָג זינט דער גרינדונג פון „היינט". לויט די אַרכיוון, איז דער ערשטער נומער פון „היינט" דערשינען דעם 22־סטן יאַנואַר, 1908. גרינדער און ערשטער רעדאַקטאָר איז געווען שמואל יעקב יאַצקאַן. אין די יאָרן צווישן ביידע מלחמות איז די צייטונג אויסגעוואַקסן צו דער גרעסטער יידישער צייטונג.

טראָץ דעם, וואָס דער „היינט" איז געווען דער פּירשפּרעכער פון די אַלגעמיינע ציוניסטן, האָט די צייטונג צום גרעסטן טייל אַרויסגעוויזן אירע סימפּאַטיעס צו די פּראָגרעסיווע עלעמענטן אין ציוניזם. אויך האָט דער „היינט" באַלד פון זיינע ערשטע יאָרן זיך אַריינגעוואָרפן אין קאַמף פאַר די יידישע נאַציאָנאַלע רעכט. זי האָט געטאַדלט, קריטיקירט און באַקעמפט אַלע אַנטיסעמיטישע און אַנטי־יידישע פאַראָרדענונגען אָדער געזעצן, וואָס די צאַרישע מאַכט אין רוסלאַנד, אָדער די ניי־אויפגעשטעלטע רעגירונג אין באַ-פרייטן פּוילן האָט אַרויסגעגעבן. די צייטונג איז צוליב דעם שטאַרק פאַרפאָלגט געוואָרן פון ביידע רעזשימען. זי איז אַ סך מאָל קאָנ-פיסקירט אָדער פאַרמאַכט געוואָרן און געמוזט דערשיינען אונטער אַנדערע נעמען.

דער „היינט" האָט צוגעצויגן צו די רייען פון אירע מיטאַר-בעטערס אַ גרויסע צאָל באַוואוסטע פירערס פון אַלע ריכטונגען אין דער ציוניסטישער באַוועגונג. גלייכצייטיק האָבן דאָרט מיט-געאַרבעט די בעסטע ליטעראַרישע שעפער פון יענער תקופה.

איך בין נישט באַהאַוונט גענוג אין דער געשיכטע פון דער אַמאָליקער יידישער פּרעסע בכלל, אָדער פון „היינט" בפרט, צו קענען געבן אַ גענויעם איבערבליק. עס זיינען פאַראַן אַ צאָל זכרונות־ווערק און מאָנאָגראַפיעס וועגן דער יידישער פּרעסע אין אַלגעמיין אָדער וועגן אינדיווידועלע צייטשריפטן, וואָס יעדער ייד, וועמען ס'איז טייער דאָס יידישע געשריבענע וואָרט פון אַמאָל, קען זיך פאַרשאַפן, לייענען און שטודירן. איך רעקאָמענדיר דאָס בוך: „די יידישע פּרעסע, וואָס איז געווען", אַרויסגעגעבן אין 1975 אין תל־אביב פון וועלט־פאַרבאַנד פון די יידישע זשורנאַליסטן.

איך וועל נאָר מיט גרויס ווייטיק צוגעבן, אַז דער „היינט" האָט אויפגעהערט צו עקזיסטירן אויף אייביק צוזאַמען מיטן גאַנצן יידישן ישוב אין פּוילן. ביידע זיינען זיי געפאַלן ווי קרבנות פון נאַציזם. איך וועל זיך אָנגעמען מיט דרייסטקייט און זאָגן, אַז נאָך אַ יידישער צייטונג דאַרף מען אויך זאָגן: כבוד איד אָנדענק!

Immigration to Winnipeg up in '98

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The number of Jewish immigrant families who settled in Winnipeg in 1998 was up slightly from the year before, says Emily Shane, executive director of the Jewish Child and Family Service.

She reports that more than 60 families came to the city from overseas last year compared with 55 in 1997.

Twenty-six families from the economically depressed Ukraine, made up the largest number of newcomers from one place. There were also four families from Bosnia and another four from South America.

Argentina

In the past two years, more than a dozen Argentinian families have moved to Winnipeg and Shane says, two more are coming to visit soon to decide if they want to live here.

"We have 25 pre-migration cases mostly from eastern Europe that we are preparing for now," she notes.

"That is considerably more than usual. Our usual figure is five or six."

She says that Manitoba's provincial government is strongly encouraging immigration to this city.

Shane says the government is particularly looking for people with ties to the city and an ethnic community that can help find long-term employment for them.

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Lipkin-Shahak, Mordechai join forces

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The new centrist party may market its candidate for prime minister, ousted Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, with the No. 2 person on the list, Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, as a "ticket," in the style of candidates for president and vice president in the United States.

The idea would be for the two to tour the country, meet the people and hold rallies as a pair during the campaign for the May elections.

Decision makers in the centrist group believe the Mordechai-Shahak combination is unique in Israeli politics and can draw voters from across the entire political and ethnic spectra.

Sunday night Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called Mordechai's farewell speech to the cabinet, in which he put on a kippah and read from the Psalms, "a good show."

Aides to Mordechai denied reports that he might consider the option of dropping out of the race and linking up with Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, should it become clear on the eve of the elections that he has little prospect of advancing to the second round against Netanyahu.

Mordechai accused Netanyahu and the government of conducting a policy of placating the extremists, which was destroying the relations between Israel and its neighbors, to the point of jeopardizing national security.

In a tough but emotional speech to Likud activists at Kfar Hamaccabiah in Ramat Gan – the same venue where on Saturday night he was publicly fired by Netanyahu – Mordechai said that in recent weeks he had reached the conclusion that Israel needs a different leadership, which is "sure of itself, is fired by belief and is guided by the public good."

He said that the Likud leadership "had strayed from its true path, from its values, and is forcing us onto a road that will not advance the peace and will hurt security." He said that the government was under the sway of "two or three extremists."

Moshe Arens, to whom Netanyahu offered the defence portfolio in place of Mordechai, declined to say whether he would accept the post.

Speaking before a few dozen supporters at a recent rally in Rehovot, Arens said he was preoccupied solely with the primaries race at this stage. However, he did not reject the offer either.

Arens also refused to comment on Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon's disclosure that Netanyahu had offered him the defence portfolio. Netanyahu made his pitch to Sharon after he had already offered the post to Arens.

Sharon said Netanyahu had offered him the defence portfolio, but that he had turned down the offer because he preferred to retain his two current portfolios of foreign affairs and national infrastructure.

IDF chief warns Netanyahu against Lebanon adventure

By AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Choosing his words carefully but making himself clear, Chief of Staff Shaul Mofaz issued a tacit recommendation to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and to Moshe Arens, whom Netanyahu has asked to replace the ousted Yitzhak Mordechai as defence minister: "Don't drag the army into an adventurist operation in Lebanon.

"The demand that the IDF reduce the number of Israeli casualties in Lebanon is completely legitimate," Mofaz told high school students in Holon. "It is in Israel's national interest to leave the security zone in Lebanon. The question is, under what conditions? It would be right to take that step as part of an agreement, provided someone else take security responsibility for the region."

Mofaz said he hoped the withdrawal would come on his watch, "but a unilateral pullout is an unreasonable risk that is tantamount to a dangerous gamble." Therefore, he said, "our professional opinion is that we have to continue with the current policy."

The IDF, he emphasized, "has no intention, interest or desire to escalate the situation in Lebanon. All our activity is geared to one purpose: to ensure the security of the country's northern residents."

Mofaz's remarks reflect the two major concerns of the high command in the wake of Mordechai's dismissal. First, that the only still functioning channel of communication between Israel and the Palestinian Authority has been severed; and second, that the prime minister will attempt a high-risk move in Lebanon just ahead of the elections, such as a unilateral withdrawal preceded by a massive military operation.

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WINTER SUN 1999

Israel Election Notebook

May 17

• Netanyahu criticized Barak for refusing to sign a joint letter to President Bill Clinton requesting the release of Jonathan Pollard. Barak subsequently criticized Netanyahu for making the release of Pollard a campaign issue.

• Uzi Landau withdrew his bid to challenge Netanyahu for the leadership of the Likud party on the basis that he and recently declared candidate Moshe Arens appealed to the same constituency.

• A newly formed women's rights party registered to participate in the election. The acronym for the party, which includes activists from several women's groups, is Yesh. It stands for "equal representation."

• Amir Peretz, Histadrut Labor Federation chair, launched a new party before approximately 2,000 cheering supporters. "One Nation" will be a workers' party focussing on all aspects of social welfare and employment rights.

• If Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai joins the centrist party, he will have to resign from his post as defence minister at once, a senior official in the Prime Minister's Office said last Thursday.

"Such a measure by Mordechai in the present circumstances would amount to jeopardizing the security of Israel," the official said.

"If he wants, he can go with us. If not, not. We don't operate on a personal basis. There are no people who are needed of their own right," Netanyahu said in response to reports that Mordechai was very close to deciding to leave the Likud and join the centrist party.

• Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom last Thursday called on the National Religious Party's (NRP) conference to join forces and stand united behind Netanyahu.

The NRP had not yet decided which candidate to formally support for prime minister. Yahalom said at the Jerusalem conference that it was a mistake to bring down Netanyahu's government, adding that the NRP lit the fire, but that now, "we have to face the facts and know that the only candidate with a chance is Netanyahu and we must not repeat old mistakes."

With files from JTA and Ha'aretz

CAMPAIGN READINESS

Dan Meridor, formerly of the Likud party, launched a new centrist party for this election. Here he attaches a mezuzah to the doorpost of his campaign office. [Israel Sun photo]

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Manley in Israel

OTTAWA — Federal Industry Minister John Manley was in Israel this week for meetings with government and business leaders.

Manley was slated to visit Israel, Jordan and Switzerland from Jan. 23 to 31.

In Israel, he was scheduled to hold talks with Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky and Communications Minister Limor Livnat.

Talks were also scheduled with top scientists and representatives of high-tech firms.

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The Week in Israel

Jan. 18

• Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Meir Israel Lau called for a special Knesset session aimed at protesting last weekend's massacre in Kosovo. Rabbi Lau said Israel bore a special responsibility to speak out against the bloodshed. "Because we blame others for not doing anything, more than 50 years, we bear the responsibility to raise a call to the entire world."

• Israel appealed to the European Union (EU) not to link its inclusion in the latest EU research and development program to advances in the peace process. Trade Minister Natan Sharansky warned that Israeli-European ties could be harmed if Israel were excluded from the program.

Jan. 19

• Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon arrived in Moscow for three days of talks with Russian leaders. He planned to convey Israel's concerns over the rise in anti-Semitism in Russia and the increasing ties between Russia and Iran.

• Two-thirds of the Palestinian public believes there is corruption in the self-rule government and in the Palestinian police, according to a polling firm in Nablus.

Jan. 20

• During 1998 crime in Israel increased by three percent over the previous year, with a total of 516,000 incidents reported, according to police officials. The murder rate was down by 10 percent from 1997, with 146 reported homicides.

Jan. 21

• Yasser Arafat authorized preparations for the building of an airport in Bethlehem. Israel officials expressed their concern and opposition.

• Justice authorities said they would soon bring charges against Avishai Raviv, a former undercover agent who was close to Yigal Amir, for failing to prevent Yitzhak Rabin's assassination.

Jan. 22

• The agriculture ministry gave 473 moshavim and kibbutzim permits to construct some 50,000 additional housing units to enable the children of members to live in those communities.

Files from the JTA and Ha'aretz

Falwell explains 'Antichrist' remark

By DEBRA NUSSBAUM COHEN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — Rev. Jerry Falwell's recent statement that the Antichrist is probably a Jewish man alive today, is anti-Semitic and could potentially ignite widespread anti-Semitism, according to officials at Jewish organizations.

It has also done serious damage to the dialogue between Jews and evangelical Christians, they say.

Falwell's statement "borders on anti-Semitism at best and is anti-Semitic at worst," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL).

"Falwell's is an influential voice among evangelical and charismatic Christians," said Rabbi Leon Klenicki, director of interfaith affairs for the ADL.

What Falwell said reflects his "lack of understanding of Judaism and the Jewish people in God's design. He sees us only as the ones who prepare the coming of Jesus," Rabbi Klenicki said.

"It is a great disappointment after more than 30 years of dialogue; he's still in the Middle Ages."

Two weeks ago Falwell told about 1,500 people gathered in Tennessee that he believes Jesus will return within a decade.

Before that event can take place, Falwell and others believe that a figure known as the Antichrist will arise and spread universal evil, but will be conquered at the Second Coming of the Christian messiah.

Is the Antichrist "alive and here today"? Falwell asked his parishioners and the millions of people who tune into his Sunday-morning service, which is broadcast on television and radio from his Lynchburg, Va., church.

"Probably," he said, "because when he appears during the Tribulation period he will be a full-grown counterfeit of Christ. Of course he'll be Jewish."

Falwell was quoted as saying that he did not intend his remark to be anti-Jewish. He said that he meant only that the Antichrist must be Jewish because Jesus was a Jew.

That idea is a "hateful myth," said Foxman of the ADL. "Reverting back to a distorted interpretation of the text of the New Testament, he revisits the worst in intolerance that resulted in the persecution of the Jewish people and inquisitions."

Phil Baum, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, along with Jack Rosen, president of the group, issued a statement saying that Falwell's view "will have an inevitably incendiary and degrading effect on Christian attitudes toward Jews."

Concern is also spreading among leaders of Jewish groups that Falwell's will be the first of many such remarks as the millennium approaches.

Falwell has, in the past, been a strong supporter of the State of Israel and has met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"He supports Israel for his own Christological ends," Klenicki said.

"My concern is that when the year 2000 comes and he realizes that the Jewish people will not convert to Christianity, that he'll be critical of the State of Israel."

Russian exodus urged

By LEV KRICHEVSKY
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

MOSCOW — Many Russians believe life here would be better if it were not for the Jews.

Some 36 percent of recent callers to a Moscow radio station said Russia would benefit if all Jews left for Israel.

The radio station said a record number of 3,100 people called to voice their opinion on the issue last week during the daily show of the Moscow Echo radio station.

The station posed the question about Jewish emigration, after Israeli Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, who visited Russia last week, urged Jews from Russia and other former Soviet states to immigrate to Israel.

In Moscow, meanwhile, Sharon discussed the Middle East peace process with Primakov, who told Sharon that Russia wanted to play a more active role in the region.

Primakov, a longtime Middle East expert, who is known as an Arabist, said Russia strongly supported the land-for-peace formula in the Israeli-Palestinian peace settlement.

Sharon welcomed Russia's desire to revive its influence in the region, and said Moscow should use its close ties with the Palestinians to prevent the Palestinian Authority from taking unilateral steps, such as declaring independence.

Sharon and his Russian hosts also discussed bilateral relations, the rise of anti-Semitism in Russia and security issues, including international terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

In talks with Primakov and Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, Sharon touched on the sensitive issue of Russian help for Iran's nuclear and missile programs.

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Applications should reach us by February 28, 1999. Candidates must have appropriate qualifications recognized by the Toronto Board of Jewish Education.

Ben-Gurion biographer boasts superb storytelling skills

By VIVA PRESS
CJN Israel Bureau

Shabtai Teveth holds a title many would be afraid of, that of being David Ben-Gurion's biographer.

Born in 1925, Teveth is one of Israel's most accomplished historians. But, like the two great leaders he has written about –Ben-Gurion and Moshe Dayan – Teveth doesn't like to talk about his achievements. He does, however, like to talk about theirs.

Teveth explained that doing research on Ben-Gurion "could be very frustrating because he belonged to a culture that tried not to talk about ego, ambitions, careers."

Teveth did not want to talk about his own career; he wanted to delve into Ben-Gurion's life story. He quickly summarized his family life. He is the son of pioneering parents who worked on a kibbutz then moved around the country before settling in Tel Aviv, where he and his sister grew up.

After high school on a kibbutz, Teveth did his military service, and then studied at Jerusalem's Hebrew University. He is presently a senior research fellow at the Dayan Centre for Middle East Studies at Tel Aviv University, which he helped set up.

In a Tel Aviv apartment/converted office, surrounded by book shelves from floor to ceiling, including a full bookcase of dictionaries, Teveth recently spoke with *The Canadian Jewish News* about his upcoming lecture in Toronto, and his passion for Ben-Gurion.

"I've been interested in Ben-Gurion from the first day I started working as a newspaperman. I was deputy editor of the army paper just at the end of my military service and I was sent to interview him in 1949," said Teveth, whose only wall without a bookshelf, has photos of the late founder of the State of Israel, mixed with photos of his children and grandchildren.

"Just as I sat down, before I could ask him a question, he let a barrage of his questions fall on me. By the time he ended his questions, the interview was already over."

Teveth would go on to interview Ben-Gurion hundreds of times.

Ben-Gurion's was not his first biography. "I did a biography of Moshe Dayan that turned out to be successful," Teveth said. "Then my publisher here said, 'Now look, you did Dayan, you're not going to start writing a book on someone lesser than Dayan. And there is only one [person] who is somewhat bigger; that's Ben-Gurion.'"

Since it took him two to three years to complete Dayan's biography, Teveth, who figured Ben-Gurion to be "three times the man Dayan was," thought it would take him between six and nine years to write Ben-Gurion's life story.

Shabtai Teveth

"It's taken me already almost 20 years," he said with a chuckle.

Three volumes of the multi-volume biography have been published in Hebrew and English. The fourth volume is currently in progress.

Religious pluralism

Because there is so much information on Ben-Gurion and his era, Teveth has written three books which are spinoffs of the subject: *Ben Gurion and the Holocaust, Ben Gurion's Spy: The Story of the Political Scandal That Shaped Modern Israel*, and *Ben Gurion and the Palestinian Arabs: From Peace to War.*

Teveth's books read more like suspense novels than history books. His superb storytelling skills, a result of his more than 20 years as a journalist for *Ha'aretz* newspaper, helps hook the reader into his subject matter. Even in a casual conversation, it is obvious how much research he has undertaken in his projects.

Teveth, who has travelled on lecture and book tours through the United States, Canada, Russia and in London, England, has yet to publicly address the subject of his upcoming Toronto lecture: Ben-Gurion and present day Israel.

After reading his works, one has a clear understanding that the author believes Ben-Gurion's heritage is still very much a part of today's politics and society in Israel and the Jewish world.

The current issue of religious pluralism is, according to Teveth, the result of having no constitution, which Ben-Gurion had tried to establish.

"Ben-Gurion did not want a Kulturkampf; he wanted to avoid the question of state and synagogue.

"The reason he wanted this was that Zionists who came here were the minority. If we wanted the majority of Jewish people to come and live here, we could not prevent those that are in disagreement from coming.

"Ben-Gurion thought that once a majority of Jewish people would live in Israel, this would be a time to draw a constitution...He didn't want to draw a constitution before a greater part of the Jewish people lives in Israel."

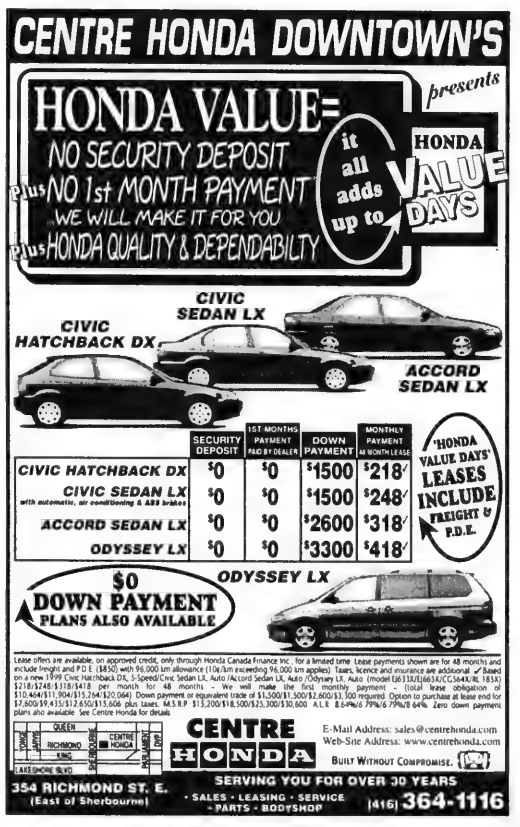
As Teveth pointed out again and again, Ben Gurion, were he alive today, would be upset that not more Jews live in Israel.

"When the law of return was passed, the question of who is a Jew became very troubling. Ben-Gurion wanted to avoid bringing to a head this question. In his absence, this question has really gotten out of hand because of political and coalitionary considerations. Parts of the very Orthodox got a much stronger voice, and they have already made answers to who is a Jew: Mainly he who heeds the Orthodox rabbi, only he is a Jew," said Teveth, whose left-wing sympathies are no secret.

"There is no room for Conservative and Reform and lay people. This is one thing that Ben-Gurion would not have liked. If we had been under his leadership, we would not be where we are today. I don't think he would allow one group to dominate the other."

As the interview wound down, Teveth reminded me that "Ben-Gurion is a phenomenon worth telling about, that he is a strength of will."

Teveth's talk, sponsored by Holy Blossom Temple, The Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation and Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University, is being held Feb. 1, 8 p.m., at Holy Blossom, 1950 Bathurst St.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Health

Eating disorders explored by Jews

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — In keeping with the theme (Trash the Diet!) of Eating Disorder Awareness Week, Feb. 5 has been designated Fearless Friday. Canadians will be encouraged to eat without guilt or fear of weight gain.

The awareness week, running from Feb. 1 to 6, is in its 11th year. Saving lives and educating the public are its prime goals.

In the Jewish community, a Sunday symposium on eating disorders, to be held May 2 at the Lipa Green building, is in the works. The program is a combined initiative of Emunah Women, Netivot HaTorah Day School, Ulpanat Orot and Jewish Family &Child Service (JF&CS).

"We [in the Orthodox community] think we're immune from anything that goes on in the rest of the world. We're not," said symposium chair Shawna Magence, who was hospitalized at age 16 for an eating disorder.

The 28-year-old Emunah Women member and mother of three still battles her disorder. "It doesn't matter what weight you are. It's about the way you eat, the way you think about food."

Within the Orthodox community,"unique pressures" arise when children reach marriageable age, noted Selma Elzas, Orthodox outreach worker at JF&CS.

"The idea of shidduch is a major one [in terms of] how thinness and looks impact on a girl's acceptability. Families or intermediaries have been known to ask very personal and outrageous questions about the girl, which specifically relate to her body image, size and tendency to put on weight."

Elzas, who is on the symposium committee, does not foresee much change "unless we start doing some education of the community and the young men...That has to be done through the schools and the yeshivas."

A recent news release from the National Eating Disorder Information Centre (NEDIC) reported that more than 100,000 men and women in Ontario have clinical eating disorders.

Most people who have anorexia – drastic weight loss from excessive dieting – don't know their lives are threatened, but up to 20 percent die from related complications, according to the Toronto-based organization. Up to 10 percent of people with bulimia – binging and self-induced vomiting, abuse of laxatives or over-exercising – also die.

"Because dieting exacerbates low self-esteem...and perpetuates unrealistic myths about appearance, NEDIC is asking people to trash their scales, diet pills, laxatives and diet books," said Margaret Beck, NEDIC's acting program coordinator. Special trash cans will be at all awareness week events.

"Eating disorders are chronically under-serviced in a big way," psychiatrist Leora Pinhas, director of the eating disorders treatment program at Newmarket's York County Hospital, told *The CJN*.

In Toronto there are inpatient hospital units specifically for eating disorder patients at the Toronto Hospital and at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, Pinhas said. They are the only two between London and Kingston.

"And what happens when they get full?" she asked. "Sick Kids is often full, because there are lots of kids struggling with this illness."

In York Region alone, she added, five youngsters now occupy general hospital beds because of eating disorders. "It's clear they need specialized treatment."

At York County, Pinhas runs an intensive, multifaceted, five-day-a-week outpatient program for adolescents with eating disorders. To the best of her knowledge, it's the only one of its kind in Ontario. It opened last spring and treats eight patients at a time.

Ten inpatient beds – some of which are to be used for eating disorders – have been designated as adolescent mental health beds, pending funding, she said.

Pinhas is also working on a research project comparing the rate of eating disorders in the Jewish population to that in the general population. She is studying a total of about 2,000 students at three public high schools and three Jewish schools.

"There is some suggestion in the literature that the prevalence may be higher in some groups, like Catholics or Jews," said Pinhas.

"I think we have to educate people," said Elzas, of JF&CS. "We have a lot of work to do."

Toronto-area events for Eating Disorder Awareness Week include:

• **Parents Unite!!** – an evening program Feb. 2 at Harbord Collegiate Institute, for parents of children with eating disorders or those concerned about prevention.

• **New Face of Fitness Workshop** – Feb. 3, 7 p.m. at the Metro-Central YMCA. The workshop, hosted by Dee Hakala, author of *Thin Is Just a Four Letter Word*, will encourage people of all sizes to enjoy exercise.

• **Bodies With Color, Bodies That Matter** – Feb. 4, Robert Gill Theatre. An evening of performance art celebrating diversity and exploring challenges regarding eating problems and size acceptance in communities of color.

• **The Weight Debate: Dieting and Non-Dieting Perspectives on Obesity and Weight Loss** – a one-day conference at the Vaughan Estate, Feb. 5. International experts debate dieting, obesity and the politics of weight prejudice.

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The 'Col. Sanders of Comedy'

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

If, as a child, Budd Friedman was ever admonished with the words, "no more funny business," fans of comedy should be grateful he didn't listen.

As founder of the Improv chain; co-creator of the *American Comedy Awards* seen on the Fox Television Network; producer and host of the A&E series, *Evening At The Improv*; former manager of Jay Leno and Bette Midler, and mentor to some of the greatest comic minds of the last 35 years, including Drew Carey, David Spade, Jerry Seinfeld, Adam Sandler and the late Andy Kaufman, Friedman knows what tickles the funnybone.

From his office at the West Coast Improv on Melrose Avenue in Los Angeles, Friedman shared his views on Jewish humor and Jews in comedy with *The CJN*. "I find most Jewish humor to be anti-Semitic, and I am very, very cognizant of it. I won't tolerate it, both personally or otherwise.

"Bob (Super Dave) Einstein used to produce the *Dick Van Dyke Show*. Andy Kaufman was to appear on that show. It was Andy's first television show, so I went to see Andy, and I met Bob. Bob was doing a warm up in between takes. He had a bag of silver dollars in his hand, and invited the audience to tell a joke and earn a silver dollar. This guy gets up, starts telling this joke, and Bob, who towers over him, asks the guy if this is a '[Jewish] joke.' The guy says no, goes on with the joke, and of course, it was. Bob almost booted him off the stage. It was so great to see."

Friedman says that people who do put-down humor, think nothing of attacking anything or anyone. He won't tolerate it, he says, especially with Jewish comedians, who tell jokes that keep the stereotype alive.

"I think proportionately, there are fewer Jewish comics today than there were 35 years ago, because comedy came out of the ghetto. Just like fighters used to be Jews, there are no more Jewish fighters because we don't have to get out of the ghetto. Now, it's the blacks that have to get out of the ghetto. So the blacks are the fighters and comics coming up.

"Comedy for the most part was a very urban phenomenon, the bigger the city, like Chicago and New York, the more comics. Now, with the advent of cable television, people see comics from all walks of life. A guy watching comedy on HBO in Milwaukee, Wis., thinks he can do that, and then does it. Besides, being a stand up comedian has become a very glamorous and more rewarding, or seemingly so, profession."

Friedman will be gracing the silver screen this fall in *Man on the Moon*, the story of Andy Kaufman, starring Danny DeVito and Jim Carrey. The impressario auditioned and won, the role of Budd Friedman.

All the while, Friedman continues to reign over his franchised, Improv empire, just wanting to be thought of as, the "Col. Sanders of Comedy."

Opera Hall of Fame inducts singer

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — Canadian opera singer Clarice Carson was recently inducted into the Canadian Opera Hall of Fame.

Carson, a soprano, who sang her first operatic role in 1959, retired from performing in 1986. During her career, she sang at such places as the Metropolitan Opera, Covent Garden, Scottish Opera, The Lyric Opera of Chicago, The Netherlands Opera, La Fenice in Venice, Teatro Regio in Torino and with companies in Latin America.

Her roles have included Desdemona in *Otello*, Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*, Fiordiligi in *Cosi Fan Tutte and* Contessa in *Nozze di Figaro*.

Carson is a native of Montreal, and has lived in Toronto for 12 years. "I can't explain it, but per capita, Canada has produced more great international opera singers than any other country in the world.

"One of the great things about L'Opera de Montreal while I was in my career was that they made admirable efforts to engage many of our splendid Canadian singers."

She says that although it is harder to break into the field than it was when she was starting out, "great voices have no problems, although it takes more than a great voice to succeed.

"Most of all, singers need ambition. They have to want to succeed. As well, they must be curious about the era they are reproducing. Singers must understand, for instance, what happened in Spain in the Middle Ages.

"Singers cannot bring a 20th century sensibility to woman's situation in 1812 Paris. They must know what went on then, and put themselves into the period."

Carson says that singers also have to be prepared for the life."It can be very lonely travelling alone. It was my choice, though, and I would not change it for anything.

"My parents, who were both amateur singers, encouraged me. When my father heard me sing at the Met, he had a lot of *naches*."

In order to encourage young singers to develop their careers, Carson is helping to raise money for the International Resource Centre for Performing Arts, a non-profit charitable organization, founded in 1984 by Ann Summers.

The centre helps classical performing artists make the transition from school to steady employment, she notes. "Most schools do not prepare performers for the reality of a career. They need to be taught how to market their talent."

The centre also brings employers to Toronto in order to save performers travel and hotel expenses. Its goal, says Carson, is to keep artists connected to the industry, once their formal training is completed and they are freelance artists looking for work.

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Travel, Arts & Business

Travel Talk

BY BILL GLADSTONE

GORBACHEV, KISSINGER AT DAN TEL AVIV HOTEL

Yaakov Sudri, general manager of the Dan Tel Aviv Hotel, was in a bit of a quandary recently when 90 prominent international statesmen and stateswomen, past and present, assembled at the hotel for a board meeting and peace conference for the 2-year-old Peres Centre for Peace.

Although delighted to welcome such dignitaries as former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, former U.S. secretary of state Henry Kissinger, former South African president F.W. de Klerk and South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Sudri indicated that his dilemma was "what suite or deluxe room to allocate to each individual."

Part of the problem was solved, however, after Kissinger and de Klerk declined the presidential suite and offered it to Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski.

Other parties at the gathering included Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, former Egyptian prime minister Mustafa Khalil, former Norwegian prime minister Thorbjorn Jagland, and the head of the Jordanian royal court, Jawad Anani.

The premiere hotel chain in Israel, the Dan regards itself as the "unofficial" host to presidents, statespersons and international dignitaries visiting Israel over the past 50 years. In order to provide the best possible service to the Peres Centre for Peace delegates, hotel staff remained on a 24-hour basis, including chefs, secretaries, typists and housekeepers. Each guest was provided with a personal valet for the duration of his or her stay.

In honor of the event, the hotel officially opened its newly renovated Penthouse Floor, containing its most important suites and deluxe apartments. The renovation cost was more than $1 million (US).

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Car-Hotel Deal: Eldan, the Israeli car rental company, has gone into the hotel business with the recent opening of Hotel Eldan Jerusalem, which it describes as "the first hotel in the Eldan Rent A Car hotel chain."

Hotel Eldan is situated on King David Street in Jerusalem, a short walk from the Old City. The hotel, which was recently renovated at a cost of $3 million (US), has 76 rooms and is geared to leisure as well as business travellers.

Until the end of February, hotel guests are entitled to receive a free car rental (excluding insurance) for each room-night at $120 (including breakfast). Hotel Eldan Jerusalem will sell directly to its target population in the same way that Eldan Rent A Car has done for years. Reservations may be made through Eldan's reservations centres in New York, Paris, London and Israel.

* * *

New Paris Museum: The Musée d'art et d'histoire du Judaïsme – the Museum of Jewish Art and History – recently opened its doors in the Hotel de Saint-Aignan, 71, rue du Temple, Paris 75003.

The museum charts the historical development of Jewish communities from medieval times to the present, concentrating on the Jews of France. Showpieces include documents on the infamous Dreyfus affair, and paintings by Soutine, Chagall, Modigliani, Lipchitz and Kikoine, illustrative of the role of Jews in 20th-century art.

* * *

Berlin City Guide: Lonely Planet recently released the first edition of its guide to Berlin. At 274 pages, the book features the company's usual detailed treatment of city sites and history, along with numerous full-color illustrations and a fold-out transport map. $22.50.

Authors & Poets

The CJN is pleased to announce the third annual Passover Literary Supplement. We therefore invite the authors and poets among our readers to submit their works to us. We are looking only for works of fiction or poetry that explore Jewish themes.

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Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

TU B'SHVAT CONCERT AT BETH TIKVAH

Looking for a way to beat the mild depression that often comes as February approaches? Here's just the thing. Musica Beth Tikvah is billing its upcoming Shabbat Shira-Tu b'Shvat concert as "a sure-fire prescription for beating the winter blahs."

On Feb. 1 at 8 p.m., six musicians present an exuberant evening of Israeli folk songs and contemporary music by **Korngold, Gershwin, Greenberg** and Beth Tikvah's own **Srul Irving Glick**.

The performers are **Tracey Atin**, soprano; **Simon Wynberg**, guitar; **Ric Moor**, clarinet; **Catherine McKeever**, contralto, and **Matthew Kulbacki** and **Elizabeth Acker**, piano. $18 in advance, $20 at the door. Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 3080 Bayview Ave. 221-3433.

* * *

Jewish Book of Days: One way to learn more about Shabbat Shira and Tu b'Shvat is to look them up in *Jewish Days: A Book of Jewish Life and Culture Around the Year*, by **Francine Klagsbrun**, published recently by Noonday ($26.95).

Shabbat Shirah, the Sabbath of Songs, takes its name from the joyous songs of divine praise that welled up from the hearts of the Children of Israel after their safe passage across the Red Sea when they escaped the Egyptian army that had been in chase.

Tu b'Shvat, of course, is a sort of Jewish Arbor Day, and *Jewish Days* summarizes the distinctive place that trees hold in the Jewish imagination: "Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden because they ate from the tree of knowledge. Although that tree and the tree of life remained standing in paradise, cherubim and fiery swords guard the portals so that humans can never re-enter and achieve immortality. Instead, the Torah itself has come to be seen as a tree of life, offering 'length of days' for 'those who grasp her' (Proverbs 3:16, 18)."

Jewish Days takes the reader through the Hebrew calendar, discussing festivals, certain biblical events for which tradition has assigned dates, and historical events such as the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492 and the death of the great scholar Moses Maimonides in 1204.

Adorned by **Mark Podwal's** simple and witty illustrations, the book is an engrossing and readable celebration of the particularities of Jewish life and culture.

While it is of the same genre as *Every Day Remembrance Day*, **Simon Wiesenthal's** powerful daybook of anti-semitic persecutions and pogroms down the ages, *Jewish Days* is not a yahrzeit catalogue, though it takes pains not to neglect the sadness and destruction within our history.

* * *

Books & Bagels: Ben Schlesinger, a professor of social work at the University of Toronto, has made a careful study of the pressures faced by growing numbers of middle-aged people faced with caring for both children and elderly parents. Schlesinger reads and discusses his latest book, *The Family Squeeze: Surviving the Sandwich Generation* (co-written with **Suzanne Kingsmill**) at the Books & Bagels literary event, Bloor JCC, Jan. 31, 11 a.m. Members $8, non-members $8. 924-6211.

* * *

Dance Troupe Honored: Dancers in the **Canadian Children's Dance Theatre** were among the honorees of a Doin' the Right Stuff human rights youth contest sponsored by a group of Torontonians marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights of Dec. 10, 1948.

The young dancers' interpretation of **Carol Anderson's** *Sephardic Songs* won the award in the senior performance category. *Sephardic Songs* was created in commemoration of a specific massive abuse of human rights – the 1492 expulsion of the Jews from Spain.

* * *

Harduf Hebrew Dictionary: News has reached us, as though by breathless messenger, of the recent publication of the seventh volume of *Harduf's Transliterated English-Hebrew Dictionary*, which focuses on the letters P to Q of the English alphabet.

The compiler is **David Mendel Harduf**, the well-known Toronto scholar whose previous pocket-size Yiddish-English English-Yiddish dictionary has become a mainstay of modern Yiddishists.

Harduf's latest project, which was typeset in Israel and printed in Canada, has no shortage of approbations. "Harduf follows and supplements Eliezer Ben Yehudah's 16-volume *Complete Dictionary of Ancient and Modern Hebrew*," according to the 1995 *American Reference Book Annual*, while the 1998 *Annual* calls his dictionary "an important contribution to Hebrew lexicography."

What distinguishes *Harduf's Transliterated English-Hebrew Dictionary* is its use of "numerous quotations and examples of the correct Hebrew usage, drawn from various classical Hebrew sources." The dictionary is printed on "special fine paper" and features "spacy margins" and other "esthetic qualities" – so we are informed in a press release elegantly penned by noted Yiddish poet-literateur **Simcha Simchovitch** of Toronto.

The new volume, as well as its predecessors, may be ordered from Harduf Books, 11 Plum Treeway, Willowdale, Ont. M2R 3J1.

CJN Purim Art Contest

It's time again for our fifth annual **Purim Art Contest** .

Who can enter: Children in grades 1 to 6 inclusive are eligible. The children of *CJN* employees are not eligible.

Prizes: The judges will choose one drawing from two different students in each grade. These "winning" drawings will be published in *The CJN* on February 25. In addition, each of the 12 children whose drawings have been selected will receive a cheque for $25.

How to enter: You may submit as many drawings as you want. However they should not be too small nor too large. Please paint or draw bright, bold, colorful pictures. You may use markers, crayons, paint or pencils. Please send us your name, address, phone number, age and grade along with your drawings.

You may mail or deliver your drawings to: CJN Community Contests, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ontario M3B 3K4. If you want us to return the pictures to you, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Otherwise, we will be unable to do so.

The contest closes at 5 p.m. on Friday, February 11, 1999. We will undoubtedly receive many wonderful submissions from children all across the country. But only 12 of the drawings will be chosen as the "winners." The judges will base their decisions on a number of factors such as: the use of color, the imaginative quality of the drawing and the way it tells an aspect of the story of Purim. The judges' decisions will be final. The chances of winning depend upon the number and quality of submissions received.

How the Winner will be announced: The children whose pictures are chosen will be notified by telephone before the start of Shabbat on Friday, February 18, 1999.

When the prizes will be awarded: The "winning" pictures will be published in *The CJN* of February 25, 1999. Have fun and good luck.

Any litigation respecting the conduct and awarding of a prize in this contest may be submitted to the Régie des Loteries et courses du Québec.

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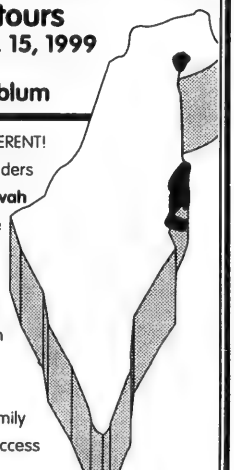

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ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE.

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A Native American adventure

By JOSIE NEWMAN PROVOST
Special to The CJN

The circle of women moved around and around in a shuffling dance, which is said to increase female fertility. It was one of a number of dances on a June evening, underneath a wooden pavilion in the woods where 45 people, mostly women, had gathered to learn about native American culture and spirituality.

The dancing was mingled with chants and story-telling led by a group of seven Mohawks in full traditional dress, who live on a reserve near the American-Canadian border. That was followed by a number of unique American games. A fire glowed behind the Mohawks, and dusk turned into darkness as they told stories about the history of their people.

The three-day program, held in the woods of a Christian campground in upstate New York, was hosted by Journeys into American Indian Territory. The group is run by Robert Vetter, an anthropologist who lived with, and was eventually adopted into, a Comanche family in Oklahoma – his adopted grandfather was the Comanche peoples' last medicine man.

Vetter says the time he spent with the Comanches changed his life because it made him more aware of the inter-relationship of everything in the natural realm, such as people, animals, plants and nature. He says the goal of his organization's programs, which run from three days to two weeks in length, is for both natives and participants to share who they are and establish friendships.

"The social and emotional aspects of these programs are most important, while the cerebral and intellectual are secondary," he says.

Judging from the comments of people participating in a variety of workshops such as native songs and dances, the social, emotional and spiritual aspects are the main reason why most participants come.

Mohawk Native Americans in traditional dress dance and chant at a reserve in New York. [Josie Newman Provost photo]

One woman, who started off with an angry, defensive attitude, seemed softer by the end of the weekend, saying she'd gained some of the inner peace she'd been seeking through the close interaction and teaching.

A variety of workshops and lectures completed an all-around picture of native culture. One of the most interesting of these was a history of the Arawak Indians given by Uailo, a half-Arawak/half-Italian man raised in Puerto Rico. Uailo said that hundred of years ago, the Arawaks travelled from Central America up to the Lesser and Greater Antilles, settling in Puerto Rico, Cuba and Jamaica. They integrated with another tribe and became the Tainos.

In the late 1500s, most of them were tortured and slaughtered by the Caribes, a people of Spanish Mayan Indian ancestry.

Although American history books say there are no Arawaks left, there are about 1,000 living in the United States. Those who weren't slaughtered by the Caribes, were sent to pineapple fields in Hawaii, north to Alaskan coal mines or to shoe factories in Manchester, N.H. There are several thousand more Arawaks of Taino descent living in Central America.

More dancing and poetic story-telling about the six nations of the Iroquois confederacy was done by the seven visiting Mohawks, whose tribe makes up one of the six nations. One of these Mohawks teaches native culture and traditions to elementary school children in Upstate New York.

Vetter says his concepts for Journeys originated from a trial program he ran with the Comanches in Oklahoma in 1987. At the end of the week-long program, natives and non-natives alike shared their thoughts. "One of the elders said he felt it was like the old days on the plains when the natives exchanged ideas with one another and with the white man. Unfortunately, society has influenced natives to abuse and manipulate those traditions, which is why most native bands now have a tribal chairman and tribal council," says Vetter.

Journeys Into American Indian Territory offers programs year-round in Oklahoma, Arizona, New York and other states. Prices start at $370 for a three-day program, all expenses included. Transportation to the program site is not included.

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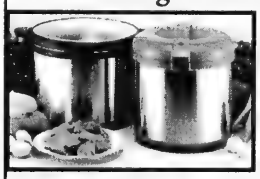
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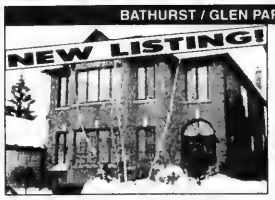
ENCLAVE OF 10 MAGNIFICENT HOMES! 4 + 1 bdrms., 4 baths, fin. bsmt. (in-law suite), cornice mouldings, marble fireplace, oak plank hardwood floors, rear deck, Jacuzzi, interlock driveway +++, only $489,000 (incl. GST). Model homes available for viewing now. **DON'T MISS OUT!** Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

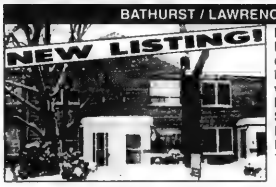
BATHURST / GLEN PARK



Magnificent custom-designed home, dramatic cathedral ceilings, open concept, 4 + 1 bdrms., 5 baths, marble fireplace, glass block, French doors, dream kitchen +++. **A MUST SEE** at only $629,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

CLANTON PARK – SPACIOUS 3 + 1 BDRM. BUNGALOW! Huge family room addition at rear, 50 x 150 ft. lot, quiet street, only $279,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE



Lowest price in area! Renovated + decorated 2 bedroom, new kitchen & baths, hardwood floors, finished basement, only $179,000. **DON'T MISS THIS ONE!** Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / WILSON — NEW LISTING! Spacious 3 bdrm. bungalow on gorgeous lot, steps to Clanton Park, renovated white kitchen, sep. entry to in-law suite, asking $329,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

THORNHILL — NEAR BAYT SHUL! Renovated & decorated, bright, open concept, 3 + 2 bedrooms, separate entry to in-law suite. **ACT NOW!** Call Esther Rubenstein (416) 787-1712.

• • •

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — SPACIOUS RANCH BUNGALOW! California-style, 2,700 sq. ft. (approx.), 4 bdrms., oversize family room, 69 x 120 ft. lot, eat-in kitchen, only $349,000. **ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

• • •

BATHURST / GLENCAIRN — CLOSE TO TTC, SHOPS, SCHOOLS! 4 + 1 bdrms., main floor family room, separate entry to in-law suite, only $399,500. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

• • •

BATHURST / CLARK — THORNHILL – REDUCED FOR QUICK SALE! Detached 2 storey, 3 + 1 bedrooms, family room / fireplace, premium oversized lot, gorgeous landscaping, finished basement, close to BAYT Shul, only $279,900. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

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CLARENDON AREA - 5 BDRM. MANSION
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Extraordinary condo residence. Hurry! F. Sversky** 488-2875

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With approx. 3,250' of luxury, 4+1 bdrm., 5 bath, hrdwd., granite kit., new appliances, hi-ceilings. Sharon Bobkin* 226-1987

FOREST HILL - NEW CONST. - FREEHOLD
Georgian Townhome, 3,100 sq. ft. G. Mitchell* 488-2875

1ST AD! 524 GLENCAIRN AVE.! $739K!
Bathurst/Glencairn Custom 6+1 bdrm, 5 bth, mn fam+lib+ lau+2 pce.! W/o bsmnt.! 50x132'! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

1ST AD! 94 MELROSE AVE.! $679K!
Yonge/Lawrence! Custom 4+1 bdrm., 4 bth, mn. fam.! Nanny ste.! Priv. prkg.! Gorg'us. 150'! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

AVENUE RD./LAWRENCE NEW DET. 4 BDRM. $639!
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Immaculate 4 bdrm., 2 stry addt'n. Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

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Reno. 3 bdrm., 2 storey, fin. bsmnt. Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

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NEW PRICE - FABULOUS OWEN BLVD.!
Superb 5 bdrm., 4 bath, on 60x180 south lot. Approx. 5,600', 9' ceilings, 5 fireplaces. Call Sharon Bobkin* 226-1987

PRESTIGIOUS LAWRENCE PARK!
6 bdrms., 4 baths. Steps to all! Lynne Elkind* 488-2875 SOLD

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YONGE & DAVISVILLE GREAT BLDG.!
2 bdrm., 2 bath, fab. decor. Lau.ens. Susan Slater* 488-2875

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GLENCAIRN – AVENUE $649,000
64' lot, quiet side street, large split level, 4 bdrm., nanny or in-law w/sep. entrance, fam. rm. & rec rm. Paula G. Bernstein*

PRETTY 3 STOREY VICTORIAN
Duplex – could easily be made to single family home. High ceilings, great view from deck. John Fortney*

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Bathurst-Clark 4 Bdrms.

$324,900 spacious and renovated with mod. Kosher kit., hardwood plank thruout, fin. bsmnt. Prem. pie lot south exp., lots of charm and character.

Custom built homes at Bathurst Clark/Centre

$689–739,000. Quality & design beyond imagination. Stone or stucco built granite slab floors and counter tops, incred. kitchens, cornice moulds, fin. bsmnts. Vaulted ceilings. Can't list it all - truly. Thornhill's finest builders!

Bathurst at B'nai Torah $169,000

Townhouse in quiet 9 unit complex rarely avail. Spacious 3 bdrms. Sin. Garage. Catch the oppor. Finished basement.

Bathurst Steeles at Sephardic Kehila

Cordoba home, 3,200 sq. ft. backing onto park, 4 bdrms., fin. lower level, must sell immed. $384,900.

Call **H. Randy Cohen 905-771-9300**

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Bridle Path - $990,000
Beautiful, spacious, sun-filled 4 bdrm. home, lrge. studio, circular drive, landscaped gardens, pool, etc.

Yonge/Finch "Custom Built New Homes"
– $489,000: 4 bdrm., 2 stry. brick/stone, 3,200 sq. ft.
– $569,900: 5 bdrm. w/nanny's quarters, 2 stry. brick/stone, 3,600 sq. ft.

Westmount - $297,900
2,190 sq. ft. freehold twnhme., 4 bdrm., 2 years new

Bathurst & Steeles - $144,500
2 bdrm. condo apt., 2 baths, parquet flrs., eat-in kit., imm. poss. avail.

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Spac. 4 bdrm. bung., mod. kit., L-shape liv. & din., stained hdwd. flrs., fin. bsmnt., dble. drive, gar., move-in cond., A-1 buy & location.

• • •

SHEPPARD WILSON HEIGHTS
Estate sale, 3 bdrms., 2 baths, 2 kits., fin. bsmnt., lge. lot, steps to all.

• • •

WILSON HEIGHTS SHEPPARD
Ideal starter, 3 bdrms., 2 baths, 2 kits., fin. bsmnt., lge. lot, steps to all.

• • •

BATHURST WILSON CONDO
3 bdrms., 2 baths., mod. kit., bth. & lndry. ens., 5 appls., fast poss., don't miss!

• • •

A. & D. SEIDMAN 633-7373

BATHURST MANOR 3 bdrm. bung., fin. bsmt., immediate, $259,900.

80 ANTIBES DRIVE 3 bdrms., 2 baths, all appliances, high floor, immediately!

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10 HOUSES FOR SALE PRIVATE

Bathurst/Clark, 3+1 bdrms, 4 baths, fin. bsmnt, 5 appl, alarm, most new windows. $264,900. 416-665-2695.

York Mills/Bayview Custom built 5 bdrm home backing to quiet park. Main fl fam rm & library, 7 baths, cac, nanny suite, fully fin bsmt, dble gar. 4,700sq.ft. $989,000. 364-1063.

BATHURST/TORRESDALE
$229,000. Gorgeous 2 bedroom condo, huge solarium, 1,500 sq. ft. View it before leaving for Florida. 3 bedroom, 2 baths, detached.

SALLY ROSEN, Sale Rep.
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15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Bath/Lawrence, lovely 2 stry., 3 bdr. home, 4 appl., gar., sunrm., bsmnt., avail. Feb. 1. $1600/mo & util. 416-364-1063.

Clanton Park area, lge., 4 bdr., newly reno'd. 905-660-1919.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

Tridel's 265 Ridley (Avenue Rd & Wilson), 2 bdr., panoramic city view, sec., conv. to shopping, restaurants, schools, 401 & subway, $269,900. 782-0581. No agents please.

40 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE/ RENT

Bathurst/Steeles - Primrose 2 lux. 2 bdr. apts. One w/balc., one w/lge. sol., 24 hrs. sec., pool, tennis, etc. $174,900 and $184,900. (Possible short term rentals at $1395 & $1595/mo.) Leave message at 739-0105 and your call will be returned.

75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

1 bdrm in newly reno'd bsmnt. by Wilson subway. Non-smkr., lau., cable. $550/mo. 416-314-1745 or 416-398-7478.

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Very lg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrms., ample closets, some 1½ baths & 2 balc., roof, laundry, ravine setting, pool, ind. pkg., 6 apts. per flr. From $900.
960-3238 - Bus.
631-9377 or 631-0388 - Super

1 bdrm. apt. Lovely quiet building Carscadden/Bathurst. 398-3628, 636-0137

105 COTTAGE FOR SALE

LAKE SIMCOE - SANDY COVE
8 yr. old 6,800 sq.ft custom res., flows openly w/plank oak and mex tile flr., 3 fp., 5 baths, sand B. **$1,199,000 ask.**

LAKE SIMCOE - MAJOR ESTATE $1,688,000
One-of-the-finest on Lake Simcoe's south shore of Kempenfelt Bay. High timber beam ceiling, pine flrs., open plan, 9 bdrms. with ens., pool, tennis crt., hot tub, 8000 s.f. Like your own resort!! Sunsets...

LAKE SIMCOE - BIG BAY PT. $995,000
Award winning New England sea side arch., spac. array of openness warmed by wide pine/oak flrs., glass, multi w/o dominated by big stone f.p. & Muskoka rm. A masterpece! Sunsets...

LAKE SIMCOE - BIG BAY PT. $511,000
Compare this!! Escape to 1 acre paradise, lampin[illegible] utiful - like new wth nothing l[illegible] Glass, Mexican tile flrs. throughout, big decks, 2f.p., gorg. kit. & baths, pool, boat hs., gr.
SOLD

LAKE SIMCOE BELLE EWART $274,000
Lovely 4 bdrm., nicely renovated! Lrg. guest cott. L-shaped perm.pier.

LAKE SIMCOE - EIGHT MILE PT. $595,000
A beauty on 150'x550' lot, extremely well done!! Big decks & dock.

LAKE SIMCOE - BELLE EWART
(Min. to shul) Darling, well maintained cott., private, hedges, nice waterfront! Deadend street **$199,000.**

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Bernice Whelan
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125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

Lake Worth Florida. 2 bdrm 2 bath. Furnished. New condition. Available now. 908-755-4292.

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Pembroke Pines, Hollybrook, 2 bdrms., 2 bth., fully furn. & equipped. Free tennis, golf (PGA) 14 courts, 7 pools, full security, shuttle bus, lux. club-house with restaurant, movies & more, Very reas. 416 787-7308.

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

HOLLYWOOD, Hallmark 2 bdr, 2 full bath, corner, pkg., valet etc. 905-731-0609.

Miami Bch., Sunny Isles, beautiful condo on intercoastal, all amen., close to shopping and shuls, immed. 416-694-3886.

N. Miami Bch., Aventura area, lux. 2 bdrm., 2 bth., sec., maid service, 2 mos. from Feb. 15. $1600/mo. 416-650-6008.

North Miami Beach Luxury 2 bdrm 2 bath. Ideal for family. Kosher Kitchen, seats 4. $1750 U.S. a month. Avail. Feb. Mar. 416-630-2473.

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT

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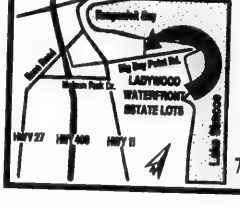
LADYWOOD WATERFRONT ESTATE LOTS



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Accountant Thornhill CA seeks computer literate CGA, CA or CMA for personal and corporate tax/accounting. CJN Box 7140.

Enthusiastic, creative teachers required for progressive Downtown Jewish Schools for September,1999. SK Junior teacher, Grade 2-3 team teacher for Day School; Hebrew teachers for Community School. Teaching certificate & Judaic studies background required. Relevant experience is an asset. Submit résumé plus 3 references & their phone #'s to: Joan Schoenfeld, c/o Bloor JCC, 750 Spadina Ave., Toronto, M5S 2J2 or Fax: (416) 924-0442.

Wanted. Lubavitch teacher w/knowledge of Chassidic philosophy. $30K salary. Resumes required. Fax 905-763-8727.

245 EMPLOYMENT WANTED

Bookkeeping/Administration. Retired CGA avail. Confidential. Very reas. rates. 416-784-0706.

Energetic Shomer Shabbat is looking for an office admin. position, P/T or F/T, fully equipped office at home is avail. Call, fax 905-763-7447

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Domestic Help Available
Single female 28 years old of Italian descent from Montreal seeking live-in Nanny position or caregiver for elderly. Available 7 days/24 hrs. (Little cooking) $350 a week Alessandra, (416)-741-7051.
*references available upon request.

Experienced cleaning lady avail., refs. Sonia 532-6693.

Frustrated by trying to find a suitable nanny? Let us help you. We have dependable, caring nannies who are thoroughly qualified, personally interviewed & pre-screened. All refs. are checked. Some are CPR trained. Low finders fee.
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250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

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Retirement Resident Placement Service for Jewish Seniors.
For information, contact Tamar Rosenblum Placement Co-ordinator **(416) 330-6469**

260 BUSINESS PERSONALS

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SOULMATES WORLDWIDE JEWISH MATCHMAKERS.
Still single?
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Jewish Singles Registry, over 1680 registered. 483-4151

Toronto Premier Rainbow Dating Services
Best Gay Dating Service of Canada. Operated by a Gay Jewish Man. 416-565-0802. E-mail: torontop@rainbowpremier.com

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Early 40's widow w/17 yr. old son, slightly physically challenged would like to find male companionship, 43-48, young Israel, Modern Orthodox background. CJN Box # 7124.

Handsome male, 41, ex-Montrealer, seeks female, 30-45 for lasting relationship. Reply to CJN Box # 7141.

If you believe that dog people should be with dog people and cat people should be with cat people, then read on! This 33 yr old SJM, 6'1", blue eyes, brown hair, self employed, established, university educated, dog person who has two. I am easy going, humorous, loves sports, outdoors, camping, dining, traveling, movies, kids and much more. I am looking for a SJF, 28-34, good hearted, sincere, slim/medium build, non-smkr. Drop me a letter. CJN Box 7139

Only you can fulfill my dream. Slender, very pretty woman with a warm smile, joie de vivre, adventurous spirit is searching for a special gentleman, 55-65, wishing to share life's pleasures. CJN Box # 7145.

Petite prof JF 52 w/good nature, values & a healthy lifestyle seeks a kind, stable, successful man w/similar qual. Box # 7143.

Prof. Jewish man, looking to meet Jewish female, 30-45 to start a family. 416-783-8382.

SJM, 40, professional, handsome, 5'11", 165 lbs., outgoing, traditional Jewish values, seeks attractive, accomplished SJF, 28-35 with similar background. CJN Box # 7144.

Replying to a Companion ad with a CJN Box Number?

Address your mail to:

The Canadian Jewish News
1500 Don Mills Rd.
Suite 205
North York, Ontario
M3B 3K4
Box # _____

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·CUSTOMER SERVICE·

The CJN requires that advertisers check their advertisement upon publication, as *The CJN* will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion, and there shall be no liability for non-insertion of any advertisement. Liability for errors in advertisements is limited to the amount paid for the space occupying the error. All copy is subject to the approval of the management of *The CJN*. *The CJN* reserves the right to classify all advertisements.

Service Directory & Classified Ad Deadlines are Wednesday, 8 days previous to the issue, by 4 pm.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Attractive SJF, 40ish. I have many interest and enjoyments. Looking for goodlooking Jewish male with a kind heart and good character for compatible relationship. CJN Box # 7146.

*** CJN Boxes for Personal Companions Wanted ads are valid for 30 (thirty) days only (from 1st publication date). Replies must be received within this time frame in order to be forwarded to the correct CJN Box #.**

280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Basketball Players Wanted, in their 30's & 40's one night per week at Forest Hill Collegiate. Great fun and good exercise! Call Michael 416-991-3399 for more info.

305 ARTICLES WANTED

I will buy your coins, stamps, gold, silver, diamonds, watches & antiques **for cash. 605-1640**

315 CARS FOR SALE

Turn your old car into renewed hope. Donate your used car to benefit Jewish special education and receive maximum tax credit. As an example of the incredible tax credit you may receive, consider this: An '88 Buick Regal may be worth as much as $3,775. Free towing. 416-787-1101.

330 OBITUARIES

SMITH, Harold - Suddenly at home, Friday, January 15th in his 79th year. Remembered lovingly by children Marc & Andrea, sister Rose, niece Sheila, nephews Leon & Milton, first wife Bina, children of his now deceased second wife Sylvia, Joey, Tammy, Debbie & David and his close relatives and friends. Predeceased by sister Ida. Friend and advisor to many having an abiding compassion for all. Huge general knowledge and inquiring mind. Culture and fine arts were his personal passions as well as his rich career in Social Work with adults, youth and then the penal system. Served willingly in the Second World War. Donations to the Mount Sinai Hospital Outpatients Clinic.

COLLINS, Beck - on Jan. 7, 1999, late of 515 Chaplin Cres., #705.
ROTMAN, Shirley - on Jan. 7, 1999, late of 129 Armour Blvd.
CAPLAN, Minnie - on Jan. 8, 1999, late of 15 Canyon Ave., #1802.
ROSS, Manny David - on Jan. 8, 1999, late of 7601 Bathurst St., #401.
SACKS, Helen - on Jan. 8, 1999, late of 10 Senlac Ave.
ADELAND, Dvorah - on Jan. 9, 1999, late of 205 Cummer Ave.
GOLDHAR, Max - on Jan. 9, 1999, late of 429 Walmer Rd.
GOLDMAN, Miriam - on Jan. 9, 1999, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
GREEN, Gail - on Jan. 9, 1999, late of 24 Harrington Cres.
KROKOCKI, Anna - on Jan. 10, 1999, late of 680 Roselawn Ave., #307.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

330 OBITUARIES

KOPMAN, Elayne - on Jan. 10, 1999, late of 11 Vernham Crt.
ZEIDENBERG, Max - on Jan. 10, 1999, late of 399 Cortleigh Blvd.
LADOWSKY, Keve - on Jan. 11, 1999, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
COLLIS, Jack - on Jan. 12, 1999, late of 729 Woburn Ave.
DALES, Jack - on Jan. 12, 1999, late of McCaul Health Centre.
LEVINE, Rose - on Jan. 12, 1999, late of 3705 Bathurst St.
ORGAN, Tessie - on Jan. 12, 1999, late of 312 Glenayr Rd.
MANDEL, Albert - on Jan. 13, 1999, late of 720 Briar Hill Ave.
PARK, William - on Jan. 13, 1999, late of 100 Quebec Ave., #503.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

GASNER, William - on Jan. 11, 1999, late of 28 Sunnycrest Rd.
FLAMENBAUM, Karol - on Jan. 12, 1999.
GANGEL, Walter - on Jan. 12, 1999, late of 100 Observatory Lane.
JAFFE, Max - on Jan. 12, 1999, late of 27 Four Winds Dr.
BENITAH, Mercedes - on Jan. 13, 1999.
KRIVY, Stanley - on Jan. 13, 1999, late of 601 Clark Ave. W.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

BERNARD, Morris - on Jan. 14, 1999.
GREISMAN, Helen - on Jan. 14, 1999.
KRASNAY, Renee - on Jan. 14, 1999.
PERKELL, Leo - on Jan. 14, 1999, late of 330 Spadina Rd.
KIDECKEL, Harry - on Jan. 15, 1999, late of 2075 Bayview Ave.
LOWENBERG, Montague - on Jan. 15, 1999, late of 67 Viewmount Ave.
REEVES, Elizabeth - on Jan. 15, 1999, late of 205 Hilda Ave.
SMITH, Harold - on Jan. 15, 1999, late of 1101 Steeles Ave. W.
ZEITOUNI, Nessim - on Jan. 15, 1999.
BLACK, Feny - on Jan. 16, 1999.
ENGEL, Anne - on Jan. 16, 1999, late of 3000 Bathurst St.
LEIZNER, Harry - on Jan. 16, 1999.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

MILNER, Dina - on Jan. 16, 1999, late of 5 Fisherville Rd.
FINEBERG, Rachel - on Jan. 17, 1999, late of 205 Cummer Ave.
REVICH, Rose - on Jan. 17, 1999, late of 550 Cummer Ave.
KRAMER, Louis - on Jan. 18, 1999, late of 205 Cummer Ave.

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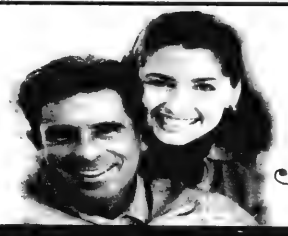
A rabbi blows the shofar at the annual pilgrimage to the grave of Rabbi Israel Abuhatzera, the Baba Sali. Thousands of people attended the ceremony in Netivot, which is 10 kilometres northwest of Be'ersheva. [Israel Sun photo]



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Women seeking Men

LOVING
Divorced Jewish female, 38, kind, caring, loving. Seeking a Jewish male, 32-43, who is attractive. AD#1816

HOLDING HANDS
Single Jewish female, 40's, 5'1", 105lbs, slim, professional, divorced, confident, playful, enjoy art, long walks, theater, dancing, movies. Seeking a slim, youthful male, in his 40's or 50's, who is educated, successful, fit and a non-smoker. AD#1817

FUN LOVING
Single female, 5'5", brown hair and eyes, well groomed, passionate, romantic, fun loving, enjoy long walks, dining out, movies, theater, golfing, spending time with friends. Seeking a male who is a good listener, sincere and romantic. AD#1822

COMPATIBLE RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish white female, 40's, have many and varied interests. Seeking a mature Jewish male for a compatible relationship. AD#1827

KEEP SMILING
Separated mom of 2 kids, 5'4", 34, medium built, long wavy blond hair, dark blue eyes, dazzling smile, intelligent, unique, sensitive, attractive, enjoy reading, cooking, music. Seeking a male, 35-46, with similar interests. AD#1828

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single female, 35, attractive, young looking, slim, 5'4", brunette, enjoy the theater, travelling, movies, ethnic foods, country and cottage life. Seeking a male, 33-44, professional, employed, intelligent, attractive, and a good communicator. AD#1831

QUALITY SEEKING QUALITY
Lovely lady, accomplished, well travelled, loyal, sincere, compassionate, warm, 136lbs, 5'7", enjoy the arts, love gardening, cooking, movies, theater. Seeking a male, tall, honest, 47-56, who is not afraid to share and enjoys meaningful conversation. AD#1824

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single Jewish female, attractive, 32, 5'7", brown hair, green eyes, enjoy the outdoors, dining and dancing, cooking, candlelight, romantic evenings. Seeking a male, romantic, successful, honest, caring, who is a good communicator and believes that best of friends is the way to a great relationship. AD#1833

OLD FASHIONED VALUES
Single female, attractive, dark skinned, brown hair and eyes, 5'6", 125lbs, caring, understanding, romantic. Seeking a Jewish male, tall, fit, unique, who considers himself a true gentleman. AD#1856

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single female, intelligent, attractive, dark auburn hair, hazel green eyes, non smoker, enjoy music, travelling, romantic evening. Seeking a male, who is romantic, financially secure to show me all the possibilities life has to offer. AD#1806

HEALTH MINDED
Single female, early 50's, 5'2", slim, intelligent, sincere, down to earth, health minded, have no children. Seeking a good looking male in the same age group, and a non-smoker. AD#1797

HUMOROUS
Single attractive female, slim. Seeking a male, 66+, reliable, humorous, good conversationalist, with values and who enjoys nature. AD#1891

LOVELY LADY
Single female, enjoy nature, gardening, cooking, theater, movies, reading. Seeking a tall male with good communication skills. AD#1607

BRIGHT BLUE EYES
Single Jewish female, 47, 5'1", short auburn hair, blue eyes, a sparkling smile, pretty, playful, romantic, caring, warm, non-smoker, love kids and animals. Seeking a Jewish male, handsome, non-smoker, romantic, thoughtful, passionate, and ready to commit to a relationship. AD#1803

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish mom, 41, have 2 teenagers, attractive, intelligent, compassionate, honest, selfless, employed, independent. Seeking a single Jewish male, non-smoker, emotionally and financially secure, honest, sincere, 40-45, single dads OK! AD#1786

SINGLE MOM
Single mom, 1 teenage son, very outgoing, loving, caring, attractive, 49, intelligent, educated, non-smoker, enjoy movies, dining & dancing, theater. Seeking a male, 49-59, who is loving, caring, outgoing, loves children, profession is not important. AD#1805

A RARE GEM
Single mom of a teenage son, youthful, with brown straight shoulder length hair, brown eyes, non smoker, kind, sincere, fun to be with. Seeking a male to share my life with.AD#1791

LET'S HAVE COFFEE
Single female, 38, dark hair, blue eyes, nice smile, school teacher, love children, family and friends are very important, enjoy movies, theater, dining & dancing, very communicative. Seeking a well groomed male with similar interests. AD#1794

Men seeking Women

SOULMATE
Divorced Jewish male, 6', 240lbs, easy going, great sense of humour, enjoy sports, movies, and love to laugh. Seeking a female, 26-31, with similar interests. AD#1818

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single male, Goldsmith and an artist, enjoy music, fine arts, sports, writing. Seeking a female, attractive, single moms OK, 28-38, with similar interests. AD#1907

HEART OF GOLD
Single Jewish male, 5'7", 30 something, Andy Garcia looks, impeccable dresser but a cowboy at heart, fun loving, romantic, stable, resourceful, professional. Seeking a Jewish female, late 20's- early 30's, attractive, vibrant, classy and slim. AD#1823

ONCE BITTEN, TWICE SHY
Single male, 50's, financially secure, handsome, from the Thornhill area. Seeking a female, good looking, with a good sense of humour, slim, age is not important, financially secure, a picture is a must after contact is made. AD#1810

FUN LOVING
Single Jewish male, 33, easy going, fun loving, enjoy outdoor activities, movies, long walks, camping. Seeking a female, 25-38, with similar interests. AD#1777

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single Jewish male, 6', handsome, athletic built, love sports and keeping fit, artistic, with traditional values. Seeking a Jewish female, who is ready to make a commitment and start a family, who enjoys life and has old fashioned values. AD#1809

OLD FASHIONED
Single male, mid 30's, old fashioned, sensitive, stubborn, romantic, enjoy cuddling, outdoor activities, movies, camping. Seeking a female, 30-35, with similar interests. AD#1762

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single Jewish male, 36, 5'7", professional, traditional values, warm, fit, and fun. Seeking a Jewish female, late 20's to mid 30's, down to earth, creative, spontaneous, well grounded, with a good sense of humour. AD#1771

LET'S GO FOR COFFEE
Single Jewish male, 32, professional, 180lbs, self employed, own his own business, fit, enjoy all aspects of life, movies, dining and dancing, travelling, working out, motor cycling. Seeking a Jewish female, very down to earth, non-smoker, strong morals and values, clean and neat. AD#1774

LET'S CONNECT
Single male, 19, seeking a female, tall, slim, loving & caring for a meaningful relationship. AD#1814

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, early 50's, down to earth, tall, slim, caring, easy going, professional, enjoy movies & quiet times. Seeking a Jewish female, 39-49, warm, sensitive, and health conscious. AD#1718

EASY TO LOOK AT
Single white male, young looking, late 50's, blue eyes, brown hair, medium built, financially secure, down to earth, great sense of humour, enjoy the outdoors. Seeking an attractive female, caring down to earth, trim figure, of any age. AD#1720

GOOD CONVERSATIONALIST
Single Jewish male, 6', slim, attractive, brown hair, blue-green eyes, have a B.A., enjoy cooking, travelling, movies, dining out. Seeking a Jewish female, 30-34, who is well read. AD#1730

LIKES LAUGHS & OUTDOORS
Divorced Jewish male, 29, brown hair, blue eyes, professional, enjoy outdoor activities. Seeking a female with good sense of humour, caring, & kind. AD#1787

CALL ME
Single male, 32, professional, fit, enjoy motor cycles, travelling, movies, working out, life. Seeking an attractive female, down to earth, fit, who also has a zest for life. AD#1733

COMPANIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 55, professional. Seeking a non-smoking, Jewish female, 50-60, with traditional values, who enjoys the theater, dancing & dining. AD#1710

SEEKING NICE LADY
Single male, 18, enjoy movies, dancing. Seeking a single female with similar interests. AD#1670

MY KIDS TAUGHT ME WELL
Single male, 40, ready to get into life again. Seeking a special lady to share life with. AD#1779

TIME WAITS FOR NO ONE
Single male, 45, conservative looking, enjoy country drives, art auctions, have a business degree, stock market investor and analyzer. Seeking a lady, no need to be slim, for serious relationship. AD#1681

ROMANTIC AND CARING
Single white male, 56, self-employed, businessman, enjoy movies, music, travel, good conversation, quiet times. Seeking a female, compassionate, loving, attractive, sensitive, to be his special lady. AD#1784

ACTIVE JUNIOR SENIOR
Single male, mid 60's, 5'6", non-smoker, Anglo-Jewish background, enjoy music, theater, outdoors, travel, public affairs. Seeking a semi-dependent, warm, educated, outgoing, caring lady, 50+. AD#1690

DON'T MISS OUT
Youthful Jewish senior, 65+, semi-retired, 5'7", 180lbs, blue eyes, thoughtful, sincere, reliable, romantic, affectionate, humorous. Seeking a special lady to share love, understanding, and friendship, 50-64. AD#1676

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Montreal teen pursues soccer career in England

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — How does a laid-back Jewish kid from the Montreal suburb of St. Laurent end up heading towards a professional soccer career in England, where the sport is a virtual religion?

Adam Braz does it with talent.

Braz is a former Herzliyah High School student now playing for the under-19 team in Bristol City, about a two-hour drive from London.

Already ranked as one of Canada's top junior soccer players – he's a member of the junior Canadian national team which has competed in qualifying rounds for the Junior World Cup – Braz, 17, moved to England over the summer after Canadian junior team coach Tony Taylor recommended him to Bristol City.

Braz tried out twice for the Bristol squad, part of the top-ranked First Division, before being accepted, and he began training in September.

As a member of the under-19 farm squad, Braz might, by as early as May, be offered a professional contract and be on his way to being a bona fide member of the First Team, where every player wants to end up.

"It would mean a lot for me to get a pro contract," Braz said recently on his first visit back to Montreal since crossing the ocean. "It's what I've wanted my whole life."

Braz is definitely where he wants to be, but it hasn't necessarily been easy.

Beside the obvious cultural difficulties of having to adapt to life in England, Braz, who plays the defender position, also had to earn the respect of his teammates, who share the same dream of making the the pros.

Braz is one of only a few Canadians he's aware of currently playing soccer in England.

Being Jewish also makes Braz a bit of a rarity. He knows of at least three other Jewish professional soccer players in England, but at Bristol, he is the only Jewish member.

Braz has made it a point to seek out Jewish contacts in Bristol, something that's been made easier since the school he attends, Clifton College, has the only "Jewish house" – called Polak's House – in the entire English public school system.

Braz is boarding at Clifton, where he is studying business, and has found Polak's House a welcoming place to make Jewish friends.

Adam Braz

Braz knows playing in Bristol represents make it or break it time for him, but he copes with the pressure with an almost fatalistic calm.

"Basically, I do the best I can," he says with nonchalance. "I think I have a chance [to make the pros], but it's up to me to take that chance, to grab the opportunity."

Certainly, if Braz's record and determination are any indication, it would be unwise to bet against him.

Turned on to soccer at age seven by his father Roni, himself a former player who coached a house-league team, Braz loved the sport from the start, proving himself a true natural at the game.

He moved up the ranks year by year, becoming a member of the Quebec elite league, and at age 15 was named to the Canadian national junior team, a squad that came just short of qualifying for the junior World Cup.

Otmane Ibrir, who heads the Quebec Soccer Federation's Elite Program and once coached Braz, has been quoted as saying that Braz "has everything needed to go to the highest possible level."

But no one realizes more than Braz that, whatever he may have accomplished in the past, he must continue to improve and prove that he can play at the next level.

For example, Braz would like to improve his "heading game" and his positional play.

But no matter how much he wants to make the pros, Braz is definitely not one to obsess about it. He knows how to put soccer in perspective.

"I'm laid back about things," he says. "In life, you can't get too excited or too down. You've got to take things in stride."

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Memorial hoops tourney set

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — From Winnipeg to London (England), from Montreal to Miami, high school hoopsters will gather in Toronto for the third annual Israel Becker CHAT Invitational basketball tournament, Feb. 4-7.

Set to run at the Bathurst Jewish Centre, the tournament will bring together 350 players on 24 teams for a friendly, yet competitive, set of matches.

Divided equally between boys and girls teams, the tournament has grown so popular that event officials were forced to turn away several entries, said Aubrey Zimmerman, one of the tournament organizers.

In addition to a guaranteed four games per team, participants will enjoy a Shabbaton and be given "a chance to meet, interact and compete" with contemporaries from a variety of Jewish schools, he said.

The tournament is named in honor of Israel Becker, a CHAT basketball player who was killed in an automobile accident.

Last year, CHAT boys and girls teams were runners-up to tournament winners, Ramaz High School from New York City. Other entries include: King Solomon High School, London, England; Bialik High School, Montreal; Hebrew Academy, Nassau County, N.Y.; Westchester Hebrew High School, N. Y.; Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate, Winnipeg; New Jewish High School, Waltham, Ma.; Miami Hebrew Academy; Hebrew Academy of Montreal; Yeshiva Beit Yitzchak, Hamilton; Yeshiva Or Chaim, Toronto; Akiva Hebrew Academy, Merion, Pa; and New Atlanta Jewish Community High School.

Although the teams have been asked to pay their own way to Toronto, once here, they will be billeted with local families, and other arrangements will be taken care of, Zimmerman said.

Organizers are relying on donations from tournament supporters to raise the $25,000 needed to stage the event, he added.

Games get under way at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 4 with CHAT boys taking on the Hebrew Academy of Nassau County, while over in a second gym, Or Chaim tangles with Ramaz. CHAT girls' first game is at noon versus the New Jewish High School of Waltham. Championship games are scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 7.

The Inside Back

Canada's other dark chapter

As I was saying...

By RON CSILLAG

Not much excites historians more than musty, dusty, yellowing documents that have only recently been made public. Gerald Tulchinsky, among Canada's top Jewish historians, is no different. He's raring to play sleuth, for before him, sitting at the National Archives of Canada, are some 59,000 files contained in 1,800 cardboard boxes.

Transferred to the archives by a disbanded office called the Custodian of Enemy Property, the documents look like a treasure trove of information on yet another dark chapter in Canada's war-time history. Thanks to Irving Abella and Harold Troper, we know all too well, this country's none-is-too-many policy on Jewish immigration. Now, thanks to Tulchinsky and an Israeli academic, we'll know more about how Ottawa treated struggling immigrants during World War II, as well as those who sent cash and other valuables to Canada for safekeeping. At first blush, they simply fell under the rubric "enemy aliens" – a threat to the Dominion.

The previously inaccessible documents, made public by the Department of Finance in 1995, show how much power the Custodian of Enemy Property had during the war – power over the financial affairs of anyone connected to Axis countries: Italy, Germany, Japan, and later, eastern Europe. In other words, all territory that was overrun by the Nazis, or by their war partners.

And the scope of that power cut a huge swath, ranging from seizure of bank accounts, insurance policies and property held by residents of enemy or occupied countries; controlling the assets of Japanese- and Italian-Canadians interned during the war; and sometimes, right down to seizing possessions and businesses.

How do Jews fit in?

Under war-time legislation, the few Jews who did manage to gain entry to Canada were, at least in the war's early stages, lumped in with non-Jewish enemy aliens, until they were afforded more lenient treatment later as refugees. Jews who sunk their savings into Canada but who lived in Axis countries were out of luck.

As the *Globe and Mail*'s Jan Wong put it recently, Ottawa's bloodless bureaucrats punished the victims of the Nazis for the sins of the Nazis.

Tulchinsky, who teaches a course on the Holocaust at Queen's University in Kingston, has teamed with Yossi Katz, a geography professor at Bar-Ilan University. For the past few years, Katz has been looking into a story that caused waves in Israel a few years ago. Newspapers there unearthed documents showing that some banks, including a few going back to the British mandate, inherited assets deposited by people in war-time Nazi-held countries, assets that were never claimed.

And Katz has a keen interest in Canada, because one of the files at the National Archives details the case of a Hungarian Jew, Akatiu Somogyi, who went through a bureaucratic hell trying to retrieve his life savings of $3,500 he had sent to the Bank of Montreal on the eve of World War II. In 1957, Somogyi, then 70, enlisted the aid of Israel's embassy in Ottawa, to no avail. The money had already been transferred to the Bank of Canada as an inactive account. The final insult came in 1975, when Somogyi's daughter was denied the money because her father never proved to Ottawa's satisfaction that he had been persecuted.

Tulchinsky can barely hide his contempt at this.

"After the war," he explains, "many people came forward with claims, but they were met by bureaucrats who needed proof of suffering." A tattoo from Auschwitz, evidently, wasn't enough.

"Now it could be," he goes on diplomatically, "that in light of the more humane attitudes of today, these claims might now be settled on a more generous basis."

He suggests that lawyers connected to Canadian Jewish Congress or B'nai Brith may wish to provide their services, pro bono, to the descendants of claimants.

Tulchinsky, author of the recently released *Branching Out: The Transformation of the Canadian Jewish Community* and the earlier *Taking Root: The Origins of the Canadian Jewish Community*, senses there's another book here. Sounds like it could be a literary first: a mystery/tragedy.

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1 8 oz. pkg light cream cheese, softened	1/2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
1/2 cup light sour cream	2 green onions, chopped
1/2 tsp each dried basil and oregano	1/2 cup diced red or green peppers
1 7 1/2 oz. can pizza sauce	1/4 cup sliced black olives

In bowl, stir together cream cheese, sour cream, basil and oregano; spread in bottom of 10" pie plate. Spread pizza sauce over top, leaving 1/2" border. Sprinkle with mozzarella. Top with green onions, then red or green peppers and olives. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour or until chilled. *(Can be refrigerated for up to 1 day).* Serve with toasted baguette slices or bread sticks. Yield: 2-1/2 cups.

About Seniors

Dear Jesse,

I am writing to you about my future mother-in-law. She is 80 years old and lives alone. She also has Alzheimer disease and is quite confused. Her children live out of town most of the year, but she is supported by family and friends. Lately, she is becoming much more hostile and aggressive, and I am quite concerned that she is putting herself in danger. I don't know if she is seeing a doctor. My future husband has arranged for me to come into town next week to see what I can do about organizing services for her.

AS

Dear AS,

It sounds as if your future mother-in-law is very lucky to have friends around her who are providing support. However, most people who have Alzheimer disease deteriorate over time, and it seems timely for her to be involved in a psycho-geriatric service at a local hospital.

Many agencies across Canada and the United States have care management programs that should be of assistance to you in helping you to support your future mother-in-law. This type of service can be organized when you are in town.

They can provide regular visits and supports to your future mother-in-law, communicate with you and your fiance about her progress, and actually be the hands-on service helping her when you are out of town.

Readers are invited to send any questions they have for Jesse to The CJN. *Jesse is the executive director of Jewish Support Services for the Elderly (JSSE) in Montreal.*

What are you laughing at?

An assimilated Jewish woman from the Midwest is visiting Philadelphia and gets on a bus.

A few stops later, a man with a wide-brimmed black hat, white shirt, long black coat and a long curly black beard gets on and sits down beside her.

The woman looks at him with disgust. "Jews like you," she hisses at him, "give us all a bad name."

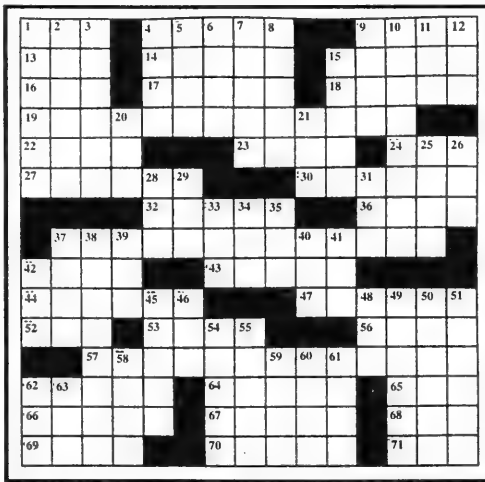
He looks up at her, puzzled, and says, "I beg your pardon madam?"

She says, "Look at you. All in black, a beard, never take off your hat!

"It's Jews like you that give the rest of us a problem!"

He says calmly, "I beg your pardon, madam, but I am not Jewish. I'm Amish."

The woman looks back and smiles, "How nice. You've kept your customs."



The Canadian Jewish news

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

No Strings Attached

By Matt Gaffney & David Bianco
(QSyndicate ~ aol.com)

Across

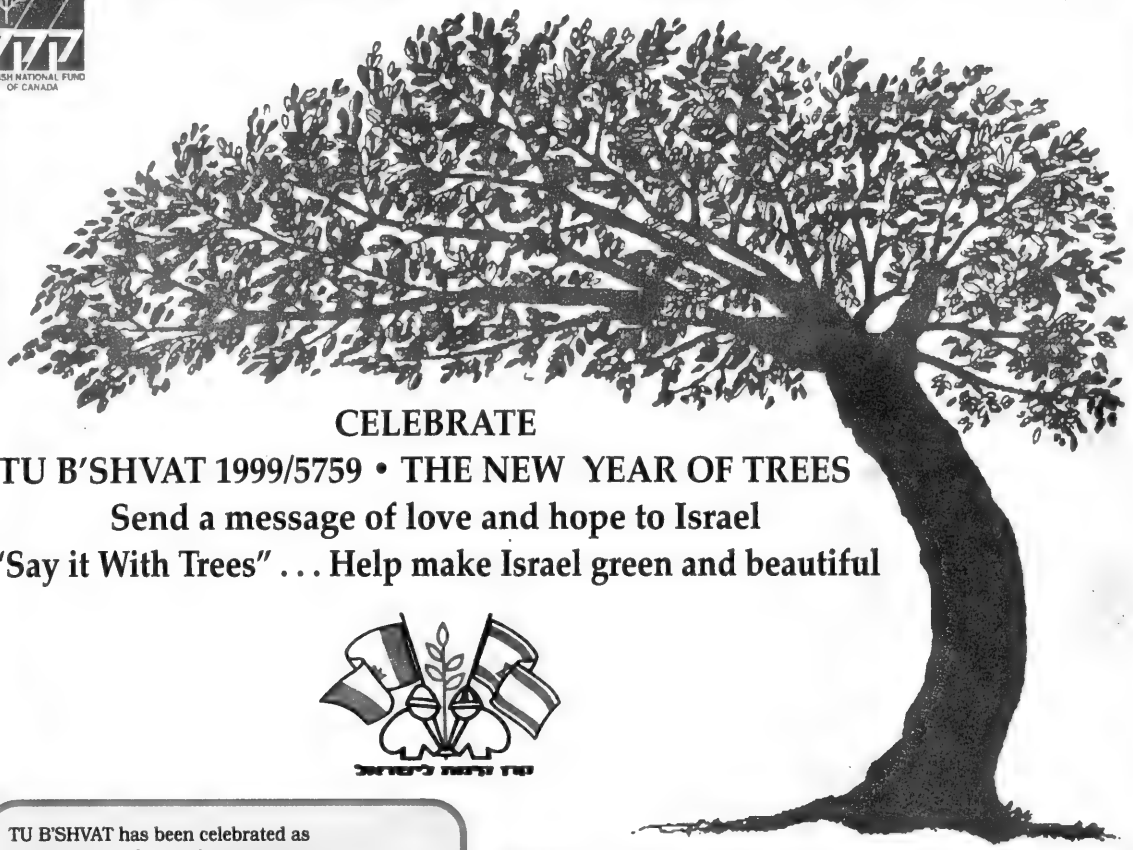
1. Tool for Saul Bellow
4. Runs away
9. Cry loudly
13. Wish one hadn't
14. Esther of "Good Times"
15. Leg bone
16. Rauschenberg's field
17. Hit delete
18. Borders
19. Noted violinist
22. Manages a living (with "out")
23. Not too bad
24. It can be holy
27. Have the chutzpah
30. Paul Wellstone's group
32. Arthur Miller character
36. One of Seth's sons
37. Noted violinist
42. Office words
43. Page of singing
44. *Streetcar Named Desire* cry
47. Duke of baseball
52. City that bore a Hasidic dynasty
53. Scary snakes
56. Exist
57. Noted violinist
62. Russian country house
64. Masada event
65. Poetic work
66. American Competitor
67. Wyoming's Grand __ National Park
68. __ England
69. Viktor Frankl's __ Search for Meaning
70. Take __
71. Balaam had one

Down

1. *Davened*
2. Discovery shout
3. Under
4. Dancing Astair
5. Actress Petty
6. Ancient kingdom on the Persian Gulf
7. Someone __ (not yours)
8. "__ evil"
9. Netanyahu's nickname
10. Overflowing
11. Woody Allen characteristic
12. __ Vegas
15. California-Nevada resort
20. Take advantage of
21. Ship letters
25. From __ (completely)
26. Affirmative
28. Affection
29. "Wow!"
31. Joan Rivers, __ Molinsky
33. Treasure hunt need
34. See 2-down
35. Post-expenses amount
37. Ballet leap
38. Like about 40% of the world Jewish population
39. Wise king, for short
40. "__ a boy!"
41. Shark giveaway
42. "No __" (Chinese menu alert)
45. __ Wolf (Fiddler on the Roof character)
46. End of a cigarette
48. Sick
49. Atomic Israeli city
50. Dodges
51. Lengthens a subscription
54. Florentine food
55. Slopes-hitter
58. "__ can't be happening!"
59. Sampras of tennis
60. Freudian concepts
61. Monthly headache
62. Half a lollipop
63. Coca-Cola founder Candler

(This week's answers are on page 32.)

Jewish National Fund of Canada • קרן קימת לישראל



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Dispute sours Auschwitz trip

CJC criticizes Canadian-Polish Congress

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The prime minister's visit to Auschwitz has been "soured" by a disagreement between the Canadian-Polish Congress and the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), a key participant on the trip suggested last week.

Moshe Ronen, president of Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), said he is "puzzled and surprised" by the position taken by the Canadian-Polish Congress (CPC). "It upset me that the tail end of this trip has to have a sour note. It's unfortunate."

Ronen, accompanied by his father Mordechai, a survivor of Auschwitz, joined Jean Chrétien in a visit to the death camp established during World War II by Nazi Germany. The "private" visit took place during the prime minister's official visit to Poland.

In a news conference in Toronto, CPC president Lucien Conrad said he was "deeply disappointed with the exclusion of representatives of the CPC during Chrétien's visit to Auschwitz.

"We are particularly dismayed by the insensitivity demonstrated by the PMO. The CPC feels the inclusion of a Polish Canadian delegation during the prime minister's visit to Auschwitz would have been a singular opportunity to promote better understanding between Canada's ethno-cultural communities, specifically members of Canada's Jewish and Polish minorities."

"Personally, I was very hurt that my prime minister would go to my country of origin and not notify us that he's going to the place where my grandfather was killed," said Ala Gettlich, secretary-general of the CPC.

Both Polish leaders emphasized that they had no quarrel with the

Continued on page 21

A SILENT PRAYER FOR THE VICTIMS

Mordechai Ronen, wrapped in his tallit, is overcome with emotion at a destroyed barracks during his recent visit with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to Auschwitz. *[CP Picture Archive (Tom Hanson)]*

Deportation decision

MONTREAL — A Federal Court judge has ruled that alleged Nazi war criminal Vladimir Katriuk lied to obtain Canadian citizenship. The decision paves the way for the federal cabinet to strip the 77-year-old Ukrainian-born beekeeper of his citizenship and begin deportation proceedings.

Government lawyers alleged that Katriuk was a member of the Waffen SS and a section leader of Shuma 18, a police battalion that committed atrocities in then-Byelorussia, including rounding up 100 Jews and burning them to death in a barn.

Katriuk entered Canada in 1951 under a false name.

More on this story in next week's edition of *The CJN*.

INSIDE

Israel feels Abdullah is ready to rule. Please see page 9.

day

Syria and Russia planning arms deal — please see page 35

The News in Brief

CANADA

Order of Canada

OTTAWA — Several Jewish Canadians were among the 89 people invested into the Order of Canada recently by Governor General Roméo LeBlanc. Named as Officers of the order are Howard Alper of Ottawa (for science) and Irving Pink of Yarmouth, N.S. (law). Named as Members were Sheldon Godfrey of Toronto (heritage preservation); Marnie Paikin of Hamilton (volunteerism); and Gerald Rose of Saskatoon (volunteerism).

Zundel's Lawsuit Dismissed

OTTAWA — An Ottawa judge has dismissed a lawsuit against political parties and their leaders launched by Toronto pro-Nazi publisher Ernst Zundel. Justice James Chadwick threw out Zundel's claim against Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and other party leaders and politicians, ruling there was no reasonable cause of action and that the dignity and integrity of Parliament must be preserved. Zundel launched the $2.25-million suit after being banned from Parliament last June, where he had scheduled a press conference.

Last week, Gilbert Parent, the Speaker of the House of Commons, banned Doug Christie, Zundel's lawyer, from all parliamentary precincts.

CJC Condemns Atrocity

MONTREAL — Canadian Jewish Congress has condemned the Jan. 15 massacre of civilians in the village of Racak in Kosovo.

In a letter to Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, CJC stated: "The ongoing carnage, dislocation of population and destruction of property due to the conflict in Kosovo are in direct violation of the UN-brokered ceasefire. Canada and the international community cannot accept the continued disregard for basic human rights."

CORRECTION

TORONTO — Errors in last week's story on the expansion of Pardes Shalom cemetery misled readers on the buyer and seller of 200 acres of rural property in York Region.

In fact, the land was purchased from a private company with Jewish communal dollars.

The CJN regrets the errors.

Wallenberg Park

KITCHENER — City council here has approved the naming of a half-acre park after Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish hero who saved the lives of 100,000 Jews in Budapest during World War II. A plaque will be erected at an official naming ceremony in late summer.

ISRAEL

Haredim Enlist

JERUSALEM — Thirty haredi men have joined the Israeli army. It was the first such group to enlist after the Supreme Court ruled in December that a decades-old arrangement exempting yeshiva students from serving in the army is illegal. The 30 recruits will be part of a unit that combines Torah study with army service.

PA Gets Phone Code

JERUSALEM — The International Telecommunications Union has granted the Palestinian Authority its own telephone code for incoming international calls. Palestinian officials hailed the move as a further proof that they have international support for statehood.

Canadian Wins Wolf Prize

JERUSALEM — A Canadian professor has been awarded Israel's prestigious Wolf Prize in chemistry. Raymond Lemieux of the University of Alberta was honored for his contributions to the study of sugar-like molecules. The awards are awarded annually in Jerusalem.

WORLD

Cemetery Vandalized

KRAKOW — Vandals recently destroyed more than 50 gravestones at a Jewish cemetery here. This marks the second time in the past several months that tombstones have been destroyed at the cemetery.

Jackson Goes to Shul

JOHANNESBURG — Pop superstar Michael Jackson recently attended a bar mitzvah here. Jackson, wearing a kippah, surprised congregants in the Sandton synagogue when he turned up for the bar mitzvah of Dean Cohen last month. Cohen's family apparently struck up a friendship with the singer when the family spent a weekend at the popular Sun City hotel and gaming resort three years ago.

Insurance Company Faces California Lawsuit

LOS ANGELES — In a precedent-setting decision, a Los Angeles judge has ruled that European companies can be sued in California courts for non-payment of life insurance policies dating back to the Holocaust era.

The decision that Assicurazioni Generali must face trial here may also be applied to other European insurers and more than 6,000 Holocaust survivors living in California, officials said.

The ruling stems from a $135-million lawsuit against Italy's largest insurance firm, launched by attorney Lisa Stern. She filed the action a year ago on behalf of relatives descended from Moshe Stern, a wealthy Hungarian wine and spirits merchant who perished at Auschwitz but who had taken out large insurance policies through Generali's Prague office.

In her ruling, the judge rejected the firm's assertion that it is not subject to the jurisdiction of a California court in a matter originating in a foreign country.

A trial date is to be set March 25. Generali officials said they will appeal the judge's ruling.

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Criteria set for recipients of Swiss funds

We'll distribute the money as fast as we can: Rabbi Plaut

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Criteria have been established for Holocaust survivors in Canada to be eligible for a one-time payment under the Swiss fund of $2.5 million (US).

Applicants must meet all the following criteria. They must:

- have lived in a country under a Nazi regime;
- be in need;
- be a citizen of Canada; and
- be living at the time of application.

No funds are provided for families of deceased relatives.

If all 16,000 to 18,000 survivors estimated to be in Canada applied, each would receive about $130. However, since the question of need is being left up to the conscience of each survivor, the payout might be larger.

No date has been set for the cut-off of applications, which are not yet ready because the Swiss money has not been received. The Canadian plan for distribution, already approved by the World Jewish Restitution Organization, is to be put before Swiss authorities in mid-February.

"We'll do it [distribute the money] as fast as we can," said Rabbi Gunther Plaut, chair of a national committee that will disburse the funds.

"Every day is crucial, considering the age of the survivors. We've probably missed the majority of survivors already. As soon as we get approval, we'll send out applications to responsible Jewish agencies. We're looking for a broad distribution," Rabbi Plaut said.

In the meantime, a hotline for information, 1-877-252-6555, has been set up for those outside Montreal. It is an automated, free telephone number.

In Montreal, the number for the Swiss Fund Canadian Centre is 514-931-7531.

Rabbi Plaut said he hopes survivors will be able to get their applications quickly from Jewish organizations. Enough time will be allowed before a deadline so that all can apply, he said.

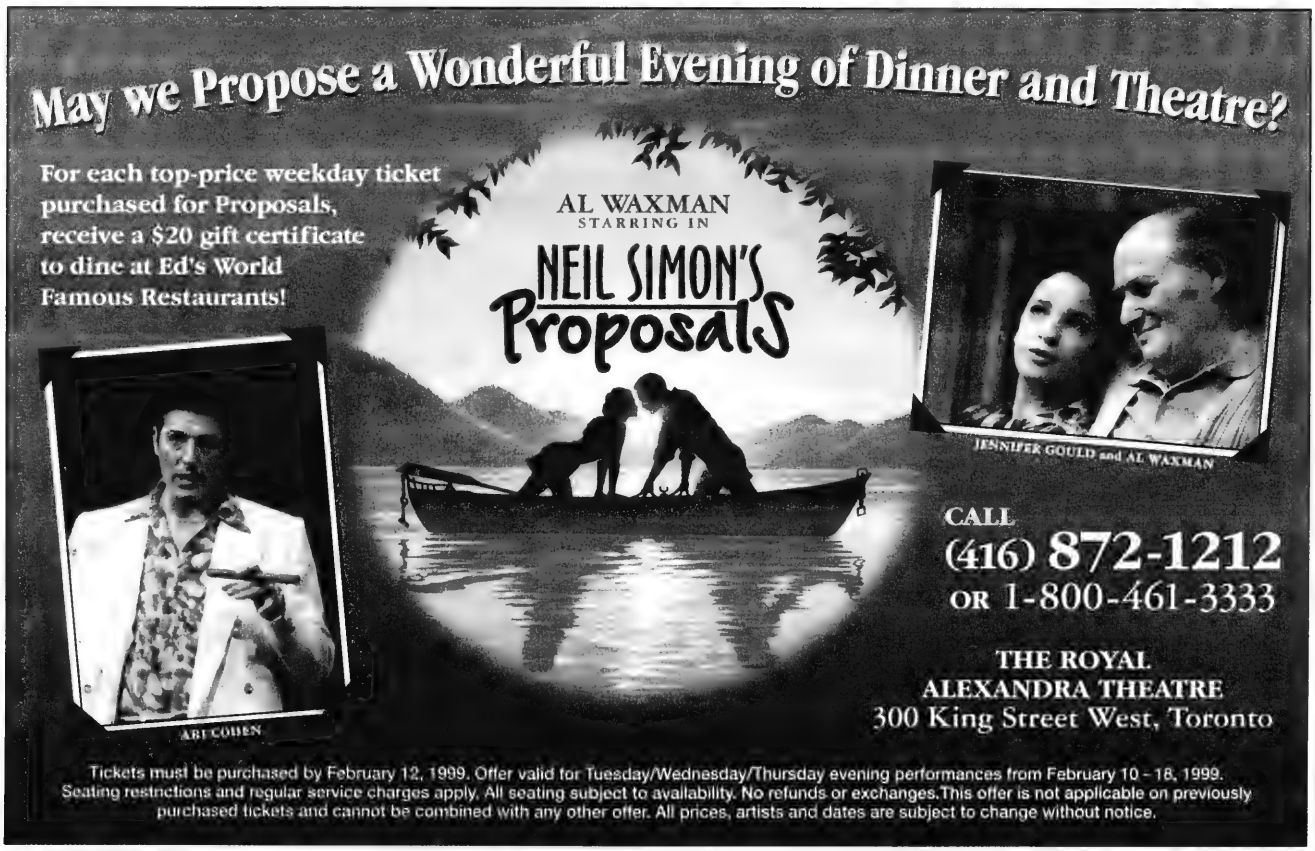
He hopes that most survivors will not have to write away for their applications.

A country under a Nazi regime can also mean a country under Nazi occupation or under the regime of Nazi collaborators.

Although the question of need is a matter of conscience, the official criteria define need this way: the applicant, whether living at home or in an institution, has financial difficulties meeting his or her basic needs, such as housing, food, clothing and additional health care.

A citizen can also mean a permanent resident or other legal resident of Canada.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut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From the editor's desk

'The best posssible service'

He walks into a room somewhat bashfully. One is immediately struck by his youthful appearance. In fact one could easily mistake him for a precocious, inquisitive university student and not the insightful, even audacious university professor of constitutional law that he is.

Stéphane Dion, president of the Privy Council and minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, was in Toronto last week to speak to students at the University of Toronto.

The timing of the talk by Dion was interesting because as he was addressing the students in Toronto, his federal and provincial colleagues were doing "social union" battle in Victoria.

As the bearer of the inter-ministerial portfolio, Dion was obviously very interested in the progress of the Victoria talks. He alluded to them several times in his presentation. However, the lead federal ministry in the discussions is the Department of Justice and the lead federal minister is the minister of justice, Anne McLellan.

Dion entitled his presentation: Are we moving beyond our constitutional obsession? He defined constitutional obsession as "the false belief that the existence of a strong separatist movement in Canada is proof that the country's constitution does not work and that it must be completely overhauled if the country is to survive."

He spoke of the need for government to bring forward the very best social and fiscal policies for reasons other than trying to repair our constitution or appease Quebec.

Moreover, and more to the key point that he wanted to deliver, he believed that the separatist cause in Quebec is waning decidedly more than before.

"There is increasing agreement that our constitution does 'work,' even though it could work better. The solution to our political, economic and social problems and the promotion of the values we believe in does not require constitutional upheaval. We can see that separatist blackmail has never yielded anything positive for Quebecers or other Canadians, and that it is by deciding resolutely to stay together in full confidence that we will be better able to respond to the aspirations of all, including Quebecers."

Dion's language was bold and to the point. He presented his arguments forcefully, refreshingly unselfconsciously, with clear logic.

He said that moving past the policy of attempting to appease the "separatist blackmail" has yielded three beneficial results:

• We have a better understanding of the secessionist phenomenon in Canada.

The minister asserted that renewed federalism and sovereignty-partnership cannot coexist side by side.

• We are becoming more successful at distinguishing the secessionist phenomenon from other Canadian realities.

There are a number of important, even urgent problems in Canada that must be confronted. But, said Dion, solutions to the problems "must not be bargaining chips. Every proposal for constitutional change must be considered on its own merits, according to how it benefits Canadians."

• Because of the need to resolve a number of uniquely Canadian problems, it has made us "look at the division of jurisdiction and powers between the two orders of government in a much more tangible and productive way."

It is in this regard, namely in the division of jurisdiction, that Dion's remarks were most likely directed to his counterparts in Victoria.

"We are seeing more and more clearly that the value that should be at the centre of that reflection on jurisdiction is the quality of service to Canadians. And we are coming to realize that the division of public responsibilities must not be seen as a process of strict compartmentalization, of schoolyard turf wars. We realize that one of the advantages of a modern federation is to *force governments to continually come up with new ways of cooperating, in interdependence.*" (Our emphasis)

Those are very strong words from the federal minister. They cut both levels of government.

But the minister went further. "The division of powers…must continually evolve, so as to keep giving Canadian taxpayers more for their money." Dion appeared to be suggesting a new, "consumer"-oriented, pragmatic federalism. He elaborated in his next sentence while speaking directly to the "soft separatists."

"For this to happen, the specificity of every province and the cultural and linguistic dimension must certainly be taken into account, *but always with the goal of providing the best possible public service to citizens, wherever they live in Canada*…(Our emphasis)

"I can assure you that the government of Canada…sees its relations with the provincial governments strictly from the viewpoint of services to Canadians…[I]n the current social union negotiations …we are trying to find the decision-making framework that is best suited to improving health and social policy."

As of this writing, that framework has not yet been found. One hopes that the various ministers in Victoria last week were also listening to the young president of the privy council, minister for intergovernmental affairs. For it is a certainty that Canadians in every province are interested in receiving "the best possible public service."

MBD

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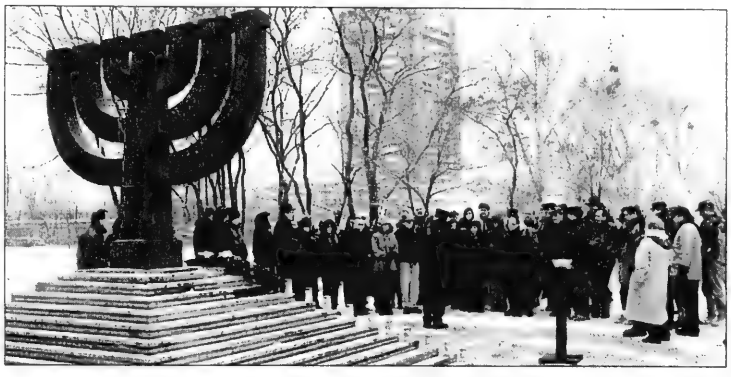

A SOLEMN CEREMONY

A group of Jews from Toronto who were part of a UJA Federation-sponsored mission, along with Jews from Kiev, recently visited the monument at Babi Yar. [Susan Jackson photo]

Yiddish language in great crisis, professor believes

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — So many of its speakers are dying off that the Yiddish language is in a state of great crisis, according to renowned Yiddishist, Prof. Dovid Katz, 35.

The future of Yiddish depends on a revamping of university Jewish studies departments so that more emphasis is put on spoken and written Yiddish, Katz said in a telephone interview from New Haven, Conn., where he is visiting professor of Yiddish at Yale University.

"One real master in Yiddish is more important than 1,000 sentimentalists who never speak Yiddish."

Ordinary Jews must take an interest in Yiddish heritage to preserve the language, he said. Otherwise, in 100 years, only the Chassidim around the world will be speaking it. By that time, Katz estimated that there will be one million Chassidim, because they are having large families.

"To my great regret, most university Yiddish departments are taking the lazy way out. A lot of the professors are betraying us by putting emphasis on English and speaking it instead of Yiddish."

The importance of university Yiddish departments in a revival of the language is underlined by the fact that "the only successes we have had have come from the universities," Katz said.

He said he was optimistic about the future of Yiddish, depending on what the Yiddish community does. However, "if we make a mess of it, there will be nothing."

For many years, Katz was a professor in the Jewish Studies Department of Oxford University, England, and his summer program in Yiddish there was attended by many leading Yiddishists from Toronto.

He is also well known for reviving interest in the history of the Jews of Vilnius, formerly Vilna, of Lithuania. A program he pioneered involving an exchange of students between Vilnius and Oxford is well underway. He will again conduct a summer program at Vilnius this year.

Born in Brooklyn, he said he has always been bothered by Jews who are not interested in Yiddish. He remembers a traumatic moment in Safed, Israel, when he was 3 years old, and his father, Menke, a Yiddish poet, was angrily reprimanded by a police official for speaking Yiddish instead of Hebrew.

Katz was in Toronto Jan. 31 to Feb. 5, where he lectured under auspices of the Centre for Jewish Studies, York University, inaugurating the Rabbi Nachman Shemen Yiddish collection of the Scott Library at York.

He also spoke at Beth Tzedec Congregation on the Last Jews of Belarus, and gave two lectures at York on his research on linguistic geography among the Jews of Belarus.

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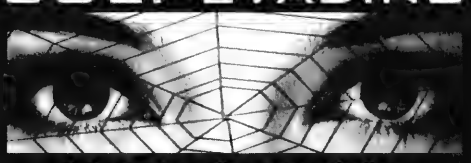

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Former Christian minister finds way back to Judaism

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO – Tonica Marlow wanted to be Jewish. For a woman ordained as a Christian minister at the age of 21, that is not exactly what one would expect.

She remembers one day learning that it was Yom Kippur, and hearing the words over and over in her head: "It's Yom Kippur. All the Jews are in shul, and you aren't there."

Marlow, now known as Tova Mordechai, is married, the mother of three sons and a baby daughter, and living in Israel.

She related the story of her painful search for her Jewish roots at a recent meeting of the sisterhood of Chabad Lubavitch Synagogue of Markham.

Her father was a Pentecostal minister, and her mother an Egyptian Jew who had converted to Christianity along with her own mother.

"Since Christianity assumes you take the faith of your father, the fact that my mother was born Jewish didn't signify, and we never talked about it," Mordechai explained.

Mordechai was, however, aware that her mother was a convert. "They [Christians] were very proud of her. At international gatherings, they would introduce her, or call her up to the stage."

Together with her brother and sister, she had what she described as a very happy childhood, even though it was a very strict life. "I was raised as a good Christian girl – there was no TV, no radio, no social life outside the church, no secular literature."

She said she grew to respect the doctrines of Protestantism, and wanting to serve God from a very young age, she was sent to the Christian Theological Seminary in Nottingham.

This institution taught that "unless your spirit was broken, you wouldn't be good for a ministry."

Stressing that "this was not normal Christianity," Mordechai said the book of rules included such demands as instant obedience to authority; eating everything that was given to you, even if it was mouldy; and fasting one or more days a week. Often, students would get only four hours sleep.

"I thought that by enduring this, I would be a better person and get closer to God, so that I could make a lasting contribution to the world."

Tova Mordechai

After graduating as a minister, she was very active in the church, as a preacher and in spreading the message of Christianity.

Still, she said, for years she agonized over some force pulling her towards Judaism, a force that in spite of all her efforts, grew increasingly stronger.

'I had never experienced anything like that first Shabbat'

"I wanted to be with Jews, to see them. I couldn't understand why I was drawn to [Judaism]."

Until she was caught, she used to sneak out to a nearby Orthodox synagogue, where she was exposed to Jewish services. She found that "the more I went, the more I wanted to go."

Her life became almost a nightmare, she said, describing her "deep feelings of sadness... a vacuum, a void, an emptiness." She thought she was going crazy.

Finally, she decided she could no longer preach, no longer pray "to the Christian God." She realized that she had to leave, even though she had no money (everything she made went to the church) and no clear idea of where she was going.

"I decided that if I had to sleep in the gutter, I would, to find the true God."

With the help of a local Lubavitch rabbi, she went to live with a religious family in an affluent part of London. Her first Shabbat was electrifying.

After lighting her Shabbat candle, according to Lubavitch custom, she said "there was so much peace in my room, that I jumped back. Nobody had to tell me that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that I had been searching for for so long was here."

"I had never experienced anything like that first moment of my first Shabbat. It connects the most perfect part of the soul to God."

It was 17 years ago that "God brought me from a dark place to a beautiful one," she said.

She realized, she said, that if one is committed to a Jewish life, it "enhances the home, the environment, the whole world."

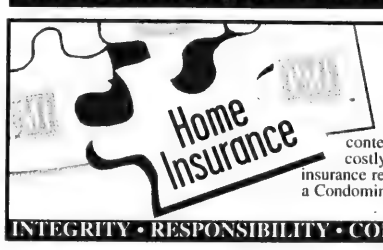
Mordechai urged those working with people far from Jewish observance to not "worry if the seed you plant doesn't seem to take root immediately," noting that she was 25 before she could accept the call back to Judaism.

In an interview before the program, Mordechai said she doesn't miss her previous life. "It's like changing from uncomfortable shoes to slippers . You don't realize how much your feet used to hurt you."

Her relationship with her parents is "respectful," she said, and with her siblings slightly more cordial. Her father, whom she praises as a "genuine Christian," thinks she and her family will burn in Hell, she said.

Although her mother is a faithful member of the church, Mordechai noted that when she was scheduled for life-threatening surgery, "she didn't pray Christian prayers, but said the Shema."

Mordechai has told her story in a book, *Playing With Fire*, which she said, to the chagrin of many in the audience, is out of print.



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Greater Toronto Area

Shalom Food Project helps combat Jewish hunger

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Six years ago, Miriam Kalushner recognized the need to address the hunger problem in Toronto and founded the Shalom Food Project.

"A few volunteers met to study the problem and where we could be most helpful," Kalushner said. "We decided to do something within the Jewish community in the anti-hunger movement."

At the time Kalushner, a medical technologist who is active in social action issues, was a volunteer at FoodShare, a metro community agency involved with issues of hunger in the community.

She wanted to target children in her fight against hunger.

"I wanted to create a program to feed hungry children and to bring awareness of the problem," said Kalushner.

"Healing and respect start at the very beginning – with children. When we provide for them, we have the foundation for a healthy and supportive community."

After a few months of meetings, Kalushner said she and her group of volunteers hatched a plan for a Jewish response to hunger: They decided to run a breakfast club at Plaut Manor, a non-profit apartment building.

"I firmly believe that every child has the right to go to school having a good breakfast and warm clothes. It's a basic human right. We are diminished if we live in a society where this is denied them."

Miriam Kalushner (centre back row) with mothers and children at a breakfast provided by the Shalom Food Project.

In supplying a nutritional program for low income families, food became "a conduit for community development," she explained.

Two years ago, the volunteers were approached by a group of mother's in Toronto's west end who saw a great need for a breakfast program in their area. The members of the Shalom Food Project accepted.

Kalushner said that this program feeds more than 40 children and adults a hot breakfast daily and provides them with a packed lunch. The children are also given warm clothing.

"Warm mitts, gloves and hats are knitted by seniors with donated wool. We have established a clothing and furniture bank."

She noted that the supportive housing building where the Shalom Project runs breakfast houses many people under social-economic stress, among them, welfare recipients, victims of family violence and people with mental health problems.

"When the mothers come down for breakfast with their children, they are supportive of each other, and it provides them with an opportunity to socialize," Kalushner, said.

"We also employ two mothers as coordinators who work along with our team of loyal volunteers. They run the food program. This helps them get experience so they can get a job."

She added that the volunteers now assist participants with resumes.

"Giving people the tools to identify and satisfy their own needs is the highest form of tzedakah there is."

Volunteers from the Jewish community work with volunteers from the Runnymede United Church, reading to the children, doing arts and crafts, and socializing with them, she said.

She has also assisted other groups in establishing similar programs.

The Shalom Food Project board of directors was formed with volunteers "from all walks of life" who oversee operations, seek volunteers, obtain food and clothing donations and do fundraising, Kalushner said.

She told *The CJN* that the board hopes to expand the program."All we need is the means.

"Since the massive welfare cuts, I have seen a greater need for programs to feed the hungry."

The Shalom Food Project, which has a charitable donation number, will have its first fundraising musical afternoon and tea on May 16, Kalushner said.

For more information call, Kalushner at 488-9515.

The Yujjies are here

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Yes, the Yujjies (young urban Jews, single or not) are packing them in on Sunday evenings.

For the last three months 200 or more of them have attended the highly informal question and answer sessions sponsored by Kolel: a Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning, at the Indigo Bookstore, at the Yonge-Eglinton Centre.

The next session, on Feb. 21, at 7.30 p.m., which is free as always, features guest speaker Baruch Browns Sienna, head of the Institute for Jewish Education through Technology.

Even people browsing the book shelves are apt to be attracted to the Yujjies get-togethers. "We are reaching a new group of people," said Shirley Herman of Kolel.

Whether it is the location, the Sunday-evening time, or the completely flexible definition of who is a young urban Jew that is attracting the crowds, Kolel is pleased with the result, Herman said.

Previous sessions with Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, Kolel director, Selma Sage and Rabbi Daniel Komito Gottlieb, on subjects as diverse as gender differences, love stories and Jewish healing have brought the Yujjies out in full force.

"They're young, mostly 20s and 30s, out of college, but maybe not totally settled. Lots of them are single, but some are not," according to Rabbi Jeremy Schwartz, Kolel assistant director.

"Mostly they're not members of congregations, but some are. In general, they're looking for community and at Indigo you'll see them forming it before your eyes," he said.

Kolel is satisfied that a Yujjie living in Thornhill qualifies for the cafe gatherings, even though strident downtown Yujjies consider anything north of Eglinton "nose-bleed country," he said.

A feature of the evenings is the tendency of Yujjies to question and answer and question again, said Rabbi Schwartz.

The project has been aided by a grant from the Les and Minda Feldman Foundation.

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Dry Bones
LENIN, THEY PRESERVED AND PUT ON DISPLAY...
BUT YELTSIN THEY ARE GOING TO STUFF AND WHEEL AROUND..
...TO KEEP THE WEST FROM FREAKING.
WOW!
...AND I THOUGHT THEY DID THAT SIX MONTHS AGO!
KIRSCHEN

Unconscionable and unforgivable

Two weekends ago, more than 500 people were turned away from emergency departments at a number of hospitals in Toronto and told to seek treatment elsewhere. The medical staff forced to send the patients away were being neither vexatious nor mischievous. They simply had no choice, overburdened by the volume of cases already in their care.

This "emergency" situation was not restricted to Toronto. Overcrowded emergency wards afflict many of the larger communities in the country.

In Quebec for example, *Globe and Mail* correspondent Rhéal Séguin recently reported, "hospitals in a number of communities have been overrun by a sudden increase in emergency cases... In recent weeks, patients have been treated in hallways and administrative offices because of bed shortage. Others have been turned away.

"A woman died in Trois-Rivières 12 hours after being admitted to an emergency ward. Her family says she did not receive proper care. In some hospitals, doctors and nurses have complained of being understaffed and overworked."

The sorry state of our emergency wards is part of the urgent backdrop for the run-up to the upcoming federal budget and to the social union talks underway between the provinces and the federal government. Yet we must await the finance minister's pronouncements on the extent of the increase, if any, to the health care allocations, even as we observe the closeted federal-provincial negotiations on a possible new social union.

Surprisingly, there seems to be no air of urgency surrounding the talks. Instead, our elected leaders seem to be embroiled in the usual political posturing, attempting to cobble together a new national scheme for transfer payments in a manner described by the media as "hardball bargaining." They appear to be exchanging as many old accusations as they are new ideas. Premier Mike Harris of Ontario was reported to have "blamed the federal government directly for many of the problems in the [Ontario] health care system, and said improvements depend on getting more money from Ottawa in the budget..."

Our leaders tend to forget that the public is not interested in political gamesmanship, in the predictable public pillorying of the "opposing" government.

The public is interested in solutions. The point of the current social union talks should not be to point a finger of blame. Rather, it should be to spawn substantive solutions of sound public policy that appropriately accommodate the stirrings of human conscience.

Canada is one of the most affluent countries on earth. We participate in the global economy at the cutting edge of commercial and scientific developments. Our standard of living and quality of life are unrivaled anywhere. We lack neither natural nor human resources.

How then, can we explain to ourselves, let alone to the individuals turned away by our hospitals, that we are unable to provide emergency medical treatment to every single person who requires it?

It is utterly unconscionable and unforgivable in the year 1999 that any hospital in Canada must refuse to render emergency, or indeed, any medical care to people in need.

In their haggling over just the right transfer formula, let our leaders be reminded that they must "not stand idly by the blood [distress] of their fellow human beings." (Leviticus 19:16)

If their consciences are so unmoved by the current state of the health care system that they cannot find a reasonable agreement reasonably soon, let them not be forgiven.

WISDOM OF THE AGES
"Show them the road they should walk and the deed they should do."
Parshat Yitro

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Her opposition to brit milah not anti-Semitic

Anti-Semitism is vile, and it is a horrible thought to contemplate oneself or others engaging in this. All of us who care about human rights and human ethics must also ensure that we do not act in any way that could be wrongfully used by others to promote anti-Semitism. If there is such a possibility, as is true in presenting the case against infant male circumcision, one needs very powerful justification. I believe I had such justification in writing the text that I did on infant male circumcision. With this in mind, I would like to respond to the letter from Dr. Joseph Berger. (*CJN*, Jan. 7)

It is precisely because anti-Semitism is so wrong that it is a very serious matter to label somebody anti-Semitic, as Dr. Berger has labelled me on the basis of his perception of my stance on infant male circumcision. Moreover, as one rabbi pointed out to me, labelling something which is not anti-Semitic as anti-Semitic does harm to the cause of eradicating anti-Semitism.

If Dr. Berger had read my paper, he would have known that I expressly addressed the valid concern that my views on infant male circumcision might be able to be used by people who wished to promote anti-Semitism. Because of my fears in this regard, I delayed speaking publicly on infant male circumcision for almost seven years after I first started to consider the ethical and legal issues it raises. I also discussed these fears with other people, including Jewish colleagues at McGill, who reinforced my concerns.

While many of the Jewish people with whom I spoke did not agree with my stance on infant male circumcision, they and the other people I consulted, agreed that there is a very important distinction between being anti-Semitic (which I would hate to be) and addressing the ethics of sensitive issues, such as infant male circumcision, that are intimately associated with the practice of the Jewish religion and Jewish identity. In other words, simply addressing these issues is not, in itself, anti-Semitism; rather, the person's motive in doing so and the approach that they take, will determine whether or not this is present.

Dr. Berger alleges that my motives in writing this paper were "antipathy and animosity" to the Jewish tradition. In assessing if he could be correct, it must be kept in mind that I work in the area of medicine, ethics and law, and that my paper was directed at the ethical and legal issues raised by infant male circumcision carried out by physicians, especially in view of recent medical research on the risks and harms of infant male circumcision. The vast majority of infant male circumcisions in North America – approximately 95 percent – are not carried out on Jewish infants or for religious reasons.

In short, my paper was not primarily directed at the *religious* practice of infant male circumcision, although I realized, of course, that in addressing infant male circumcision, in general, raising the issue of its religious practice was unavoidable. Therefore, I did discuss infant male circumcision for religious reasons, at some length, in the context of whether an exception allowing this could be established under current ethical and legal norms in Canada. Any person who had read this section would find it very difficult, in fact I believe impossible, to conclude that I had any anti-Semitic purpose in writing the paper.

Margaret A. Somerville, AM, FRSC
Gale Professor of Law
Professor, Faculty of Medicine
McGill University, Montreal

Brewda family well known in Peterborough

I was delighted to read the story by Daniel Wolgelerenter on Charlie Brewda (*CJN*, June 7). What an inspirational story. I knew Charlie and his family when they lived here in Peterborough. They were always an inspirational family and contributed much to our Jewish community. We all were aware of Charlie's struggle, I especially, because I too struggled with Crohn's disease. I am so impressed with this story about Charlie and am so proud of him. He comes from a very good family and the whole family can inspire us all.

Laura Bowman
Peterborough

Never sought reappointment

Re: "Complaints against refugee board dismissed," (*CJN*, Dec. 10).

Please inform your readers that Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk never sought a full-time reappointment as a member of the Immigration and Refugee Board, for personal and professional reasons.

Borys Sydoruk
Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association
Calgary

Puzzle is easier on the eyes

I am an avid crossword puzzle solver and enjoy the puzzle in your paper. I always found the puzzles to be too small. What a pleasant surprise to open this week's edition and find that the puzzle has been enlarged. My eyes and I thank you.

Sonia Einstoss
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Perspectives

As if the King wrote, 'In case I don't come back'

By ZVI BAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Last week, on Monday night just past midnight, a letter King Hussein wrote to his heir, Prince Abdullah, was handed over to Jordanian television. Hussein, who until then had ordered Jordan TV not to show his picture with his brother Hassan during the festivities marking the king's return from cancer therapy at the Mayo Clinic, knew before his trip home that he needed to take quick action to deal with the succession.

He knew that while the results of the bone marrow transfers he received from his sister and brother (not Hassan, due to incompatibility) were positive, they were not a 100 percent guarantee that his cancer was conquered. The decision to go home to Jordan, even for only a few days, was a result of the need to immediately resolve the succession and prevent the break-up of the Hashemite family. He had heard rumors that there were plans to make personnel changes in the army, particularly to change the chief of staff, and to appoint new ambassadors. But what really angered the king were rumors coming from "sources close to Hassan" that carried slanderous suggestions about the behavior of the king's American-born wife, Noor, and their children.

Hussein isn't directly blaming his brother for the spread of the gossip, but was amazed by the changes Hassan wanted to make without consulting him. The expression coup d'état was never mentioned in the king's letter, but its spirit was there between the lines.

Hussein hoped that he would have enough time to hand over the kingdom to his son in an orderly, controlled process, and guarantee the support of all his family and especially Hassan himself. But three days ago, he found out that he doesn't have the time he would need, and he called in his brother to finish the process begun before he went back to the Minnesota clinic.

Prince Abdullah

According to reports from Amman, the two brothers sat together for seven hours. On the table between them was a letter from Hassan, written out of a deep sense of insult that he was being passed over after so many years of loyal service. According to one of the reports, Hassan asked Hussein for permission to leave Jordan, but that report was strenuously denied by the palace. At the end of the session, Hassan agreed to meet with Abdullah and to kiss him on his brow.

An orderly process

After such a gesture, the king allowed Jordan TV to show pictures of him embracing Hassan and Abdullah, as well as Hassan and Abdullah embracing each other. That image was especially important for Hussein to demonstrate to Jordanians that the dispute was over.

The next step was reading out the letter he wrote to his son, the new crown prince. The letter is much more than an appointment. It is an orderly command of the day, instructing the prince how to behave with the Jordanian people, the Hashemite family, the heads of the Bedouin tribes, the army and anyone else he encounters.

At the same time, the letter is a message to the Jordanian people telling them who to support. He lists the good characteristics of his son, and the letter includes an unexpressed wish that the people who support and love the king will support and love the son. The letter could have been titled, "In case I don't come back."

It is difficult to know how much longer Hussein has, and it appears that Jordan last week went through a dramatic transition from the naming of Abdullah not merely as the heir, but in fact as the new manager of the country.

King Hussein as he appeared in 1995.
[RNS/Reuters photos]

With a practically unlimited mandate from his father, Abdullah's struggle for the crown has ended and his struggle to survive has begun.

Theoretically, the 37-year-old Abdullah has the skills to run the country. He is a general in the army, commander of special forces and close to the chief of staff. He's intimately familiar with the Bedouin tribal structure and its political balances. Abdullah went to school in the United States and Britain, took a wide range of military courses, completed a degree at Oxford and a master's degree in political science at Georgetown University in Washington. He has been active diplomatically in the Arab world on behalf of his father and on occasion took part in state functions when his father and uncle were both out of the country. His friends and associates say he is quick-witted, pleasant and not at all patronizing. What is not known is how he will manage to run the country without the patronage of his father.

At this stage, it is reasonable to expect that the Hashemite family, including Hassan, will back Abdullah. That's the nature of the family that has managed to stay together despite internal disputes and private furies.

The army will back Abdullah, while the opposition, even the Islamic opposition, doesn't have the troops to threaten the regime. The most critical issue for Abdullah could well be the Palestinians in the refugee camps, who form the core of discontent in Jordan. On this issue, Israel's cooperation with Jordan on advancing the peace process could become a top priority. Israel, more than ever before, could become the most important ally for Jordan and for the survival of the royal family. In the eyes of the Arab world's leaders, once again Jordan has a young leader whose opinion will carry little weight. For that reason, Abdullah may need to wield power by having the right friends - Israel and the United States.

Israel feels Abdullah is ready to rule

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Senior sources in the Israeli defence establishment have said that although Jordan's King Hussein is deathly ill, newly appointed Crown Prince Abdullah is well-equipped to take the throne and preserve the stability of the Hashemite monarchy.

The sources said they had obtained information indicating that "the Jordanian establishment is strong enough to withstand the shock of the king's fatal illness and the rift between him and the deposed crown prince, Hassan."

But other defence sources who work with Amman said the situation in Jordan is serious and worrisome.

Israeli sources said Abdullah's internal standing in Jordan is strong, even though he is not experienced as a diplomat and has no real training in foreign policy matters.

Abdullah is strongly backed by the army, in which he serves as chief of special forces. Before being promoted to his new post just a heartbeat away from the throne, Abdullah had been touted as a likely candidate to be the next army chief of staff.

The relations of the crown prince with the chiefs of Jordan's security services are also considered especially close.

The big question, Israeli defence officials said, is what kind of working relationship Abdullah develops with his uncle Hassan, and how much Hassan does to help smooth the transfer of power to his nephew. The officials said Hassan would probably put country before ego, in light of the serious dangers facing the Hashemite Kingdom from within (chiefly possible tension with the majority Palestinian population), and from without (mainly possible threats from Syria or Iraq).

Newly appointed Israeli defence minister, Moshe Arens, held a meeting on the situation in Jordan yesterday, his first day on the job, conferring with senior adviser David Ivry and military intelligence chief Amos Malka.

Sources in Jerusalem also said they expected Abdullah would preserve Jordan's good relationship with Israel.

Meanwhile, on the streets of Amman, photographs of Hassan were taken down and replaced by images of Abdullah standing next to Hussein.

One Jordanian journalist said the feeling on the street was that "the king is not dead, but it is already possible to say 'Long live the new king.'"

Abdullah shook the hands of hundreds of well-wishers who came to greet him at the Raghadan Palace yesterday, demonstrating their loyalty to the king's new heir. Jordanian television broadcast scenes of handshakes and embraces for hours on end; newspapers were filled with pages of congratulatory ads.

Many were calling Abdullah "the Hashemite lion cub," and saying, "This cub is from the lion king." Abdullah is named for his grandfather, the Jordanian king who was assassinated at the Al Aksa Mosque on the Temple Mount in 1951.

Jordanian newspapers have also begun referring to Hussein as Abu-Abdullah – the father of Abdullah. Abdullah is also being called Abu-Hussein, for his oldest son.

No one is speaking publicly about the stability of the regime being in any way imperiled. People are voicing sympathy for Hassan, and praising him for the nobility he has shown in accepting his brother's decree.

Opinions

An environmental friendly day

It's all about trees: a good way to describe Tu b'Shvat, which we celebrated this year on Feb. 1. A day before the groundhog forecast the length of winter, Israelis celebrated the festival of trees. Plant a tree, give money for trees, pray for rain to water the trees. Hug a tree.

Jennifer Fox in Halifax

Tu b'Shvat is the original environmentally friendly celebration.

When I was a child, each January my Hebrew schoolteacher would hand out to the class small white envelopes with green lettering – little envelopes to hold a little bit of money to pay for a little seedling in Israel. And each year, the teacher would remind the class why it was so important to plant trees in Israel. The country is a desert. Trees keep the soil on the ground, so that it is not swept into the air by a gust of wind.

That's all I remember, since ecology has never been an interest of mine. But I do remember the certificate I got when I bought a tree and how proud I felt knowing I had done a good thing.

Every kid who bought a tree dreamed of going to Israel and locating the tree that they paid for. I imagined a little plaque with my name on it lying at the foot of a tree in a forest of trees with little plaques. Somewhere in a country I had never visited was something of mine, something growing and flowering, because of my parents' and my generous donation, of course.

The other thing I remember about Tu b'Shvat from my three days a week of Hebrew education was praying for rain. Why would Israelis want rain anyway? Rain meant you had to stay in during recess, and you couldn't wear your favorite shoes, but had to have really clunky rain boots instead. Everything became grey when it rained, and the school bus took even longer to get me home. Why would anyone pray for rain?

Ten year-olds don't fully understand the repercussions of a dry spell for an already dry country. They don't realize that in Israel, January and February are considered the rainy season and the perfect time for planting. All 10-year old Canadians know is snow balls and snow forts, wearing layers upon layers of warm clothing and hoping for the snow to be so high school will be cancelled. On the other hand, kids and adults alike in Halifax hope and pray that the horrible freezing rain will stop, which will put an end to the dampness in their bones.

Tu b'Shvat is a Jewish version of Earth Day. It reminds us of the importance that plant life and vegetation have on a society. In Canada, we implement safeguard programs that will hopefully benefit the planet. Each household in Halifax is expected to compost food scraps, and Toronto has a thorough recycling program in place. If only Toronto had a program for dealing with excessive amounts of snow.

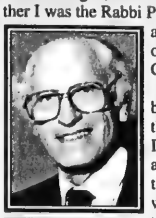
Two years ago, I was in Israel and personally planted my own tree.

That day, the importance of Tu b'Shvat was evident. It was May, and back home in Thornhill the grass was a lush green and my mother was in the process of planting her garden. In Israel the air was still and hot and the earth was brown. How could spring be so different from what I had always known? How hard it must be for this to be the land of milk and honey when it could be barren so easily.

Our tour group got off the bus and picked spots to plant tiny seedlings. I dug a small hole, said a blessing and deposited the soon-to-be tree into its home. Forty trees were born that day. I wonder how my tree is doing.

When yesterday became today

A few weeks ago, my wife received a telephone call from a woman called Magda, who wanted to know whether I was the Rabbi Plaut who some years ago, had the address of 25 Karlov Ave. in Chicago.



Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

That had indeed been the address of the synagogue where I served at the time, and my wife was able to confirm this. She was asked to convey to me that the caller was a former concentration camp inmate whom some American soldiers, I amongst them, had cared for at a crucial time in their lives. Having identified me at last, she was most anxious to see me once again.

Subsequently, we arranged for a time when we could get together – because Magda turns out to live in Hamilton – and finally we met. Needless to say, she would no longer have been able to identify the chaplain of the 104th Infantry Division whom she had seen 53 years ago, nor would I have been able to recognize her, who was then a 15 year-old girl. I took my book *Unfinished Business,* in which some chapters are devoted to my experiences in Germany during the war, and showed her my picture as a chaplain. She said, "That was you, as I remember you, and I have at last found you again!"

She had pictures of some of the other soldiers, but she said she had always wanted "to see the chaplain who was in charge, and who brought us food that we could eat. Before then, anything that could keep us alive passed our lips, but now that we were free we wanted to live as Jews once again, and kosher food would be a visible sign of our return." I in turn told her that none of us deserved any thanks, but in the end had to accept her grateful sentiments.

Our meeting, during which we were joined by her son and daughter, was, to put it mildly, filled with high emotion. Strange that it took so very long to get us together, for she never mentioned my name to her daughter, but only the experience – and her daughter had in fact taught Hebrew in our synagogue some years ago, but could never make that crucial connection.

Now that we had met, I had some time to think about it and turned once again to my book to see whether by any chance I had recorded our meeting with these girls. And indeed, I found the following entry. "This morning I visited a place where I found nine Jewish Hungarian girls aged 14 to 20 who had gone through the most harrowing experiences. They are simple, really nice kids – Orthodox and religious throughout all their untellable troubles. Without having access to a calendar they still kept the holy days as best as they could. After the liberation, the first thing they did was to fast in gratitude. They wouldn't let me go – we sang some Palestinian songs together, they danced the horah for me – I could have wept for their joy. We set them up beautifully. They now have clothes, good quarters and food."

"I could have wept for joy" – if I didn't do it then, I did it when we met again. Life takes strange turns, and it seems to me that the war and the Holocaust never leave me alone. Some memories are bad, but this one was not just good, it was wonderful in every way.

The summer job hunt begins

Are we really wanted here in Quebec? It's about that time of year when I start to look for something to do during the summer. Many application deadlines for summer internships are in mid-February, and the cold is just so hard to take that dreams of warmer summer days are hard to avoid.

Erica Horn in Montreal

I have been mailing innumerable cover letters and resumes to newspapers and television stations in the United States. I am also applying to be a madrichah on an Israel trip, and on a back burner is the option of being a camp counsellor in Pennsylvania. Despite all of these enchanting opportunities I have discovered, there is a trend I have come to realize. I have not even looked into any possible internships in Montreal. My rationale is that I spend enough time here already. It's not like the Expos are saving me a seat at each of their games. Oops, I almost forgot, the Olympic Stadium has had to issue a warning: Enter at own risk – falling snow, ice, fiberglass and cables!

Hidden deep within is another reason I have very little interest in spending my summer working here: my French. Don't misunderstand me, mon français est bon et je peux communiquer en français mais je préfère l'anglais (ou même l'hébreu). If offered the opportunity to work in the United States, where I can perfect my skills in time for next year's advanced Spanish course, visit a new city and meet new people, why should I choose to remain here and work on my French?

It's ironic that I have every intention of living in Montreal. I'll have the rest of my life to brush up my French; therefore, am I wrong to leave it as second fiddle this summer?

I am essentially being forced to focus on two distinct yet crucial aspects of my future at one time: what I do and where I live. Suppose I opted to remain here this summer, thus suggesting that where I live is slightly more important than what I do, what would I do here?

The way in which I have found prospective internships has been via endless Internet searches. (Thank goodness for unlimited usage!) Interestingly, the only options that have appeared on my screen have been located in the United States. Why is that? Even leafing through the McGill newspapers I have yet to come across any remotely intriguing summer job opportunities in Montreal. Why is that? Is there really a future for us here?

Having attended a day school for over 12 years where French was taught alongside English, why is it that at the age of 20, I am not equally as comfortable in French as I am in English? Is it costing me my future in Montreal?

There are two issues being raised here. The first is how the French factor may be causing many 20-somethings to look west of the province and south of the border for summer opportunities, thus abandoning the possible improvement of their French and leading to the potential sacrifice of their stable futures in Montreal. The second issue is that the province seems to be lacking in opportunities, or if they do exist, then they are not as well publicized as they should be. Actually, I take that back: We all know the Big O is now hiring. If you want a summer job there, I am sure they'd pay you any sum of money just for entering the (I hesitate to say building) mass of concrete.

I suppose this column is good exposure for many of my friends and myself. You now know we are on the lookout. Approchez-nous. Reconvince us that we are right to want to stay.

Dry Bones
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The Kirshner File

Jewish partisans fought the Nazis

"The ghetto means death. Provide yourself with arms, leave the ghetto and take to the forests!" – Hersh Smolar.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

During World War II, when millions of Jews were being ruthlessly murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators, Jewish partisans were engaged in a deadly struggle with the German army. The battlefields stretched from eastern Poland, Belorussia and the Ukraine to the western part of the Soviet Union and the three Baltic states.

This relatively little-known facet of the Holocaust has been addressed by a handful of writers. But with *Fugitives of the Forest* (Stoddart), Winnipeg historian Allan Levine has taken the topic to greater heights.

As far as he knows, *Fugitives of the Forest* is the first book which tells that story in a popular and comprehensive fashion for the general reader.

Previous books, such as *Defiance: The Bielski Partisans* by Nechama Tec and *Jewish Resistance in Nazi-Occupied Eastern Europe* by Reuben Ainsztein, focused on specific locales or were written in a scholarly fashion. Levine's work, on the other hand, is not only wide-ranging but eminently accessible.

And in an original touch, *Fugitives of the Forest* also examines the partisan movement from Germany's vantage point, a feat Levine was able to achieve after studying German documents in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Levine, who was here recently on a publicity tour, said that his overarching objective was to show how these partisans survived despite the overwhelming odds against them.

By his estimate, there were 20,000 to 25,000 Jewish partisans out of a grand total of about 250,000 partisans, as well as 10,000 Jews in family camps, usually attached to Soviet and Polish fighting units.

They faced a litany of obstacles: hostility from the local population, a dearth of food supplies, a lack of shelter, and the ravages of disease and lice. Given the difficult conditions, it is hardly surprising that at least half of the fighters died, he noted.

Levine, 42, was inspired to write the book by family friends. He singled out two persons, Gitel Morrison, who was a member of Tuvia Bielski's legendary family camp and whose son, Jeff, is married to Levine's sister, Shayla, and Ben Lungen, a Red Army veteran and former Soviet partisan whose son, Paul, is on the reporting staff of *The Canadian Jewish News*.

Listening to Morrison's and Lungen's amazing tales of survival, Levine knew he had to pursue the matter. But it percolated in his mind for five years before he decided to do something about it.

In the meanwhile, Levine – a history teacher at St. John's-Ravenscourt School and a freelance writer – pursued far different projects.

As adept in non-fiction as fiction, he wrote *The Exchange: 100 Years of Trading Grain in Winnipeg*, among other works, and *The Blood Libel*, a mystery which was shortlisted for the Chapters/Books in Canada First Novel Award.

When Levine was finally ready to deal with the subject of Jewish partisans, he applied for, and received, grants from the Canada Council and the Manitoba Arts Council. Without these funds, the research process for *Fugitives of the Forest* could not have got off the ground.

Thanks to leads from Morrison and Lungen, Levine interviewed more than 60 former partisans in Canada, the United States and Israel. And in North American and Israeli libraries and archives, he pored over secondary and primary sources.

Levine, whose parents are not Holocaust survivors, recalled that the interviews were emotionally taxing. "Not one of them ended without tears on both sides."

Levine, who holds a PhD in Canadian history from the University of Toronto, spent three years researching and writing *The Fugitives of the Forest*. A fine book but by no means a definitive one, it pulls together the disparate strands of a complex and, at times, a heart-rending story.

Based on his findings, Levine reaches the conclusion that Jews from rural localities had a better chance of surviving in the forest than Jews from cities. He quotes Holocaust scholar Yisrael Gutman: "The East European urban Jew was full of fear of strangers and wild animals and was put off by the difficulties of climate and nature. The Jews of the villages near the forests and the swamps did not share these fears."

Be that as it may, the escapees faced tremendous obstacles, ranging from police patrols to collaborators. In the region south of Lublin, Poland, for example, approximately 20,000 Jews escaped into the forest in 1942, but the vast majority were hunted down and murdered.

The Nazis exacted swift and harsh punishment against anyone caught helping Jews. And while this was certainly a deterrent, peasants who failed to assist Jews tended to be anti-Semitic or simply indifferent to the Jews' fate.

In describing the peasants' attitude, Levine is careful not to jump to hasty conclusions. Many, he states, regarded Jews with anti-Semitic disdain and often considered them Communists and pests. But a considerable number risked everything to save them. Of these, some were motivated by profit, and others by kindness. But even good-hearted people, afraid for their families, squelched their humanitarian instincts.

In any event, the transition from fugitive to partisan was not an easy one. Age, physical endurance and military experience were the key factors. The vast majority of escapees were not prepared for the privations of the forest, and thus succumbed. In addition, the fugitives could never be certain how Soviet and Polish partisans would relate to them.

It was official Soviet policy not to allow the plight of the Jews to detract from the war effort. As a result, there were cases in which Soviet partisans refused to protect Jewish men, women and children. However, many Soviet commanders helped Jews, and integrated them into combat units. Levine acknowledges that Tuvia Bielski's family camp in the Naliboki Forest owed its survival to a Belorussian brigade.

Still, as he points out, there was a notion among the Soviets that Jews were and always would be poor partisans. Courageous Jewish partisans like Yeheskel Atlas and Chil Grynszpan, whose stories Levine relates at length, disproved that jaundiced theory, but it persisted.

Allan Levine

And, of course, Jews who linked up with partisans were usually dogged by subtle and/or blatant anti-Semitism from their comrades-in-arms. In this connection, Levine claims that the Polish Home Army, known as the AK, generally displayed a "less than positive" attitude toward Jewish partisans.

By any yardstick, the partisans did not affect the outcome of the war. Their attacks against railways, bridges and bases were really nothing more than pinpricks. Nevertheless, the Nazis considered them serious and pesky foes. In the summer of 1943, Hitler appointed one of his most trusted generals, Erich von dem Bach-Zelwski, to eradicate them.

Supported by reconnaissance aircraft, thousands of German soldiers launched a campaign of annihilation. And while numerous partisans, including Jewish ones, were killed in these brutal and merciless sweeps, the Germans were never quite able to eliminate them as a factor.

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devoted member of the University of Toronto Yiddish Studies Committee and a pioneering Professor of Yiddish at U of T

Music of the Crypto-Jews

By AVI BENLOLO

Ethnomusicologist Judith Cohen has made several trips over the past few years to Spain and Portugal to study the musical traditions of Crypto-Jews.

Sometimes referred to as "secret" or "hidden" Jews, Crypto-Jews are descendants of Conversos who have kept identifying as Jews, but have lived as Catholics since the Spanish Inquisition.

Armed with grants from York University, the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Cohen, who teaches at York University, has visited many different villages and communities along the border regions of Spain and Portugal. She has interviewed both Crypto-Jews and non-Jews about their musical traditions.

She feels she has gained the trust and confidence of some Crypto-Jewish families, enabling her to make some observations about their musical traditions and their lives in general.

Cohen finds that their musical traditions are largely those of the areas they live in, rather than being specifically Crypto-Jewish.

She says they have a couple of Portuguese songs specifically relating to Jewish themes, which seem to be relatively recent compositions; they also have many prayers along with some biblical ballads in Portuguese.

While in earlier generations the prayers and ballads may have been sung, for some time now they have been mostly recited without music.

Cohen notes that whatever Jewish songs and prayers they do know were taught to them by Jewish travellers or by rabbis posted in the area. In fact, during Passover 1997, Cohen herself taught several Belmonte Crypto-Jews a Moroccan version of *Chad Gadya/Un Cabrito*, which she had learned from Sephardim in Montreal.

Cohen explains that there are various reasons which may account for the lack of a repertoire of local Portuguese Crypto-Jewish songs. First, melodies rarely survive intact for centuries. In the case of Judeo-Spanish songs, there are many instances of texts enduring for centuries even though the melodies have changed.

Second, the secret life Crypto-Jews had to endure simply made it difficult for melodies to last. In fact, they are known to recite numerous prayers and blessings in a very low voice, rapidly, so that they may be almost indecipherable if one is not familiar with them.

According to Cohen, Crypto-Judaism was essentially a women's religion. Many of the men were itinerant peddlers who were frequently away for long periods of time, because travel in that era was difficult. More significantly, the secrecy of Crypto-Jews meant that it was a "domestic religion," since it was mainly carried out in the home.

A further observation made by Cohen is the recent occurrence of Sephardi festivals in some Spanish towns. These festivals take place in towns of the Camino de Sefarad (Road of Sepharad) that historically had a strong Jewish presence and may still have some descendants of Conversos living there, though not as Jews.

These events are based on Jewish themes but are not themselves Jewish events. Cohen argues that they are *invented* festivals because they reinvent the Jewish past of the region through music, food, customs and sometimes prayers. But she stresses that these are a pastiche of recently learned customs rather than long-maintained traditions.

For example, Ribadavia's Festa da Istoria includes an original play about the Inquisition and a mock Sephardi wedding. Local merchants get into the spirit too.

Exploring the Pirkei Avot

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Last week we looked at the many resources on the Internet for the Mishnah. This week, we concentrate on one of the Mishnah's most interesting and unique books, Pirkei Avot.

What makes this book so different (and popular on the Internet)? The Jewish Student Online Research Centre explains: **[http://www.us-israel.org/jsource/Judaism/pirkei_avot.html]** "Sixty-two of the 63 short books that make up the Mishnah are legal texts. The only tractate of the 63 that does not deal with laws is called Pirkei Avot (usually translated as Ethics of the Fathers). Pirkei Avot transmits the favorite moral advice and insights of the leading rabbinic scholars of different generations."

Because each line of Pirkei Avot can be understood and debated on so many levels, the Internet has become an obvious repository for its wisdom.

If you have Hebrew fonts installed you can read the entire book on line **[http://www1.snunit.k12.il/kodesh/mishna/abut.html]**. However, the best Pirkei Avot site was created by the Orthodox Union **[http://www.ncsy.org/torah/lual/]**. All six chapters are printed in the original Hebrew along with an English translation and a lengthy commentary. You don't need Hebrew fonts, but you will need the free Adobe Acrobat Reader software **[http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html]** to read this material.

Other online translations and commentaries include Chabad-Lubavitch in Cyberspace **[http://www.chabad.org/gopher/texts/ethics-s.exp/]** and Thunder from Sinai: Essays on Pirkei Avot **[http://jewishamerica.com/Thunder.htm]**. Rabbi Shaya Karlinsky, dean of Darche Noam Institutions, teaches a course on Pirkei Avot based on the classic commentary of the Maharal from Prague. You can read the introduction to his course on line **[http://www.csudh.edu/hum/religion/religion-mishnah.html]**

The simplicity and the truth of Pirkei Avot touch people on a powerful, personal level. A member of Shaarei Shamayim, Madison, Wisconsin's Jewish Reconstructionist community sees "Pirkei Avot as a kind of ethical code for those who want not only to lead an ethical life for themselves, but also to guide others and to assist in the repair of the world (Tikkun Olam)" **[http://www.rdcbraille.com/css-dc01.html]**.

Pirkei Avot may be thousands of years old, but its most famous phrase has become the foundation of one modern writer's thoughts on social responsibility. In *The Three Questions: Prosperity and the Public Good*, Bob Rae quotes Hillel's questions: "If I am not for myself, then who is for me? If I am only for myself, then what am I? If not now, when?" (Avot 1:14) **[http://www.thestar.com/back_issues/ED19981107/opinion/981107INS03_IN-URQ7.html]**.

Ontario's former socialist premier surprised some readers when he answered the first question, saying: "Self-interest has a purpose and a place at the heart of civil society. Appeals to self-sacrifice, compassion and even generosity are rarely a successful substitute for appeals to self-interest."

My favorite Pirkei Avot site illustrates that the appeal for the book transcends all ages. Rochell Sobel and her Grade 4 class at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School in Montgomery County, Md., have created a beautiful little site **[http://www.cesjds.org/saying/]**. Each student has picked a favorite saying from Pirkei Avot, illustrated it and recorded themselves reciting the phrase in Hebrew.

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a television producer in Toronto with an interest in the Internet. He can be reached at [mdm@inforamp.net].

Jewish silence a danger

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

In the next few weeks, the Torah portions include the revelation at Sinai and the Ten Commandments. God commands us to honor our parents in order to lengthen our days upon this earth.

The midrash tells the story of Elisha ben Abuya, later known as Aher (the Other). Elisha was a master in the academy, and his student was Rabbi Meir, a great rabbinic scholar. Elisha was also a heretic.

According to the midrash, Elisha had observed a son obeying his father while performing another commandment, one that appears in Deuteronomy. The father had asked the son to climb a tree and chase the mother bird away in order to take the eggs. The commandment to chase the mother bird away is also followed by the declaration of meriting long life. Only these two commandments are explicitly said to result in long life. In this one act of obeying his father and chasing the bird, the son should have been granted an extra-long life. Instead, the son was killed climbing down the tree. When Elisha saw the son die, his faith was broken. He renounced all his learning as false and became Aher, the avid heretic.

Interestingly, the Talmud recounts incidents of Rabbi Meir continuing to meet with Aher and continuing to study Torah with him. On one occasion it is the Sabbath, and Rabbi Meir is sitting with his students and studying Torah. He is told that Aher is in the marketplace. Rabbi Meir leaves his students and enters the marketplace in order to discuss Torah with Aher. After they have walked and debated Torah for some time, Aher tells Rabbi Meir to turn back, since they have approached the Sabbath barrier.

It is a beautiful moment of mutual respect. Rabbi Meir respects Aher's understanding of Torah, despite his personal struggles, and Aher respects Rabbi Meir's Judaic choices, despite their differences.

After both Aher and Rabbi Meir have died, the Talmud presents a midrash in which another rabbi meets Elijah the prophet. When he asks Elijah what God is doing, the prophet responds that God is reciting the teachings of all the rabbis, except those of Rabbi Meir. When asked why, Elijah responds that since Rabbi Meir continued to learn Torah from Aher, his name is being excluded. The rabbi argues the sense of this and ultimately wins the argument. The Talmud concludes: Hereafter God will begin to say, "My son Meir says."

Many Jews today point fingers at other Jewish beliefs and label them Aher – the other. Judgments are passed, and we refuse to teach and learn from each other to the point of refusing to enter each other's buildings. Rabbi Meir would not let go of Elisha ben Abuya, for he knew the debate must continue. Jewish history has shown us it is not the Jewish debate that is dangerous to us – it is Jewish silence.

A modern blood libel

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

Tarnobrzeg, Poland, formerly known as Dzikow, cannot be accused of being a pretty town. With a population of 40,000, it is perched on the eastern bank of the Vistula, in a region known for the production of sulphur. One pictures a dreary, blighted place, surrounded by dark denuded hills.

In 1757, a 15-year-old Christian boy disappeared from Tarnobrzeg. Allegations quickly arose that the Jews had murdered the boy and used his blood in the baking of matzah.

As in scores of localities across Christian Europe since medieval times, the results of Tarnobrzeg's blood libel were tragically predictable. Upon the scantiest of circumstantial evidence, 12 Jewish men were arrested, tortured and burned at the stake. The other local Jews fled.

Like the Salem witch-hunts or the auto-da-fes of 15th-century Spain, Tarnobrzeg's 242-year-old blood libel has cast a stain upon the town's reputation that does not easily go away. It marks the town even today.

Michael Honey, a retired engineer who lives in London, England, has been waging a war against Tarnobrzeg since 1993, after reading a defamatory article about the blood libel trial in *Zeszyty Historyczne*, a local historical journal. Originally written in 1929, the reprinted article conveyed the impression that the Jews had actually committed the crime for which they had been judicially murdered.

The article neglected to mention that the alleged Christian murder victim was found living in a nearby town in 1774. Neither did the journal's editor, Tadeusz Zych, bother to explain that the Jews were innocent of the fabricated murder pinned on them.

Born in the former Czechoslovakia, Honey experienced Auschwitz as a child, and served as Mengele's messenger boy. Most of his family, including his Tarnobrzeg-born mother, were murdered.

After reading the *Zeszyty Historyczne*, Honey took a Zola-like stance, writing a firmly-worded letter to Zych and demanding a retraction. Zych, amidst a flurry of polite regrets, declined. Honey wrote the town's mayor, the Polish ambassador to Britain, and others. Five years later, a retraction is still not imminent.

"If a fellow writes an age-old lie as fact, he's actually like an eel, and you try to get hold of him and he slips through your fingers – he turns this way and that," Honey says. "But I've come to the point where I don't turn away any more. I don't think it's good policy any more for the Jews to turn a blind eye.

"For me, it's a result of being in the camps, of being a slave. There was a time when I had to obey my masters because I was a slave – literally. You know, a slave has got to say 'Yes, sir.' I'm not prepared to live like that any more."

Honey's unrelenting war on Tarnobrzeg has made some of his genealogical colleagues uneasy, partly because Zych has a proven sympathetic interest in local Jewish history and has helped Jewish genealogists trace their roots in the region.

Suzan Wynne, a Maryland-based specialist in Galician Jewish genealogy, admits she doesn't sanction Honey's confrontational approach. "I really believe that we need to work cooperatively with people, perhaps teach them by helping them get to know real Jews," she says. "Most of these people have never seen a Jew – their only contact with Jews has been in history books. So I feel we need to be ambassadors and diplomats, and represent ourselves as cooperative, interested human beings."

Gayle Schlissel Riley, a California genealogist, has a special interest in the Tarnobrzeg controversy, since her ancestor, Joske (Joseph) Shubnik, was among those burned alive. But apparently her attitude is to turn the other cheek. "Some genealogists have said they're willing to take this all the way to Elie Wiesel, even to the Pope," she observes, "but hate doesn't do anything but beget hate."

Contacted by letter, Zych admits he committed a "grave error" by presenting the libel as fact, but says he is caught in a delicate balance between philo-Semitic and anti-Semitic forces. Still, he indicates that *Zeszyty Historyczne* will revisit the subject sometime in the coming year.

Meanwhile, Michael Honey remains unswerving in his resolve to see that the historical record, in this one instance, is properly corrected.

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Chanukah in Myanmar a unique experience

By RISA ROCHWERG and STEVEN RAICH

A package arrived for us in Bangkok at the general post office. The customs clearance documentation stated that the contents were candles. Curiously, we opened the package from home and found a menorah, a box of candles and chocolate Chanukah gelt. That was the beginning of a special feeling we had about our upcoming Chanukah.

Dec. 13 arrived, and we boarded a flight to Yangon, Myanmar (formerly Burma). We checked into our hotel and were disappointed to find that our room had no windows for us to display the first light of our menorah.

Guest Voices

During the day, we wandered the bustling streets of Yangon and investigated our surroundings. From the centre of the marketplace, a light blue building with a Magen David rose above the chaos.

We pushed our way through the crowds to the gates of the building, which had a sign reading Musmeah Yeshua Synagogue. A Burmese man dressed in a traditional longyi (sarong) approached us and asked if we would like to return later that evening for the celebration of Chanukah.

We arrived at the synagogue dressed in our backpacking attire, and met Moses Samuels, the trustee of the synagogue. Samuels singlehandedly maintains the synagogue, and keeps it open for tourists; he has done a remarkable job with the upkeep. He also tries to protect the Jewish cemetery from commercial development.

Moses talked to us about the history of the more than 100-year-old synagogue and showed us the beautiful Torah scrolls. At one time, Myanmar had a population of 3,000 Jews; today, 30 remain.

Samuels informed us that the Israeli Embassy was hosting a Chanukah celebration that evening and that we were more than welcome to attend. We made our way to the Traders Hotel, one of the newer and more prestigious hotels in Yangon. Hesitantly, we climbed the stairs and met two representatives of the Israeli Embassy who were greeting the guests.

Obviously out of place, we explained our situation and were kindly invited to stay for the festivities – 300 dignitaries, a handful of Israeli tourists and us. We passed through the metal detector and had our bags hand-inspected. We entered the large ballroom decorated with Israeli flags and a large menorah, and stood in the reception line to meet the Israeli ambassador. The room was filled with people from all over the world, each with a connection to the Jewish state.

The ambassador opened the function with an address about the State of Israel's 50th year and explained the Festival of Lights. Together with Myanmar's minister of foreign affairs, the ambassador lit the first Chanukah candle, and two girls sang *Hanerot Hallalu*. Potato "brownies" and jam donuts were served, and a promotional film on Israel was shown to this large audience in Yangon. This grand celebration for the first night of Chanukah certainly surpassed our plans for a low-key evening.

Until the seventh night of Chanukah, we lit our menorah on our own, often in the dark because of electricity shortages in Myanmar. On the seventh night of Chanukah, we arrived in Hsipaw, a small village in the Shan State.

Based on a recommendation, we tried to find a certain Mr. Book who would be able to direct us to a guesthouse. We arrived at Mr. Book's bookstore and found a golden menorah and Israeli flags. He invited us to his Chanukah celebrations that evening and gladly accepted our additional menorah.

Mr. Book, a Muslim, had crafted his menorah for his Israeli friends who visit, and had hosted celebrations each of the eight nights. So on the seventh night of Chanukah, we, Mr. Book and eight Israelis lit two menorahs, sang songs and ate the feast that Mr. Book and his family had prepared. When we left Hsipaw, we left our menorah in Mr. Book's hands for Chanukah 1999.

We had limited expectations for Chanukah in Myanmar, and yet we found some interesting festivities in a country where only 30 Jews reside. We realize that this was a unique experience, especially to find individuals like Moses Samuels and Mr. Book, who speak and act from the heart even though they live under an oppressive government regime. This Chanukah has lit a fire in us about humanity that will not die.

Risa Rochwerg and Steven Raich are students from Toronto.

CONSUMING TU B'SHVAT FOODS

A shopper in a branch of Israel's largest supermarket chain, Supersol, selects from the rich display of dried fruits that are traditionally eaten on Tu b'Shvat. Eating dried fruits as well as a "new" fruit has become one of the key pastimes of the day. [Israel photo]

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Rabbi Orlofsky will be the Scholar-in-Residence at a Shabbaton in Ohr Somayach Thornhill February 5 & 6. Call (905) 886--5730 for specific schedule of events.

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MINYANIM IN THE GTA
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 5- 11'99

Synagogue	Address & Tel.	Fri. Night	Shabbat	Sun. A.M.	Daily A.M.	Daily P.M.
Agudath Israel (O)	129 McGillivray Ave. (416) 789-5514	5:15 PM	8:45 AM	8:00 AM	7:00 & 7:40 AM	5:10 PM
Beth Avraham Yoseph (O)	613 Clark Ave. W. (905) 886-3810	5:15 PM	8:45 AM	6:00, 7:00 & 8:45 AM	6:45 & 7:30 AM	5:10 PM
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda (C)	100 Elder St. (416) 633-3838	5:25 PM	8:45 AM	7:30 & 8:30 AM	7:30 & 8:15 AM	5:30 PM
Beth Tikvah (C)	3080 Bayview Ave. (416) 221-3433	6:00 PM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	7:30 AM	7:15 PM
Holy Blossom (R)	1950 Bathurst St. (416) 789-3291	6:00 PM	10:30 AM	9:00 AM	----------	6:00 PM
Ohr Somayach / JEP (south) (O)	2939 Bathurst St. (416) 785-5899	5:15 PM	8:30 AM	7:45 AM	Mon. Thurs. 6:35 AM Tues. Wed. Fri. 6:45 AM	Ma'ariv 7:45 PM
Shaar Shalom (C)	2 Simonston Blvd. (905) 889-4975	5:15 & 6:00 PM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	7:00 AM	7:00 PM
Shaarei Shomayim (O)	470 Glencairn Ave. (416) 789-3213	5:20 PM	9:00 AM	7:30 AM	7:30 AM	5:05 PM
Shaarei Tefillah (O)	3600 Bathurst St. (416) 787-1631	5:25 PM	8:45 AM	8:30 AM	6:30 & 7:30 AM	5:25 PM

This is not a comprehensive listing of the synagogues in the Greater Toronto area. The information is provided by the Vaad Harabonim of Toronto and the Toronto Board of Rabbis. The Vaad and the Board will periodically revise the listings. For statutory holidays, please call the Synagogue for any changes in times.

Greater Toronto Area

Judeo Latin Association planning Purim bash

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Organizers of an upcoming Purim party hope the festive event will raise the profile of the Judeo Latin Association of Canada (La Asociación Judeo Latina del Canada), a Toronto-based group for Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking Jews.

The party, to be held Feb. 28 at the Sephardic Kehila Centre in Thornhill, will feature music, a costume contest and games.

The loosely structured organization – there are no formal memberships as yet – evolved from Spanish-language Torah classes led by Rabbi Abraham Bartfeld, a native of Mexico whose parents fled France in 1942 and initially spent two years in Cuba.

Rabbi Bartfeld, now 50, was rabbi at Baycrest Terrace's congregation in the late 1970s before returning to Mexico City to serve as Mexico's chief Ashkenazi rabbi for 18 years. He and his family moved back to Toronto two years ago.

"I was looking for a long time for an organization that would fulfil my need to learn Torah in my mother tongue," said Esperanza Evenstein, a 42-year-old Panamanian who has lived here for 16 years.

Evenstein, who attended Jewish day school as a child, initially came here for a visit, liked the country and decided to stay even before she met her husband, a native of Oshawa.

She began attending classes close to two years ago when they were offered at an Aish HaTorah location.

The classes, which run on two weeknights and are open to observant and non-observant alike, are

Rabbi Abraham Bartfeld

now held in private homes. Rabbi Bartfeld teaches about Torah as well as Jewish philosophy, which is very difficult to grasp in a foreign language, noted Evenstein.

She enjoys the ambience in the Spanish-language classes. "English-speaking classes are normally more rigid, more serious. The culture we come from is less formal."

Aside from the classes, the association has begun to organize social and holiday programs.

"[Participants] tend to help each other," said Rabbi Bartfeld, referring in part to the business networking that takes place. At least one person found housing with help from the group.

"I think [the association] has a future. I see that people care," said the rabbi at his home, where he holds regular Shabbat services for about 25 people.

Participants in the association represent a variety of backgrounds, both Ashkenazi and Sephardi, with people from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Morocco and Peru.

There is even an anglophone Canadian. Melanie Craig, 26, a graduate of McGill University who has studied in Mexico and Colombia, enjoys the warm atmosphere of the group. "There's always some music, some good food and drinks. There's a lot of camaraderie."

For Craig, the classes are "the ultimate." It had never occurred to her she would be able to study Torah in Spanish, she said.

Although the focus of the classes is education, said the rabbi, "we always have a little bit of time to talk about news from back home."

For further information about the association or the Purim party, call Debbie at 905-889-0020 or Esperanza at 905-886-7935. Purim party tickets are also available at the Sephardic Kehila Centre.

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Beit-Berl Teachers College, David Yellen Teachers College, Levinsky Teachers College, "Oranim" (Training of Kindergarten, Primary School and Special Education Teachers), State Teachers College Seminar Hakibbutz, Zinman College of Physical Education at the Wingate Institute

Please Note: To be eligible, applicants for undergraduate studies must possess an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or its equivalent.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 7, 1999.

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Greater Toronto Area

Jewish deaf-blind man 'speaks out'

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The voice of Harold Smith, 79, a Jewish deaf and blind man, is like a call of the wild.

Smith tries so hard to answer questions in his own voice, although he knows it is impossible for the ordinary person to understand him. But he keeps trying, which is one reason he has survived.

Smith "reads" the questions on his fingers, tapped out in two-handed manual fashion by his young intervenor, Marta Irwin. After his initial attempt to answer with his own voice, requiring almost painful effort on his part, he replies to Marta in sign language.

The son of Samuel and Edith Smith, who ran a tailoring shop at Queen and Greenwood streets, he said he was "too poor" to attend any Hebrew school, but adheres to his Jewish faith by attending synagogue with an intervenor when he can. With the intervenor's help, he understands some of the synagogue service. Among the synagogues, he has attended are Beth Tikvah, Shaarei Shomayim and Beth Tzedec, the latter for a bar mitzvah and a wedding.

Despite his handicaps, Smith enjoys life, particularly when friends drop in for a surprise visit to his third-floor one-bedroom apartment in the Rotary Cheshire building where he is second in seniority among the 16 tenants to an active 88-year-old woman. He has lived here since the building opened in 1992.

He keeps busy doing macrame and reads Braille books and magazines from the CNIB, "although I'm a slow reader."

His skill at crafts paid off when he sold 17 baskets at the Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf on Bayview Avenue, where he used to live.

Smith was born in the Kew Beach area of Toronto, where a number of Jews once lived, but six months later he developed convulsions and became deaf. He is the only deaf person in his family. A diabetic, he began losing his sight 20 years ago and is now blind.

At the age of seven, Smith was sent to the Clinton Street school for the deaf, and later to the school at Belleville. At 17, he began home school instruction with his late brother, William. Smith wanted to become a printer, but this was during the Depression, and there were no jobs. So he worked in his father's tailoring and dry cleaning shop for 33 years.

"I hated the work," he says candidly.

But he goes on to say how much fun he had at other times – on an apple-picking trip or attending the CNE, for example – and how he likes to have dinner out with friends, always with an intervenor, because he can't travel alone.

During this three-way conversation, Smith keeps trying to speak out, but his words are unintelligible. Yet he holds no grudge against those, like the *CJN* reporter, who do not know sign language. Instead, he urges everyone to do their best to communicate with deaf-blind people like himself.

Smith cooks his own meals in the apartment, being careful to follow food rules for diabetics, especially when it comes to desserts. "I am terribly scared of the complications of diabetes. Right now I am okay with pills instead of insulin."

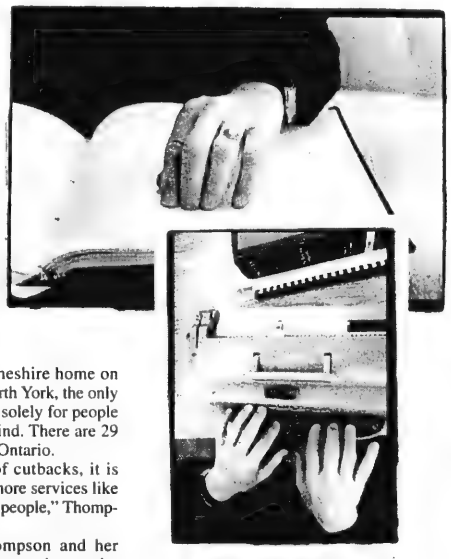
He had four sisters; two of them, Kay and Sylvia, are still alive and live in Toronto. He is a great-uncle to many nieces and nephews.

In his quest to have people better understand the plight of deaf-blind people, he has a strong ally in Joyce Thompson, director of his Rotary Cheshire home on Willowdale Avenue in North York, the only one in the world reserved solely for people who are both deaf and blind. There are 29 other Cheshire homes in Ontario.

"During these days of cutbacks, it is tough to get support for more services like intervenors for deaf-blind people," Thompson says.

At the moment, Thompson and her friends are concentrating on getting services expanded for such people, so that they can live independently, with access to information 24 hours a day.

Thompson says the official figure of 7,000 deaf-blind people in Canada does not include the many seniors who develop these handicaps later in life.



These photos by Natalie Schonfeld poignantly capture some of the moments of a day in the life of Harold Smith.

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The new Apotex Centre, Jewish Home for the Aged, and The Centre for Cognitive Disorders is going up.

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The concrete shell of the building will be completed this winter. Anticipation is building. In those areas already poured, the walls of residents rooms are going up, the plumbing's going in and the wiring is being installed. Residents are looking forward to moving into a new facility that's much better equipped to meet the needs of seniors.

And, their anticipation will be rewarded. The rooms will be bigger, and all rooms will be private. Each room will have an entrance foyer and an ensuite washroom almost twice as large as in the current building.

This excellent new facility has been made possible by the generosity of our community. It's a wonderful achievement. If you have made a gift, please accept our thanks. If you haven't, please consider making a contribution to the ongoing work of one of the finest seniors' facilities anywhere.

For more information on how you can be part of completing the Apotex Centre, Jewish Home for the Aged, and the Centre for Cognitive Disorders, call Shirley Worth in the Baycrest Centre Foundation at (416) 785-2500, Ext. 2013.

Baycrest Centre
for Geriatric Care

Photos by Orah Buck, from the permanent installation; "Time in Faces".

She'arim Hebrew Day School:

This is a place of miracles

Gittie Brumer (top row, right) with her students on a class outing

By GITTIE BRUMER
Special to The CJN

Feature

I walk into the empty room, popping it in my mind's eye with the children who have sat at these desks, turned to me their bright, curious eyes, bent their heads to work with deep concentration. I see them frown in their struggles to master a new concept. I hear the sudden gasp and then the laughter when comprehension dawns. I watch them tumble all over themselves in their eagerness to learn. The room glows with their triumphs, and I think, this is a place of miracles.

I first started teaching at the Dr. Abraham Shore Academy, She'arim Hebrew Day School in September 1989. At the time, I was a fourth year student at the University of Toronto, trying to cope with the last few courses remaining in my double majors of mathematics and psychology. I had been working with learning disabled children on a part-time basis for three years, and had spent intensive hours under the guidance of Dori Levine, studying and applying the educational philosophy and methodology of Israeli psychologist Reuven Feuerstein.

Dori had worked with Feuerstein in Jerusalem, and her enthusiasm for his approach was obvious. His ideas attracted me immediately. Feuerstein presented a comprehensive, highly applicable model of cognitive processes, as well as a specific curriculum for developing thinking skills. Case histories described amazing success in his work with individuals with a wide range of disabilities, including learning disabilities, Down syndrome, brain damage and autism. Hope and optimism shone through all his writings, and drew me in.

My career plans at the time were vague and subject to change, as I considered one profession after another and then rejected each. Yet my work with Dori sparked my curiosity and appealed to my sense of deep commitment to Jewish education, and I began to wonder if there was a place for me in the field of Jewish special education.

My inquiries led me to the Dr. Abraham Shore Academy, She'arim Hebrew Day School, a school in Toronto for children with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorder. I walked in with a million questions. How could one expect these children to cope with a dual-language program, and the long hours of a Jewish day school? How did parents and children deal with the stigma of a specialized school? What techniques did teachers use to enable their students to progress? How did they enhance the self-esteem of these children, who carried the burden of unsuccessful experience in their previous schools? And was this something I could learn to do? Could I make a difference in some child's life?

I visited She'arim, and was fascinated. I watched the teachers with their classes, and experienced first hand the atmosphere of respect and encouragement. Here, every student is an individual, I thought, every child's strengths are recognized. I was impressed with the professional expertise of the school's staff, and more so with their dedication.

My excitement grew as I saw Feuerstein's theoretical concepts brought to life in the classrooms of She'arim, whose educational approach is based on Feuerstein's work.

Teachers discussed the *process* of learning with their students, as well as its product, and modified their own techniques to meet the needs of their students. Children talked about the strategies they used to solve problems of all sorts, in the classroom and outside of it, and slowly learned to change their thinking habits. I was enthralled, when Dori informed me of her new role as principal of She'arim and

Continued on page 19

Soberman Isenbaum & Colomby LLP

Mel Finkelstein

John Colomby, Managing Partner of Soberman Isenbaum & Colomby LLP announces the retirement of Mel Finkelstein.

Prior to merging with Soberman Isenbaum & Colomby LLP, Mr. Finkelstein was a partner of both M. Finkelstein & Partners and Cole, Rubin, Finkelstein & Green.

Mr. Finkelstein remains active in the community and has served as President of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto from 1982 to 1990; President of the Board of Jewish Education of Toronto from 1979 to 1982; Vice-President, Toronto Jewish Congress 1977 to 1990 and an Executive Member of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association from 1993 to 1997.

Mr. Finkelstein will be consulting to some clients and pursuing personal business interests.

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If you know anyone that could benefit from this, please pass it on.

SINGLES EVENTS

Singles Events is an advertising feature of *The Canadian Jewish News*

Deadline is Wednesday, 4:00 p.m., 8 days preceding issue date.

For rates or to place an ad, call:
Tanya at (416) 391-1836

The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries they may have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.

Bringing People Together can find you the right person, view photos. Ruth Friedman at 905-731-5204.

Darren, Mark & Ari Present... The Valentine '99 Bash on Fri, Feb. 12, 9:30pm at **Reverb**, 651 Queen St. Entertainment: God Made Live Music God Made Me Funky. DJ by Mandel Entertainment. Tickets: $8-adv., $10-door. TicketMaster: 870-7000. DM&A Hotline: 713-0024.

FIRE & ICE - ICRF's Young Associates invite all those in their 20's & 30's to party @ Easy & the Fifth (A.K.A. **The Big Easy**) **Sun. February 7, 8p.m.** We promise a Great Party! D.J! Dancing! Refreshments! Prizes! **Tickets - $25 in advance,** $30 @ door. For tickets call ICRF office at 416-487-5246.

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Greater Toronto Area

Specialists help students on specific content areas

Continued from page 18

offered me a teaching position at the school. I gathered up my courage, took a deep breath and accepted.

I blink my eyes, and almost 10 years have passed. Suddenly, I am an experienced educator, with degrees and certificates in both Jewish education and special education, and I find myself training others in the techniques I know.

The students I taught in my first year at She'arim are adults now, embarking on their own careers, getting married, moving on. They come to visit occasionally, seeking guidance or sharing their success. Many still think of She'arim as a second home.

The school itself has grown, too, with nine classes now, and a population of almost 70 students from grade 1 to grade 8. The building is bursting at the seams.

The school still offers a full academic program in secular and Judaic studies, as well as cognitive skills training using Feuerstein's instrumental enrichment. The child study team still includes a consulting psychologist and part-time art therapist. A variety of new programs have also been added over the years. A psychologist is on staff to work with children and families, and a remediation/enrichment specialist works with students on specific content areas. A unique integrated arts program brings the curriculum to life using art media within the classroom. Physical education, music and computer programs allow the children to develop a broad range of abilities.

Teachers, all trained in Feuerstein's approach, continue to direct their efforts and expertise towards meeting the academic, social, organizational, behavioral and cognitive objectives of their students. The school's current principal, Kathy Manoim, guides the school along with quiet competence, and an atmosphere of sensitivity and diligence pervades its classrooms. She'arim has earned a place in the forefront of the educational world.

I look back at my own years of experience, working with my students every day. Time has made me more realistic. I have learned that not every child with learning disabilities and/or attention deficit disorder can benefit from the She'arim's program. I also know that with limited resources, the school cannot meet the need that exists for precisely the program it offers. But I am still amazed by the dedication and commitment I see in everyone connected with She'arim: the teachers, the board and the administration. I am still impressed with the success of our students. And I am still entranced by the children.

She'arim was founded in 1980 by Rabbi Yitzchak Witty, Rabbi Joseph Kelman and the late Rabbi Sheldon Steinberg. I am amazed that so much has been accomplished in only 18 years, and grateful to be a part of it. My students continue to enchant me, and I have learned that no one can predict their future achievements. Their energy and enthusiasm, their determination to succeed, are inspiring. I watch their progress with awe and humility. We set goals together and plan each step carefully – and still, I am surprised by my students' creativity and perseverance. I observe with ceaseless wonder as they overcome obstacles and face challenges with more bravery than I possess. I have learned a great deal from you, my students.

The classroom is empty. Yet when I look around, I can see my students gazing back at me, with their mischievous smiles and bewitching eyes. Their futures look so hopeful from where I sit. This is a place of miracles.

Gittie Brumer (standing) with her students in class

Toronto Jewish Teachers' Seminary

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חמש מגילות - דרכי הוראה. בחינת המגילות מזוית הסטורית, ספרותית ודתית. דמיונות ומשרים חינוכיים. הרב נ.קנדלר(9-7 בערב)	מחודולוגיה של הוראת פרק בתנ"ך; דיון והצעות מעשיות להוראה. ס.אילת (9-7 בערב)	ספרות ילדים עברית; תכניים, ערכים, נתוח ספרותי ודרכים להוראת ספרות עברית לילדים. י.זליגר (9-7 בערב)	שיטה חדשנית להוראת תנ"ך; הבנת פרקי תנ"ך דרך המבנה הכללי ובחירת פרשנים בהתחשב בשיקולים פדגוגיים. הרב י.דון (9-7 בערב)	הספרות העברית בעת החדשה; מחקופת ההשכלה ועד ימינו. מ. פז (12-10)
Teacher Training For Supplementary Schools; Content and Pedagogy in the Supplementary School Class. **(Thursdays 7-9 p.m.)**		רעיונות בסיסיים ••• באמנות ישראל: גישת מתקדמת ומעמיקה לחבנת עיקרי היחודות תוך ניתוח טקסטים. (נועד למורים בכיתות י ומעלה) הרב י. אונטרמן (7-9 בערב)	חגי ישראל וארץ ישראל; הוראת מועדי ישראל תוך כדי עיון במקורות, ביסודות מקומיים ובנחיב הזמן. הרב ג.ברדוגו (7-9 בערב)	עולם התפילות; מבנה ומבוא לסידור רקע היסטורי ודיון פילוסופי. דרכים ומחודות להוראת התפילה. ח. שאנני (12-2)
		חינוך מיוחד: ••• שיטות להוראת תלמידים לקויי למידה. מ. מינרבי (7-9 בערב)		מדרש האגדה; לימוד משותף במדרשי האגדה תוך הדגשת הצד החינוכי-פסיכולוגי. הנחיה מחודית להוראת מדרשים בכיתה. הרב א.מאירמן (4-2)
During this term the Midrasha will be offering sessions in JEWISH FAMILY EDUCATION, dates and location to be announced.		שימו לב: לשני הקורסים המסומנים בשלושה כוכבים (•••) ניתן לחירשם ככל קורס במדרשה, עבור תשלום ולצורך קבלת קרדיט אך ללא תשלום אך גם ללא קבלת קרדיט.		חזון ומציאות בספר דברים. עיון בפרשיות והוראתן בכיתה. הרב פ.טסלר (6-4)

Midrasha Second Semester Begins: Sunday, February 14, 1999

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Disagreement 'sours' Auschwitz visit: CJC

Continued from page 1

Jewish community or with Congress.

"We have a problem with the PMO [for their] lack of sensitivity, understanding and total disregard for the feelings of our community," Gettlich said.

In news reports from Poland, Chrétien said that "the Polish Canadian Congress was invited and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress was invited and the Jewish National Congress [CJC] was invited. They were all invited."

"It was felt that it was appropriate to have Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith with the prime minister on this visit," said Sophie Galarneau, a spokesperson for the PMO. "By his visit to the camp, the prime minister would be paying homage to all the victims of the Holocaust on behalf of all Canadians."

Conrad said the Polish Congress had been led to believe they were being invited to participate only in the trade portion of the mission. The CPC learned about the visit to Auschwitz through media reports, and immediately contacted the PMO's office to request "a similar invitation be extended to three representatives of our community and organization. They were turned down by Paul Sparks, director of operation for the Team Canada trip," Conrad said.

The Polish community feels "excluded" and "snubbed," Gettlich said.

"We wanted to be part of the pilgrimage to Auschwitz in view of the fact we have people here" who survived the Nazi camp, Conrad added.

In a letter to Conrad following his return from Poland, Ronen expressed his "disappointment and profound disagreement with you on the claim for parity in connection with the prime minister's pilgrimage to Auschwitz. At Auschwitz-Birkenau, 1.5 million human beings – more than 1.3 million of them Jews – were murdered.

"The Holocaust is the monumental tragedy of the Jewish people and no other. And Auschwitz is symbolic of the Holocaust. It was therefore entirely appropriate that an official Jewish delegation accompany Chrétien to Auschwitz in what, first and foremost, was a desire to memorialize the victims of the Holocaust and to honor Holocaust survivors.

"This does not mean that other victims of the Nazis, including Poles, are unrecognized," Ronen wrote.

Ronen said he believes the visit to Auschwitz "sensitized the prime minister to the concerns of the Jewish community in a way that was done honorably and solemnly ... Ultimately this will help underscore in the prime minister's mind the need for a free-standing Holocaust museum in Ottawa."

The visit to Auschwitz was emotional for all participants, particularly his father. A wave of emotion swept his father as soon as the group entered the camp through the gate marked with the phrase "Arbeit Macht Frei" (work sets you free). His father recited the Shema Yisrael prayer as they entered the camp, in honor of the Jews who did the same on their way to their deaths, Ronen said.

The visitors were particularly moved by the rooms piled high with human hair and with children's shoes. "How can you not be overwhelmed by that?" Ronen asked.

During their visit, the group stopped at the wall where thousands of political prisoners were shot. The guide made it clear that many Poles were among those killed, and the prime minister laid a wreath in their memory, Ronen said.

Three MPs of Polish heritage – Stan Keyes, Carolyn Parrish and Stan Dromisky – participated in the visit and Ronen said others who had travelled to Poland on the trade mission also took the opportunity to visit the camp.

One controversial area of Auschwitz was not on the prime minister's tour – a field of 239 crosses placed on land adjacent to the back entrance of the main camp. The crosses are on property owned by Carmelite Sisters and subleased to "a self-proclaimed defender of the 'cross' and the Carmelite Sisters, who with the help of skinheads and ultra-orthodox Christians erected hundreds of crosses of varying sizes," according to Auschwitz survivor Nate Leipciger.

Leipciger, national chair of Congress' Holocaust remembrance committee, said the Polish government is in the process of expropriating the land while also moving to pass legislation to take jurisdiction over former Nazi concentration camps out of local and regional control. The Polish government proposes to establish a National Council to preserve the grounds of camps including Auschwitz, Majdanek, Stuthoff, Gross Rosen, Treblinka, Chelmno, Belzec and Sobibor, he said.

Leipciger, who is the only Canadian representative on the International Council to the State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau, said the group has been told by Polish Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek that the government plans to remove all the crosses except the "Papal Cross" that commemorates the Pope's first visit to the camp.

Leipciger said the Roman Catholic Church in Poland has "come out against" the proliferation of crosses on the leased premises, believing they "desecrate the cross by using a religious symbol to provoke confrontation."

Conrad and Gettlich said the CPC had never taken a position on the issue, but it is a matter that may be raised at the organization's next meeting. Gettlich said she believed the crosses "might be provocative to the Jewish survivors" of Auschwitz. She and Conrad said they supported the church's position on the crosses.

The placement of crosses at Auschwitz has been a long-simmering issue. In a document published about one year ago, Congress argued that the "Christianization" of Auschwitz "can only be ameliorated by the Catholic Church of Poland; absence of appropriate action by the Church will, justifiably, be viewed by Jews as a manifestation of age-old Christian imperialism."

The document, prepared with the input of Rabbi Dow Marmur, Rabbi Reuven Bulka and Leipciger, suggests religious symbols are inappropriate at Auschwitz and can "present problems to the Jews."

"The most religious expression is self-restraint; anything else often suggest the opposite to what it purports to be," the document states.

"A permanent, exceptionally large cross located in a prominent location to be visible from a large part of camp area... will invariably be seen as a specific statement calculated and intended to provoke others and not as a true expression of faith. Therefore, it would be wiser not to rely on religious symbols to express a group's adherence to a specific religious group," the Congress document states.

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Feb. 8, is deadline for Feb. 18 issue and Monday, Feb. 15, is deadline for Feb. 25. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Thursday, Feb. 4

CULTURAL EVENT

Dr. Filderman Lodge, B'nai Brith, (Romanian speaking), concert of music from operas and folklore, presented by Bernard Betel Ensemble directed by **Eleanor Rice**, 6:30 p.m., B'nai Brith Building, 15 Hove St. **Felicia Lowy** 631-0634.

Sunday, Feb. 7

OHR SOMAYACH LECTURE

Ohr Somayach Thornhill presents a lecture by **Rabbi Dovid Orlofsky** of Ohr Somayach Jerusalem on Suspending Our Disbelief: Another Look at the Gulf War, 8:30 p.m. $5. 905-886-5730.

JEWISH FICTION

Voices in Contemporary Canadian Jewish Fiction is the topic of the seminar by **Ruby Newman** at Temple Sinai at 10 a.m. $3.

Monday, Feb. 8

JUDAISM AND THE ARTS

Adath Israel and Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregations series Expressions of Judaism Through the Arts continues with *My Grandparents Had a Hotel*, a film presentation by filmmaker **Karen Shopsowitz**, 8 p.m. at Beth David.

Wednesday, Feb. 10

STRESSED OUT?

Mount Sinai Hospital, Jewish Women's Federation and the Bathurst Jewish Centre free public seminar at the Leah Posluns Theatre 7:30-9:30 p.m. Mount Sinai experts discuss managing stress. Moderated by CBC *Newsworld* anchor **Lorne Saxberg**. This is part of Mount Sinai's Health Living Series. Reserve. 586-8338.

METAPHOR AND FAITH

Jeremy Kagan, rabbi and author of *Jewish Self, recovering spirituality in a modern world*, discusses Metaphor and Faith: Developing a Relationship With an Invisible God, 8 p.m. at Anshe Minsk Synagogue, downtown. Suggested donation $7.50. 595-5723.

ABOUT ADD

Dr. Avraham Zimberg presents Not Just Kidstuff, an exploration of what ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) is and what it is not, and offers strategies to teens and adults who have ADD, increasing their self-esteem and maximizing their potential at school, work, home, 8 p.m. Aish HaTorah, 949 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill. $7. 905-764-1818.

TEMPLE LIBRARY LECTURE

Holy Blossom Temple Library lecture by **Prof. Alan Davies**, Department of Religion, University of Toronto based on his book *How Silent Were the Churches?: Canadian Protestantism and the Jewish Plight During the Nazi Era*, 7:30 p.m. Co-sponsored with interfaith committee and Association of Jewish Libraries – Ontario. **Anne** 789-3291, ext. 235.

SINGLES MOVIE NIGHT

Beth Tikvah Progressive Singles, 35-55, screens *The Truman Show* 8 p.m. at the synagogue. Mix and mingle. $10. RSVP 221-3433.

JWI MEETING

Jewish Women International – Markham/Unionville chapter monthly meeting. Chapter is having a Pampered Chef fundraiser. New members welcome. **Shery** 905-305-7026 or **Susan** 905-940-0286.

Thursday, Feb. 11

MAGEN DAVID ADOM

Interview evening for students (18 plus) interested in volunteering as a medic for Magen David Adom this summer in Israel, 8 p.m., Israel Aliyah Centre, 3995 Bathurst St., Suite 300. 633-4766.

Continued on page 23

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What's New

Continued from page 22

PILLAR OF FIRE

Pillar of Fire documentary series continues with *Tribunal of Nations, 1946-1947*, introduction and commentary by **David Goldberg** of The Foundation for Middle East Studies, 7:30 p.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue. 633-3988 or 633-5500.

And What Else Is New

JEWS IN THE LOTUS

Azriel Cohen with **Michael** and **Chashi Skobac** present a slide show and share their experiences running Passover programs in the Dalai Lama's town of Dharamsala. Evening also includes musical performances and an art show benefiting future outreach work in India. Saturday, Feb. 13, 8:30 p.m., Riverdale Jewish Centre, 179A Danforth Ave. $5 suggested donation. 787-9529.

WOMEN FOR WOMEN

Toronto Hadassah-WIZO annual Women for Women breakfast, Sunday, Feb. 21, 9:30 a.m., Richmond Hill Country Club. Theme is A Woman's Health Forum. Speakers **Dr. Carolyn Kirk, Dr. Patricia McEwan, Dr. Sandra Messner** and **Annamaria Vuksinic**. Breakfast $25, patron $100 (includes breakfast). Reserve. 630-8373.

CULT-EVADING

Cultivating Cult-Evading, a three-part series examining the nature of manipulative cults and the psychological techniques they use to recruit and control their members, presented by **Rabbi Michael Skobac**, Feb. 10, 17, 24 at 8 p.m. at Jews for Judaism Centre, 800 Steeles Ave. W. $18 for series. Register. 905-761-0040.

A WOMEN'S SHABBAT

Beth Torah Women's Shabbat Saturday, Feb. 13, honoring dedicated volunteers and featuring a full day program, This House Is A Home: keynote speaker **Dorothy Shoichet**, president, Koffler Centre for the Arts; workshops with businesswoman **Nancy Siller** and **Ruby Newman**, professor of Women's Studies, York University; plus vocal performance by **Paula Baruch-Houpt**. Lunch and afternoon refreshments provided. $18 members, $25 non-members. RSVP by Feb. 9. 782-4495.

FILM AND DISCUSSION

The Sephardi Network of UJA presents the documentary film *The South: Alice Never Lived Here* , and panel discussion with **Marcell Lean, Jacques Bensimon Shlomo Schwartzberg**, followed by dessert reception, Saturday, Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m., City Playhouse Theatre, 1000 New Westminster Dr., Thornhill. $12 in advance, $14 at door. Reserve.635-2883, ext. 107.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Beth Tikvah Congregational School Trivia Night, Saturday, Feb. 13, 8 p.m., door prizes, pizza, falafel, fun. $15. Proceeds to school computer program. Reserve by Feb. 7 (no tickets at door without prior reservations), 221-3433, ext. 312.

BAZAAR NEWS

Maon Noam Congregation of Canada, the Russian synagogue, is holding a bazaar Sunday, Feb. 21, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Bernard Betel Centre, 1003 Steeles Ave. W.

Vendors are welcome, as well as donations of merchandise – anything and everything in good condition. **Irina** 905-660-3054.

SINGLES WEEKEND

Beth Tikvah Progressive Singles Weekend Getaway, March 5-7 at Briar's Country Club (Jackson's Point), double accommodation, five meals, social activities, dinner dance, welcome reception, winter sports, $230 plus tax and gratuities. 221-3433, ext. 352.

COMEDY AUCTION NIGHT

Beit Rayim Synagogue annual Comedy Auction Night, Saturday, Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. Live entertainment, 50/50 draw, unreserved auction. $15. 9711 Bayview Ave., Richmond Hill. For reservations 905-770-7639, ext. 31.

AT BETH JACOB

Upcoming events at Beth Jacob V'Anshe Drildz, 147 Overbrook Pl. 638-5955.

Shabbat Lunch and Learn Saturday, Feb. 13, with **Paul Shaviv** headmaster of CHAT, speaking on Early Origins of the Chassidic Movement, Some New Discoveries. Reserve.

St. John Babysitting Course, Sunday, Feb. 14, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. boys and girls ages 11-14, $35 lunch included. Register.

Family Issues in the Bible, continuing series with **Rabbi Jay Kelman,** Wednesdays, 8 p.m.

SUPPORT GROUP

Circle of Care's Support Group for adult children caring for parents with Alzheimer disease or a related disorder begins Tuesday, Feb. 16, for eight sessions. Register. Circle of Care's Intake Department, 635-2860.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups. Register. **Pat Lieberman** 638-7800, ext.215.

One Family: Two Homes, a three-session group for parents and children experiencing separation or divorce, begins Feb. 17.

Today's Women: Making It Happen begins Feb. 8; How Teenagers Challenge Us begins Feb. 25; Looking Ahead for recently separated and divorced individuals begins Feb. 16; Anger Management Group for Women begins March 25.

SINGLES SCENE

For 25-35 group: Sunday, Feb. 7, 10:30 a.m., monthly meeting, breakfast; Sunday, Feb. 14, ski, Horseshoe Valley, for details **Rhonda** 905-731-9441; Saturday, Feb. 27, 8-10 p.m., Global Bowl In the Dark, Wilson Heights/Wilson, $10, register, 905-731-9441.

For 35-55 group: Monday, Feb. 8, 8 p.m., monthly meeting at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue; Friday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m., Oneg Shabbat, service and dinner $20, reserve 633-3838; Sunday, Feb. 14, ski trip, **Rhonda** 905-731-0441.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 18

FOR SENIORS

Spring adventure to Boston and Cape Cod May 9-14 includes transportation, accommodation, 10 meals, Holocaust Exhibit, cruise, baggage handling, taxes; cost – twin, $749 (Cdn). Co-sponsored by Bathurst Jewish Centre and Bernard Betel Centre. **Teme** 636-1880, ext. 364 or **Barbara** 225-2112 ext. 134.

Beth Tikvah Friendship Group annual Heart to Heart celebration with **David Brant** at the keyboard, Monday, Feb. 15, 8 p.m. $9. RSVP synagogue 221-3433.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club trips to Casino Rama Feb. 10, 24, March 10, 24. Membership $12. 395-7881.

Sharei Shomayim Friendship Club Israel trip, Feb. 28. In the planning: cruises, two musicals – *A Foggy Day* at Shaw Festival July 7 matinee and *West Side Story* at Stratford Oct. 12 matinee. **Lena** 785-5773. Golden Book donations go to Laniado Hospital in Israel. **Dorothy Bloomfield** 787-1526.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

Florence Baum, therapeutic touch practitioner, will be available to give therapeutic touch treatments, Tuesday, Feb. 9, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Joan**.

Hearing Aid checkup with **Barry Katz** Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 12:15 p.m.

Parkinson's Support Group for people with Parkinson's disease and their caregivers meets Tuesday, Feb. 9, 1:15 p.m., when **Janice Stober** of the Centre for Movement Disorders and **Dr. Mark Guttman** speak about Living with Parkinson's – How to Cope with the Emotional Changes. **Ruth**.

Israeli Club Etrog meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays for movies, sing-alongs, lectures, bingo, dances. Feb. 9 is a movie. **Anna**.

Movie *The American President* Sunday, Feb. 7, 2:30 p.m.

WAGMAN CENTRE

Wagman Centre February events, 55 Ameer Ave. 785-2500.

Creating a Balcony Oasis, gardening program with **Felicity Lukace** and **Amin Datoo,** session 1, Introduction to Gardening, Monday, Feb. 8, 2-3 p.m. **Mara** ext. 2275.

Mini Jewish Film Festival Wednesday, Feb. 10, and Tuesday, Feb. 16, 7-8 p.m. Sponsored by Toronto Jewish Film Festival. Register, ext. 2267.

The Men's Service Group of Baycrest Centre Thursday Night Men's Club hosts an Israeli Discussion Feb. 11 and Stories of the Past Feb. 18, 7-8 p.m.

Lunch and Learn, Tuesday, Feb. 23, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. with **Rabbi Moshe Stern** of Shaarei Tefillah Congregation. Members $3, non-members $6. Tickets in advance at service desk. **Mara** ext. 2275.

Wellness Education Group Wen-Do Women's Self-Defence Program demonstration with **Maria Warner**, Wednesday, Feb. 24, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Register. ext. 2267. $2 guests.

Wagman Bereavement Group, a support group for older adults who have recently lost a spouse, meets alternate Friday mornings. **Paula David** ext. 2271.

Aging Parents, Aging Children, a mutual aid group for adult children of Holocaust survivors. **Paula David** ext. 2271.

BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

Books & Bagels welcomes author **Joseph Kertes** reading from his latest novel, *Boardwalk*, a tale of two brothers with wildly different takes on the world who go to Atlantic City for a few days of fun, Sunday, Feb. 7, 11 a.m. Non-members $8.

Seniors Club: Thursday, Feb. 4, 2 p.m., massage therapist **Lorraine Wilson** focuses on Massage for Seniors (postponed from snowstorm); Thursday, Feb. 11, 2 p.m., Issues of Pedestrian Safety for Seniors, an awareness and education session. **Judy**.

BATHURST JC

Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 636-1880.

Free tax preparation assistance for seniors, income guidelines $15,000 no dependents, $22,000 with dependents, Thursdays March 11, 18, 25, 1-4 p.m. by appointment only. In cooperation with Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario. **Teme**. ext. 364.

February luncheon featuring entertainment by **Adam Timoon** Tuesday, Feb. 9, 12:30 p.m. Reserve. **Teme** ext. 364.

Current events: The Rabin Assassination, guest speaker **David Aultshuller,** Tel Aviv University lecturer, Thursday, Feb. 11, 1 p.m., Room 211.

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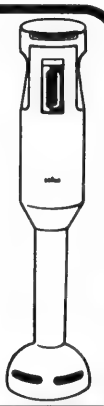

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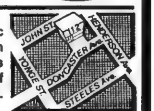

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On Campus

Ontario government helps boost Hebrew U Friends' scholarships

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO —Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (CFHU) is tripling its scholarship money in Ontario, thanks in large part to a provincial government dollar-matching program.

Under the Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund program, the Ontario government contributes a dollar for every dollar contributed privately to scholarship endowments at Ontario universities. The recipients must be Ontario residents registered at an Ontario university.

The program was designed to encourage the private sector to support scholarship endowments, said Mark Gryfe, executive vice-president of CFHU.

Scholarship endowment donors – in this case, CFHU – had until March 1997 to pledge. They must fulfil their commitments by the end of this March.

Because yearly costs for overseas students at the Hebrew University run $18,000 to $20,000 (for tuition, transportation, room and board), the new scholarships will open the door to people who would not otherwise apply, said Gryfe.

'Will help to open doors for students'

With almost $3 million raised and another two months to go, the program has the potential to generate $700,000 of annual scholarship funds, in addition to scholarships currently offered.

CFHU has pledged $2 million each at York University and the University of Toronto, and $2 million to be divided among six other universities: the University of Western Ontario, the University of Guelph, the University of Ottawa, the University of Waterloo, Queen's University and McMaster University.

York and U of T, like the Ontario government, are also matching the CFHU funds. For the scholarships at the other universities, an anonymous donor recently came forward to match funds as well.

Most of the money will be used to send undergraduate students to the Rothberg International School at the 73-year-old Jerusalem campus, where students can choose from a variety of courses including sciences, business, humanities and religious studies. Students can study in English, and credits are applicable to their Canadian degree, Gryfe noted. Graduate students are also eligible for the funds.

The scholarship program should be in full swing for the 2000-2001 academic year, once the money has begun to earn interest.

"This is really an altruistic program," said Gryfe, pointing out that the scholarship money will reside at the individual Ontario universities. "Most organizations raise money that stays in their organizations. There's nothing in it for the Hebrew University, except [CFHU's] ability to send more people... It's an opportunity we're trying to maximize so that there are scholarship funds in place forever."

Gryfe believes the program will have a considerable impact on the Jewish community here. "There's nothing better in terms of an Israel experience than a year in Israel. In most cases, [returning] students give back to their community."

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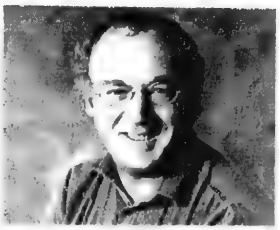

1999

התחילה שנה חדשה. בלי קדושה, מאוד חילונית- האם נרויח יותר או פחות, האם ממשלות יקומו או יפלו. לאירופה יש מטבע חדש אחד, קוויבק לא תעזוב השנה את קנדה, ובישראל ינקרו אחד לשני את העיניים ויתלשו זה לזה שערות במערכת בחירות פתאומית שתסתיים רק ביוני. ובסופו של דבר כולנו נמשיך לחפש את אושרנו הפרטי בכל מיני צורות ונוסות ומוטעות. ובסופו של דבר, לאנשים יש כושר הסתגלות מדהים, כמו שהיטיב לשים במלים המשורר יהודה עמיחי:

"למדתי שאפשר לחיות ולהסתדר
גם בלוע של אריה, אם אין מקום אחר".

שיהיה טוב, ורק בריאות.

תוחלת החיים - לרוץ:

מה לימדה אותנו הרפואה בעשרים - שלושים השנים האחרונות? בין השאר, שאנחנו יכולים לשלוט בבריאותנו ובדרך עקיפה גם בתוחלת החיים שלנו. אם נבחר דרך חיים בריאה: נאכל רק כמה שצריך, נעסוק בספורט, נאכל רק שומנים נכונים, נהיה רגועים ושלווים, נשמר מלחץ דם ועלית כולסטרול בדם, לא נעשן, ועוד כהנה וכהנה עצות. כל אחד מאלה לחוד יכול לעזור, וכולם ביחד - מה טוב. אלא מה- קל להגיד. עובדה שהחל מגיל ארבעים חמישים כמות האנשים עם עודף משקל עולה ועולה, ואת רובם אפשר למצוא במסעדות עתירות קלוריות בסופי שבוע. כמה קשה לשפר את תוחלת החיים למרות חיים בריאים, מוכית מחקר שנעשה בבוסטון: בדקו שם כמה שנים חיו בוגרי אוניברסיטה שרצו חצי שעה כל יום לעומת אלה שלא עשו כלום. ואכן, מצאו שאלה שרצו ריצה ספורטיבית חצי שעה בכל יום חיו יותר. כמה יותר? בדיוק הזמן שהם הקדישו לריצה. זאת אומרת- אתה חי יותר, אבל רק בתנאי שאתה מוכן לרוץ את ההבדל. בנטו- זה אותו אורך חיים. דיל די משונה.

"שייקספיר מאוהב":

אם אתם רוצים לענג את עצמכם בתהליך העשיה של "רומיאו ויוליה" על ידי שייקספיר לפני ארבע מאות שנה, שמערב את הרומן הבלתי אפשרי שעל הבמה ברומן בלתי אפשרי בין שייקספיר ונערה עשירה ומיוחסת- זהו סרט בשבילכם. סרט אנגלי (אלא מה) שלא עושה שום ויתורים. אם לא פגשתם את רומיאו ויוליה מאז התיכון, וגם אם כן- קחו מישהוא שאתם אוהבים ולכו. תשע בסולם קורן.

"Happiness":

סרט אמריקני שזוכה להיות מדורג כסרט הטוב ביותר של 1998 בידי רוב מבקרי הסרטים. סיפורן של שלוש אחיות, ושל הגברים השונים בחייהן. אבל שלא תטעו: זה לא סרט משפחתי רגוע ומענג, והשם "יאושר" הוא שם סרקסטי, לא אמיתי. הוא עוסק בנושאים קשים ביותר בצורה מדהימה. זהו לדעתי הסרט הראשון (החוקי-לא פורנוגרפי) שעוסק בפדופיליה ומתאר פסיכיאטר שמקיים יחסי מין עם ילדים קטנים (לא , לא לדאוג, לא מראים). האיש יודע שהוא חולה ויודע שהוא הורס את משפחתו- אך לא יכול לעשות דבר. צריך קיבה חזקה, אבל הסרט מעורר מחשבות עמוקות על החיים.

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SHMOOZIN

"Tu B'Shevat is coming – maybe that nice lady will add some dried fruits and seeds to the menu!"

Coast to Coast

Jewish characters in film becoming more mainstream

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — For many years, despite the significant role Jews played in creating and running Hollywood, except for a few propaganda films made during World War II and two or three films about anti-Semitism after the war, it was unusual to see a distinctively Jewish character appear in a mainstream American film.

This situation has reversed itself recently. Most of the original Jewish shakers and movers in Hollywood have disappeared, and it might be that the Jews who make films today feel more comfortable with their Jewishness.

Today Jewish characters appear in all sorts of films, sometimes for no particular purpose at all. Other times the characters' Jewishness is an integral part of the storyline.

This month, several of these "Jewish" films have been released on video.

The best of these is *Mendel*, a Norwegian film that premiered in Toronto last May at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival.

Mendel tells about a Jewish refugee family making a new home in Norway after World War II. The story is told through the eyes of the family's younger son, Mendel.

In some ways this film reminds us of the pressures faced by many Jewish refugees in adapting to a new land under trying conditions. In this case, the Norwegian hosts are innocently insensitive to the needs and desires of the newcomers, pushing their Protestant beliefs in the faces of the Jewish immigrants.

Mendel is an excellent coming of age drama that explores some of the problems of growing up as a stranger in a strange land, and although it is a serious film, it has many light moments.

If you have a problem finding this video in the store, you may call CHV Communications directly at 416-633-9079 to order a copy or to obtain further information.

Also recently released was *Pi*, a surreal black and white film about Max, a young Jewish mathematics and computer genius. Max's life revolves around his apartment and the super computer he has built in an attempt to find the pattern beneath all the numbers spewed out by the stock market. He wants to find some kind of order in an apparently unordered world.

Max's reputation precedes him, and he is approached by a large Wall Street firm that wants to recruit him. At the same time, a chassidic group tries to entice him to work for them to delve into the mysteries of the Kabbalah. In fact, Max is probably not suited for any job, as he has a problem living in the real world.

The Slums of Beverly Hills is a little more mainstream. It is another coming of age story, but this time about a Jewish girl who must deal with a dysfunctional family. Her father, played by Alan Arkin, tries to keep the family together although his wife has left. He keeps moving the family from one run-down apartment to another because he cannot earn enough to pay the rent. But he also insists that the family live in Beverly Hills so that his kids can take advantage of that town's excellent public school system.

מזל טוב Mazel Tov

We cannot guarantee the date a picture will appear. Please limit all greetings to 25 typewritten words. We reserve the right to edit all items and condense any that are longer than that.

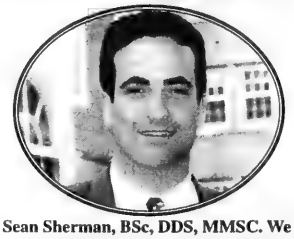
Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to *The CJN*, Mazel Tov, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, Ont., M3B 3K4.

Samantha Seaton, born June 25; parents are Caprice & Barry, grandparents Marty & Sheila Seaton, great-grandmothers Lil Goldberg, Judith Johansen.

Lea & Jacob Weiss proudly announce the engagement of their daughter Judy to Shane, son of Marsha & Richard Rayman.

Mazel tov to Rachel & Tibor Lax on their 50th wedding anniversary. All our love and best wishes from your children and grandchildren.

Shane Schlesinger celebrated his bar mitzvah on Sept. 12. Mazel tov from parents Al & Sharon, sister Mandi and grandparents Marcia & Harvey Kalnitsky.



Sean Sherman, BSc, DDS, MMSC. We are proud of your accomplishments. Best wishes for your continued success from your No. 1 fans, Ronny and Audrey.

Manon Meijer celebrated a special birthday on Nov. 9. Michel, Danielle and Nathalie wish her mazel tov.

Mazel tov to Ida & Ben Shore on your 50th wedding anniversary. Love Ellen & Myles, Cindy & Jacques, Michael & Janet, and your six grandchildren.

Mazel tov to Anne Adler on your birthday. Love from Rosalind, Calvin, Cindy, Michael, Mark, Lora and Steven. We all love you.

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jewish toronto

from the ***editor's desk...***

Welcome to the first issue of UJA Federation's *jewish toronto* - a dynamic new supplement highlighting the individuals and issues that bring our community to life and connect us to each other. Every month our readers can look forward to fresh perspectives, informative articles, event listings, personal profiles, and in depth features that provide real and meaningful insight into Toronto's vibrant and diverse community. We invite you to browse through these four inaugural pages, get to know your community and read with pride.

Adi Mesterger

Just-A-Second Puts Need First!

While fashion fads come and go, helping those in need is always in style at The Just-A-Second Shop. Simply ask the shoppers who visit the store more than 17,000 times each year.

The store, operated by Jewish Family and Child Service, a UJA Federation beneficiary agency, supplies gently used clothing, houseware items and children's toys free of charge or at drastically reduced prices to the needy. Although a large proportion of the shop's clientele are community members receiving financial assistance or newly-arrived immigrants referred through Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, store manager Klara Ifrah says more of the city's working poor are becoming regular customers.

"Nobody comes to our store by choice," explains Ifrah, herself an immigrant who once relied on community services. "They come because they can't afford to go anywhere else, but they still want and deserve to wear decent clothes."

"I feel privileged to have the opportunity to get what I need for my daughter and myself at no cost," says 27 year old Maya Brewer (not her real name). Brewer struggles to make ends meet every month and admits "it's comforting to know someone is looking out for me."

But while treating clients with dignity is second nature to the volunteers and staff at Just-A-Second, maintaining an adequate selection of high quality inventory doesn't come as easily. A 25% drop in donations over last year, a growing trend towards selling on consignment and a steady proliferation of clothing drop-off boxes, with one situated directly across the street from the store, provide tough competition. Ifrah reports a shortage of everything from women's wear and bed sheets to pots and pans and other household appliances.

Yet Just-A-Second does possess a competitive edge. Unlike other charitable organizations, many which sell clothing for cash to third parties, Just-A-Second makes sure that most of the donations received are distributed to the local needy.

"Not everyone can make that claim," says Florence Weinberger, Communications Manager at JF&CS, who is proud of the shop's record of serving more than 40,000 people since opening in 1982. Profits made after covering operating expenses are used to send children served by JF&CS - many coping with abuse, poverty and other difficulties - to summer camp. The shop has also become a hub of community services, drawing hundreds of volunteers from agencies such as the United Way, schools, and private businesses.

"This is a real community establishment," notes Barbara Barak, Coordinator of JF&CS Volunteer Services. "In fact many of our clients have shown their gratitude and appreciation by coming back to work in the store as volunteers."

Donations in good condition, which are always welcome, can be brought to 4117 Bathurst Street, Monday - Thursday 11:00 am - 6:00 pm and Sunday 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. For more information, call (416) 633-9898.

(l-r) Irina Sotenskaia, Klara Ifrah, Sima Kustikov and Rebecca Hirsh believe in making their customers feel comfortable at The Just-A-Second Shop.

UJA Federation Rescues Vital JF&CS Programs

Jewish Family and Child Service will not be forced to reduce essential services thanks to an emergency funding package recently approved by UJA Federation's Board of Directors.

A specially appointed UJA Federation task force responded to an urgent request from JF&CS for help late last year by recommending $425,000 in new money to the UJA Federation Board. The relief came just as the agency was scrambling to replace revenues lost as a result of severe government cutbacks to several funding programs.

Some of the critical programs that faced elimination included counseling for people on financial assistance, and for women and children who are victims of abuse. The agency's highly successful Child Witnessing Violence Project, founded four years ago with a private grant, and geared to children from homes where domestic violence occurs, was one of the programs social workers feared would disappear as a result of the cash crunch.

"These programs are vital to helping children and their families cope with this traumatic experience," says Program Coordinator Susan Brotman. "As it is, there are kids we aren't able to reach."

"UJA Federation helped us avert a major crisis," explains JF&CS Executive Director Gordon Wolfe, who brought the case for additional funding to UJA Federation last fall. "We were facing very serious waiting lists which would have meant people who need help the most weren't going to receive it."

Each year JF&CS provides more than 1,500 individuals with counseling, financial assistance and rehabilitation services.

The recent injection of funds will also benefit Chaplaincy Service visits to hundreds of Jews in nursing homes, hospitals, jails and other institutions; camp subsidies for disadvantaged children; and, social worker support for day school students having trouble with their studies.

Along with the financial help came a commitment from UJA Federation to work closely with JF&CS to develop long-term fundraising strategies. "The vital importance of JF&CS to our community's well-being necessitates a strong relationship," notes UJA Federation President Joseph Steiner.

"Working together to help the most vulnerable among us is the strongest expression of what our community is all about," adds JF&CS President Richard Cumming.

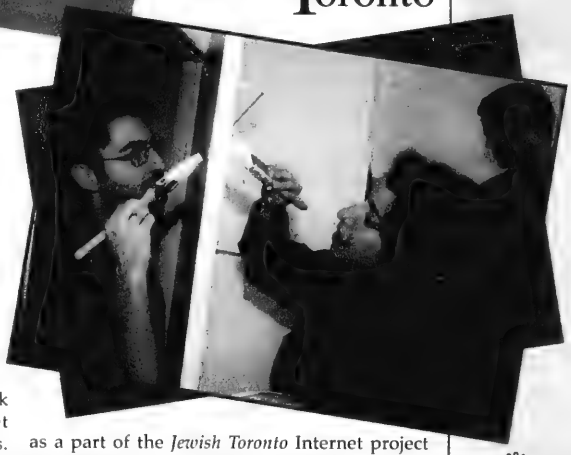
jewish toronto, a supplement of the Canadian Jewish News, is sponsored and produced by UJA Federation. Jewish Toronto Website: www.feduja.org

jewish toronto

Hands On Toronto

Hats Off To... Hands On Toronto

"We always have new people searching for a way to make a difference."



Anyone who says young adults lack commitment to a cause hasn't met Hands On Toronto (HOT) volunteers. They're a group of young Jewish professionals who've been known to spend their Sundays cheering up seniors at nursing homes and painting run down apartments for single mothers and their children.

Since 1997, HOT, one of UJA Federation's Young Leadership Programs, has become an appealing alternative to more traditional types of communal involvement. It's a "tell-us-what-you-need-and-we'll-get-down-to-business" type of philanthropy that offers busy, charity-minded 30-something individuals a chance to do some good and connect with their Jewish roots.

"UJA Federation realized there was a growing desire among young Jewish adults, in their 20s and 30s, to take a proactive, hands on approach to community work," explains Lori Winch, who co-chairs the hugely popular HOT program with Cory Gurevitz. "Most of our volunteers are professionals determined to make every minute count when it comes to charity."

Working closely with UJA Federation and several beneficiary agencies, HOT volunteers meet regularly to identify needs within the community and plan activities and events that either enhance or supplement existing initiatives.

Last year, HOT volunteers, some of whom have also graduated from UJA Federation's Leadership Development Program, participated in 14 different projects with seniors, poor and abused children, hospital patients and community members seeking employment or help with starting a new business. Volunteers also helped to set up a web site for Jewish adults as a part of the *Jewish Toronto* Internet project and decorated a sukkah outside Mount Sinai Hospital.

Three new additions to the 1999 HOT mitzvah menu include projects with the BJC's Children's Discovery Museum, Kehilla non-profit residential buildings and the downtown Jewish community.

"A lot of people my age are looking for something deeper and more meaningful to get involved with," explains 28-year-old Gurevitz. "We've grown from a dozen volunteers to close to 100, mostly through word of mouth", he adds.

"I feel like I'm contributing something important," says Elyza Litwin, who oversees HOT's activities with the JF&CS Big Brothers and Big Sisters program. Litwin, who became involved with UJA Federation through its Young Professionals Network, says she's not surprised at the amount of interest in HOT. "We always have new people searching for a way to make a difference."

You can meet HOT members at the *Mitzvah 2000* volunteer recognition evening, February 7, 7:00 pm, 4600 Bathurst St. If you and some friends or colleagues have a HOT. project idea, call Elana Carr at (416) 631-5736.

Hands On Toronto Projects

- Nursing Home Programs
- JF&CS Bigs and Littles
- Start Renewal Programs
- Young Adults Web Site
- JVS Entrepreneurs Assistance
- Social Programming for Communal Agencies
- My Jewish Discovery Museum
- Downtown Jewish Community
- Kehilla Residential Project

For more information call Elana Carr at (416) 631-5736

jewish toronto

Study Defines Downtown Jews

Downtown Jewish Day School students (l-r) Tal Schwartz, Madeleine Golubev, Danielle Ilyaev, Max Lazar-Kurz, Mia Faircloth, Rachel Woroner, Nataly Ilyaev.

There are as many Jews living in downtown Toronto today as there are living in the entire city of Winnipeg, according to a UJA Federation population study. The report is the first comprehensive collection of demographic and statistical information about Jews living in the city centre.

"It's an extremely valuable resource," says Karen Chisvin, Chair of the 22 member Downtown Jewish Community Council, which is using the study to identify the needs of the close to 16,500 Jews now residing south of St. Clair.

Jay Brodbar, UJA Federation's Director of Research, says "there's no doubt the downtown Jewish population, which comprises 10% of the larger Jewish community, differs significantly from those further north."

For instance, Jews living in the downtown core are five times more likely to consider themselves ethnically rather than religiously Jewish. In addition, nearly half of the Jewish residents in some key downtown districts identified in the study are single.

"This tells us a great deal about the services and programs we should be delivering," says Joan Shoenfeld, principal of the Downtown Community Day School, which opened last September. The school, which expects to more than double enrollment for next year, is just one of dozens of grassroots services responding to a growing trend toward communal identification among downtown Jews.

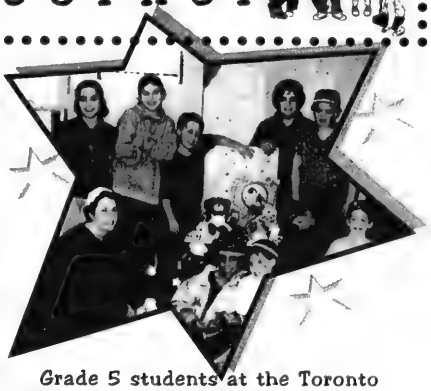
"Jews, hidden in small pockets like Riverdale and the Danforth, are discovering each other and developing means of connecting," explains Chisvin. In recent years, membership has risen at many Jewish organizations such as the Danforth Jewish Circle, various synagogues and education facilities.

The Bloor Jewish Community Centre, which houses many of the Community Council's programs, synagogue services, as well as the new day school, boasts 3,000 members. Working together with community leaders and UJA Federation, the Bloor JCC, which serves 10,000 Jews and non-Jews annually, is planning to expand and renovate to accommodate its growth.

"The Bloor Jewish Community Centre remains the pre-eminent Jewish presence in the area and is vital to the future of the downtown Jewish community," notes David Green, Chair of the Bloor JCC's fundraising drive.

The Bloor JCC is at the centre of a long range plan, led by UJA Federation, to build a downtown Jewish community campus in conjunction with similar campaigns at the Bathurst Jewish Centre and York Region.

kids corner



Grade 5 students at the Toronto Heschel School (above) and a USDS Richmond Hill grade 1 class (below), are the winners of Junior UJA's Tzedakah All Star Chanukah toy drive. Since the year-round program began in 1995, hundreds of charitable youngsters have collected thousands of toys and games that are distributed by Jewish Family and Child Service to needy children.

jewishjourneys

Abbie Solish is bursting with Jewish pride and loves to tell everyone why. In fact, the 17-year-old CHAT student hasn't missed an opportunity to do so since she returned from the UJA Federation funded March of the Living mission to Poland and Israel last spring.

"It was one of the most meaningful experiences I've ever had," says Solish, who has spoken about her visits to concentration camp sites and the 3 kilometre march from Auschwitz to Birkenau, to hundreds of students, friends, family members and even her own summer camp. "I feel strongly about sharing what I learned with as many people as possible."

But her participation in the March, along with 400 other Canadian teenagers, wasn't just a lesson in Jewish history. It was about her family.

"I used to ask my grandmother about the numbers faintly tattooed on her arm," explains Solish. "But I never received many answers."

In preparation for her journey, Solish decided to learn all she could about her maternal grandparents' experiences during the Holocaust, including the names of the towns where they lived and the camps where they were held. She also spoke at length with her parents and watched hours of videotape her mother had recorded.

"I wanted to know what they went through," insists Solish, who, as a tribute to her grandfather, read a speech she wrote about him at the camp where he died. "I'm not much of a public speaker," she admits, "but somehow I felt strong enough to do it that day."

Almost a year later, Solish, who often finds herself leafing through her journal pages and photographs, says her mission memories remain strong. "The trip gave me the opportunity to put all the bits and pieces together and to finally understand what my grandparents went through. It gave me some closure, a perspective on life, and more reasons to be proud of my Jewish heritage."

Abbie Solish lights a Yortzeit candle in memory of her grandparents below a monument at the Plaszow labour camp site near the city of Cracow in Poland.

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jewish toronto

Jewish Day School Enrollment Rising

"the dividends accrued as a result of the day school system, far outweigh the sacrifices"

Parents are still strongly committed to sending their kids to Jewish day schools despite higher costs and no government subsidies.

A recent population survey conducted by the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education reports a 10% increase in day school enrollment over the past five years. The largest gain recorded during this time period occurred in Jewish high schools.

Approximately 11,000 students attend Toronto area Jewish day schools which charge fees from $7,000 - $11,000 a year. "In spite of financial sacrifices, the dividends accrued as a result of the day school system, far outweigh the sacrifices," adds Steven Teplitsky, father of four day school students.

"The increased trend towards day school education, in spite of the high expense, shows that more Jewish families recognize that the best formal education their children can receive to ensure their Jewish commitment, is day school education," says UJA Federation Vice Chair for Jewish Education, Shirley Worth.

"I am planning to send my daughter to day-school next year because I feel it's the best way for her to learn and reinforce the Jewish values we instill in her at home," adds Leslie Lerer.

Attendance at Jewish supplementary schools (after-school or weekend programs), has been steady with a slight increase of 5% over five years. Over 6,000 Jewish children receive supplementary school education.

"Significant numbers of Jewish families do not send their children to day schools, either because of the cost, or for a variety of other reasons. Many parents prefer the supplementary school option because the schools are relatively small and decentralized, reflecting the rich diversity of the community. With a synagogue or community organization affiliation, students have a direct connection to their community," adds supplementary school principal, Joan Schoenfeld.

Religious bill passes, UJA Federation reacts

Last week, the Knesset approved, by one vote, legislation to bypass a court ruling compelling religious councils to include Conservative and Reform representatives. This week, UJA Federation registered its concern.

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto deeply regrets the Knesset's passage of new legislation regarding religious councils.

By requiring religious council members to, in effect, pledge their allegiance to the decisions of the Chief Rabbinate, the legislation will, unfortunately, deepen divisions between Israel and the Diaspora and harm worldwide Jewish unity.

...the Knesset measure... can only fuel passions...

The Knesset measure, adopted during the emotionally charged atmosphere of an election campaign, can only fuel passions, rather than contribute to rational and reasonable debate on such an urgent Jewish issue.

UJA Federation, representing a community consistently recognized for its solidarity with Israel, hopes that the next Knesset will reconsider this legislation and discuss alternatives, with a view to meeting the needs of Jews from all streams of Judaism.

UJA Federation President Joseph Steiner.

Around jewish toronto

new faces

Ted Sokolsky, Vice-President for Fundraising announces the appointment of **Lisa Morrison**, UJA Federation Annual Campaign Director. **UJA Federation** welcomes Senior Fund Developers for Legacy **Carol Kassel** and **Gloria Snow**.

Lisa Morrison

living healthy

Mount Sinai Hospital, Jewish Women's Federation and the **Bathurst Jewish Centre** present the third annual **Healthy Living Lecture Series**. Wednesday, **Feb. 10, *"Stress Less"***-speakers include **Dr. Ari Zaretsky**, Head of Cognitive Behavior Therapy Clinic, MSH, **Denise Lai**, Physiotherapist, Department of Rehabilitation, MSH and **Fran Berkhoff**, Ambulatory Care and Nutritionist, MSH. For more information call **(416) 586-8338.**

purim party

Junior UJA and the **Bathurst Jewish Centre** invite the whole family to a **Purim Extravaganza**, Sunday, **February 28, 11:00 am - 1:30 pm, 4588 Bathurst Street**. The free festivities, sponsored by **TD Bank**, include games, crafts, music, costume prizes and live entertainment. For more information **call (416) 636-1880 ext. 229.**

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Coast to Coast

Distance, illness fails to separate friends

By MAXINE FISCHBEIN
Jewish Free Press

CALGARY — To Avital (Tali) Twersky, a 10-year-old far away in Bensalem, Penn., Calgary's Reena Saks is a friend indeed.

Tali was diagnosed with ocular melanoma in March 1997 – just three months before her best friend Reena, daughter of Rabbi Moshe and Meira Saks, moved to Calgary. But the young cancer patient's spirits were buoyed when her beloved Reena went back for a visit at the end of December under the auspices of the Fulfill a Wish Foundation.

On Dec. 15, Reena's mother, Meira Saks, got some bad news from Tali's mother, Arlette Twersky: Tali, who had already lost an eye to this rare form of cancer and had been told in May that it had metastasized to her liver and likely to her pancreas, had had a seizure. They feared that the disease had spread to her brain – a fear that later turned out to be unfounded.

Arlette Twersky had but one request, recalls Meira Saks. "Please send Reena. She is the best medicine Tali could have."

'She is the best medicine Tali could have'

Only one month before, Reena had been back in Pennsylvania for a family simchah, but only had a day and a half with her friend, because the Twerskys were in Nashville, Tenn., for most of the time. There, Tali underwent a treatment during which doctors removed and filtered her blood.

Unfortunately, the treatment did not achieve the desired results.

The two mothers – themselves close friends since the births of their daughters – had talked about another visit, and Twersky had made contact with airline representatives recommended to her by Chai Lifeline – an organization headquartered in New York that provides support to families with children who have cancer. Chai Lifeline has helped other Jewish families in Western Canada.

When Meira Saks called Chai Lifeline to secure an airline ticket for Reena in the midst of heavy holiday traffic, the organization raised the possibility of funding Reena's trip through the Fulfill a Wish Foundation – a Florida-based, non-profit organization that tries to make special dreams come true for children with life-threatening conditions. In the end, the Fulfill a Wish Foundation did help Reena Saks make Tali's wish come true.

Off Reena went, from Dec. 20 to 31, travelling on her own as an unaccompanied minor. Her one complaint about the journey: airline personnel who kept asking her, over and over again, "Are you okay?"

She was. And so, it seemed to her, was Tali. When Reena was ushered into her bedroom at 2 a.m., Arlette Twersky needed only to say, "Look who's here," says Reena, and her tired but excited friend fell into her arms for "a five minute hug."

During their time together, the girls went horseback riding – both share a special fondness for horses – as well as sledding and roller-skating. They made up a special handshake which includes a hug as well as a number of gesticulations far too confusing for the average adult. They took in a movie, and ate at a place called Fresh Fields, an organic market. Tali eats only organic food as part of a holistic approach to keeping her body strong so that it will respond to treatment. Her father, Mel Twersky, himself a physician, now shares that diet with his daughter.

Reena Saks and Tali Twersky

Reena also made some other rounds with her sidekick. They visited Tali's doctor, Dr. Kauffman, and Reena laughs about Tali greeting the physician with "Hi, Dr. (she coughed) man!"

Reena also joined the Twerskys when they went to see a very Orthodox, kabbalistic rabbi in New York.

"We had to wear long skirts and cover our necks," recalls Reena, who says the rabbi had letters from others who were cured of diseases after he gave them a special brachah.

The rabbi, adds Meira Saks, reviewed Mel and Arlette Twersky's ketubah (Jewish wedding contract) and discovered a spelling error. He then issued a new document and married the Twerskys once more. But the primary purpose of the visit was to provide Tali – a deeply spiritual child – with a blessing that would bring her yet more courage and strength to fight her cancer.

Reena says Tali seems pretty strong indeed. On Shabbat she loves to go to shul with her father – a walk of about a mile and a half, during which Tali "runs circles around everyone else," according to Reena. On one Shabbat, Tali made it to synagogue and back twice when Reena was too exhausted from her trip to go at all.

"She davens a lot," says Reena of the friend who has remained spir-

Continued on page 31

Walter Tarnopolsky* Memorial Essay Contest

"How Do We Achieve Jewish Unity?"

Recent events have illustrated the urgent need for respect and understanding among different religious streams of Judaism. What can be done to turn the ideal of "love for fellow Jews" (ahavat Yisrael) into reality?

The contest is open to students in two divisions - grades 6-8 (prize $250) and high school (prize $500).

Deadline for submissions is **April 15, 1999.**

For information on contest guidelines and prizes, call (416) 633-7770 ext. 227 **OR** fax (416) 633-7535 **OR** write to:

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Coast to Coast

Friend's visit helped look after 'the needs of the soul'

Continued from page 30

itual throughout her ordeal.

Reena herself has played a tremendous role in keeping Tali's spirits up, says Meira Saks, who received phone calls from both Tali's mother and grandmother following Reena's return to Calgary.

"Thank you, thank you," they said. "It meant so much to Tali and so much to us that you were willing to send her."

Bikur cholim (visiting the sick) is a mitzvah, says Meira Saks, and more than that, it is an important tool in the healing process. "It is not only necessary to look after the needs of the body, but also the needs of the soul. Building Tali's spirit up is part of her healing. For Reena to go on this journey was a way of helping Tali to heal."

While this would seem a lot for a 10-year-old to ask of herself, Reena Saks is no stranger to adversity. When she was only 3½ years old, on Sept. 19, 1992, her younger sister, Leah Miriam, was born with a terminal illness. For 5½ months, Reena took the greatest of pleasure in holding her sister's hand and loving her, yet knowing that she was going to lose her. Leah was born with Holoprosen-cephaly, a condition caused by a chromosomal anomaly. Just after this diagnosis, the Saks family also lost Reena's maternal grandfather. Then, on Feb. 25, 1993, they lost Leah to what Meira Saks calls "a medical situation with no answers but a definite and clear end."

During that tragic period, says Meira, and as young as the children were, "Tali saw Reena through."

Right now, says Meira, Tali's prognosis is a very guarded one.

"There is no current, documented, effective treatment that would put this in complete remission. Standard therapies do not cure this type of cancer, and they have nothing to go on that has yet been proven effective now that the disease has metastasized. They have great hopes that thalidomide treatments will prevent the tumors from spreading until an effective treatment is found."

While thalidomide – only recently approved in the United States – cannot cure the disease, it can arrest its spread by cutting off the blood supply to the tumors.

"The family's been told that, should the cancer metastasize further, it could threaten Tali's life," says Meira, "but it is also possible that the thalidomide, while not a cure, could freeze the disease, enabling her to take advantage of new therapies down the line as they become available."

In the meantime, Reena Saks' spirits are up following a wonderful visit with her friend. "She's doing really, really, really, really well," says Reena. "Every day she has more willpower."

Reena holds two beaded guardian angels sent to her mother by an e-mail friend, one for Tali and one for Reena, two friends who do not know what the future holds, but are certainly counting on sharing it.

In the meantime, despite illness and geographic distance, they hold each other close.

Friends indeed.

School qualifies for funds

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG – For the first time since the creation of the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education (BJE) in the early 1980s, the Winnipeg Jewish Community Council (WJCC) has approved in principle, funding for a Jewish school program which is independent of the BJE.

The recipient is the religious school run by Temple Shalom, Winnipeg's only Reform congregation.

This year 73 students, attending pre-school to post-bar/bat mitzvah programs, are enrolled in the school. Temple Shalom president Joann Greisman reports that student enrolment has ranged between 70 and 80 students over the past few years.

"We felt that Temple Shalom's school was providing a need that was not being serviced by the BJE or other Jewish education programs," says WJCC president Larry Hurtig.

"We felt that the school deserved to be part of our funding process."

The next step is for Temple Shalom to meet with the WJCC's budget and allocations committee to apply for specific funding.

"We are very pleased with the WJCC's decision," Greisman says. "We think that our school is making a contribution to the Jewish community at large. This doesn't mean that we are going to receive any funding though.

That is up to the budget and allocations committee."

Peace positions said close

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — In terms of their position on the peace process, the difference between the major parties in Israel is not very great, says the coordinator of special academic programs at Tel Aviv University.

Although the political situation is prone to fragmentation, said David Altshuller, there is not much difference of opinion on major issues, such as Jerusalem.

He spoke recently at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, as part of his Canadian lecture tour.

A Kingston native, Altshuller moved to Israel five years ago and is completing graduate studies at Tel Aviv University, where he also lectures in the Overseas Program of the Lowi School on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Altshuller also spoke of his meetings with Palestinians, and said that a lot of progress has been made in the past few years.

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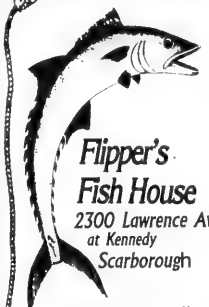

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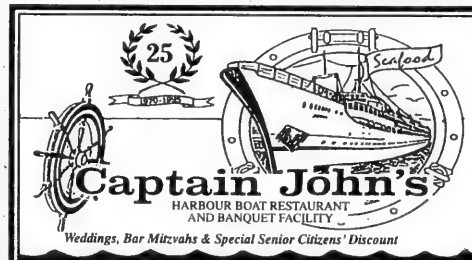

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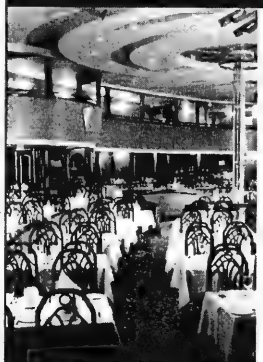

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Coast to Coast

JIAS plans mentoring conference for immigrants

By JUDY SHAPIRO
Jewish Free Press

CALGARY — Michael Briks, national executive director of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Society (JIAS), could not be more enthusiastic about his latest project.

He is in the process of planning a conference, to be held in Winnipeg in May, that will bring together former and recent immigrants to Canada.

The conference, Friend Helping Friend, Helping Friend, will be an opportunity for former immigrants to share their know-how with recently arrived Jewish immigrants and refugees, who in turn will one day be able to mentor others.

"This is a dream come true," said Briks. "Immigrants doing for immigrants, who will do for other immigrants."

Briks said that participants will pay nothing to attend the conference. "The funding is being sourced entirely outside the Jewish community."

Jewish immigrants who have become highly successful since their arrival in Canada, will be invited to serve as mentors, facilitators, teachers, and potential employers for a select group of promising new Canadians. Facilitators need not have been JIAS clients in the past, but they must have an immigrant story.

"We are looking for high-profile people who have succeeded and have demonstrated excellence in their field, whether it be in the arts, professions or as entrepreneurs," Briks said.

The second group of conference participants, recent immigrants who landed in the country within the past two years, will be those identified by their communities as having demonstrated leadership promise and a commitment to becoming integral and contributing members of the Jewish community.

As a result of this conference, JIAS hopes to create a National Jewish Immigrant Employment Network.

"Our ultimate goal is to enable newcomers to give back to the communities that have so graciously received and assisted them," Briks said.

The Winnipeg conference is the latest in a long list of projects developed by JIAS in its 75-year history, to help in the immigration process and to help ease the transition into Canadian society.

For thousands of Jewish immigrants to Canada, JIAS has been one of the first points of contact with the Jewish community. Last year, 5,000 Jewish immigrants took advantage of vocational counselling, English language courses and advice on the immigration process.

While in Calgary in early December, Briks discussed resettlement issues, in an informal gathering of 25 recent immigrants from the former Soviet Union, along with Bonnie Osoff-Bultz, a Calgarian who sits on the JIAS national board, and Anna Steinberg, resettlement counsellor at Jewish Family Service in Calgary.

Topping the list of concerns, were questions about helping relatives apply for immigrant status, and job-related issues such as the difficulty of acquiring professional accreditation here.

Briks said that JIAS can aid in immigration applications, by writing to Canadian embassies abroad to explain that Jewish people who come to Canada will have the support of a caring community.

"JIAS can assure the Canadian government that Jewish people will not be wondering around aimlessly. And this can make a difference to the immigration process," Briks said.

He also said that JIAS is part of a coalition of groups that lobbies professional associations to accept the credentials of professionals trained abroad.

JIAS is also a sponsorship agreement holder for Jewish refugees, meaning that the organization can sponsor Jewish refugees directly, as was the case with many families from the former Yugoslavia who came to Canada five years ago.

The majority of Jewish immigrants to Canada in recent years have come from the former Soviet Union, but there is also a significant influx from South America, particularly from Brazil and Argentina, Briks said.

As to the Canadian government's regulations on immigration, Briks said that some changes are being considered that will be very positive. In the works, is a new procedure that will make life much easier for women in danger.

"There has always been consideration for women in difficult situations abroad, and for minority women or single parents. But now there is strong consideration for a program whereby women in imminent danger would be brought to Canada within 72 hours and processed in-land, rather than in their country of origin," Briks said. "This pilot project would be a major breakthrough in terms of humanitarian aid to women in dangerous situations."

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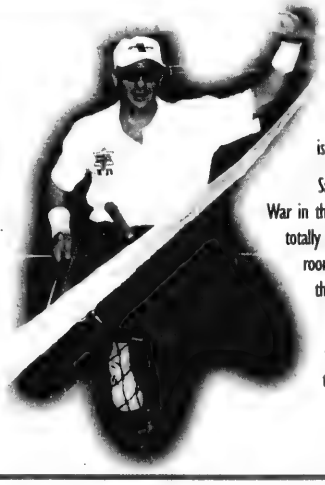

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Eyal Sartov is Israel's number one tennis champion. His toughest shot is his forehand topspin from the baseline. 'Opponents fear it the most' he says. And there is his psychological strength, which he believes is 'a tennis player's most precious asset.

Sartov is a double amputee below his knees. In 1978, he stepped on a mine left over from the Six Day War in the Golan Heights. Being a tennis pro means hard work, an exceptionally high level of discipline and being totally focused. Sartov trains twice a day at the Beit Halochem Centre in Tel Aviv. He works out in the weight room almost 10 hours a week. He's on the court, in his special tennis wheelchair, with his coach, fine-tuning this cross court shots, perfecting his backhand, and enhancing that feared forehand topspin.

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Health

Study of Ashkenazi Jews may shed light on autism

By JOAN GROSS
Jewish Bulletin of Northern California

STANFORD, Calif. — Stanford University researchers are hoping that Ashkenazi families can help them unlock some genetic secrets about autism.

The intensive study for which they are seeking participants is designed to help researchers locate genes that may cause autism, a disorder involving abnormal introversion and egocentricity.

This study targets autistic children in Ashkenazi families.

"Several studies have shown that Ashkenazi Jews have a unique genetic makeup," said Neil Risch, a genetic methodologist at Stanford. "This group is more homogeneous than many others. We hope to identify specific genes that predispose children to develop autism.

"By identifying those genes we can try to understand the general neurodevelopmental processes that lead to the development of autism."

He cautioned, however, that "there is no knowledge that autism is more common in Jews, and no studies on ethnic groups with autism have been done before."

Researchers are not looking for simple answers, Risch explained. "We don't think of autism as one dominant gene disorder. Autism is genetically more complicated. We are likely dealing with multiple genes. We have a strong suspicion that genetic factors play a part in autism."

Researchers not seeking simple answers

In order to qualify for the study, families must meet the following criteria:

- The child must be under 18, with a diagnosis of autistic disorder.
- Both parents and all four grandparents must be of Ashkenazi Jewish heritage (from central or eastern Europe).
- Both biological parents and the affected child must be willing and available to have a blood sample drawn.

The study, which has just begun, is multifaceted. In the clinical segment, families will be interviewed and receive individual diagnoses. In the lab, blood samples will be studied for molecular genetics. And in the statistical segment, all the data will be compiled and analyzed.

The Stanford Autism Research Program is an ongoing joint effort by researchers at the Stanford School of Medicine's department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and department of genetics.

The research team in this study includes Risch, who specializes in statistical genetic design; Richard Myers, the program's co-principal investigator, who is responsible for the molecular genetics aspect; Dr. Helena Kraemer, biostatistician, who evaluates procedures; Donna Spiker, clinical director; and Dr. Linda Lotspeich, a child psychiatrist.

Spiker and Lotspeich are responsible for the clinical aspect of the project, which involves identifying and diagnosing the families.

"We have found that families of Ashkenazi descent are interested in this study for their own education and information," Spiker said. "They want to understand it from a rational and scientific viewpoint. Parents want to promote better understanding of this disorder so treatment can be successful."

During a diagnostic interview, researchers will ask parents very specific questions about the characteristics of the child with autism.

"We'll talk about specific socialization deficits, communication impairments and their routines in terms of their behavior and play," Lotspeich said.

The researchers will also visit and assess the children through interviews and observation.

"The willingness of the families involved to do all that is needed in a study like ours is truly gratifying," Spiker said. "It's important that families realize that research is a process, and they are partners with us."

Participation is not restricted to local families. "There is no cost to families and no travel is required," Spiker added. "The more families that participate, the better are the chances of localizing the genes for autism."

For information, contact Spiker: telephone 650-723-7809, or e-mail ms.dks@forsythe.stanford.edu.

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Parents are always concerned about feeding their children. Here are some of the questions you've been asking about pediatric nutrition.

Q. I am expecting a baby next month and I am planning to bottle feed. I am wondering how long I will have to sterilize bottles and equipment.

A. The Canadian Pediatric Society recommends sterilizing for the first three to four months; however, this is something that you can discuss with your baby's doctor. Some doctors suggest sterilizing for up to six months.

Q. I am seven months pregnant and I am planning to bottle feed. How do I select a formula?

A. This is a question that puzzles many expectant mothers, as there are so many choices. If you have chosen a pediatrician or family doctor for your baby, you can check with him or her. Otherwise here are some steps to follow to help you decide.

You are probably best to choose a cow's milk-based formula that is iron fortified. However, if there is a strong family history of milk allergies or if you are planning for your baby to be a vegan vegetarian, then you may choose a soy formula. If the baby is full term, an iron-based formula may be used; if the baby is premature, follow the recommendations of the pediatrician.

Next, decide what form of formula you wish to use. Most infant formulas come in three forms: powder, ready-to-feed and liquid concentrate. All are equally nutritious, but some are slightly more convenient, depending on your needs.

For example, if you are breastfeeding and planning to supplement with formula, the powder is best because it has the longest shelf life once opened; it is usually the most economical.

If you find that you are limited in time to make formula, as new mothers often are, then the ready-to-feed or liquid concentrate may be best, as the prepared bottles usually last 48 hours in the fridge. Make sure that you read the directions carefully, as the shelf lives will vary between brands.

Feel free to call the 1-800 numbers offered by formula manufacturers. They are often very helpful and willing to send additional information.

When in doubt, you may wish to wait and see what formula your baby is put on in the hospital, and if the baby is tolerating it well, continue with this formula at home.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist, specializing in pediatric and adult nutrition in Toronto. If you have any nutrition questions, send them to The CJN.

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Syria, Russia planning 'massive' arms deal

By DOUGLAS DAVIS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LONDON — Syria is expected to conclude a massive arms deal with Russia later this month, one that strategic analysts say will significantly erode, though not actually destroy, Israel's qualitative military edge.

The deal, estimated to be worth between $2 billion and $3 billion (US), has been in the works for two years and is expected to be sealed when Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas leads a high level Syrian delegation to Moscow for 10 days of intensive talks in late February.

Among the Russian weapons systems Syria is reportedly seeking are Sukhoi-27 fighter aircraft, T-80 tanks, S-300 anti-aircraft and anti-missile Sam systems. The Sams are said to be equivalent to U.S. Patriot missiles.

According to one strategic analyst, the negotiations hit two snags before agreement was reached: The first was Syria's residual debt – estimated at some $12 billion – to the former Soviet Union; the second was its inability to finance fresh arms purchases.

Moscow signaled its willingness to find a solution to the debt problem when it approved the sale of 1,000 AT8 Kornet anti-tank missiles to Syria last year, a $200-million contract that has been described as "an appetizer" compared to the upcoming deal.

This latest deal will be significant for Syria on several counts, according to leading Arab strategic analyst Kassem Mohammad Jaafar.

On one level, he told the London-based daily newsletter *Mideast Mirror*, it would constitute the first major military deal Syria has concluded with Russia since the demise of the Soviet Union, marking the resumption of strategic cooperation between Damascus and Moscow.

On another level, the acquisition of state-of-the-art weapons by the Syrian armed forces would greatly enhance Syria's military capability, said Jaafar, who added that the Sukhoi-27 is regarded as equivalent, if not superior, to the U.S.-made F-15 fighter jets that Israel currently has in its arsenal.

Moreover, the T-80 is one of the newest generations of tanks, while the S-300 system would enable Syria to defend itself against both missile and air strikes.

Equally important are other aspects of the deal, which involve the supply of spare parts, the upgrading of weapons systems and the support and modernization of Syria's armed forces.

Moreover, the deal will return Russia as a major player in the Middle East, an ambition that is believed to have been accelerated since the appointment last September of veteran Arabist Yevgeny Primakov as Russian prime minister.

In a related development, British intelligence sources reported that sophisticated Russian technology is being transferred to Damascus to aid Syria's chemical weapons project.

Quoting intelligence sources, the London *Times* reported that unofficial secret links have been found between Russian technical experts and Syria, aimed at helping Damascus produce advanced chemical weapons.

"It is now feared that sophisticated Russian technology has been passed to Syria by former members of Moscow's chemical weapons project," the article said.

Through unofficial exchanges with these experts, Syria is thought to have acquired the technology for dispersing chemical agents, including VX nerve gas, via bombs from aircraft and warheads on surface-to-surface missiles.

Syrian Scud C ballistic missiles with a range of some 325 miles are believed to have been adapted to disperse VX gas. The Syrians have also reportedly shown interest in acquiring more lethal chemicals that were developed in Russia in the 1980s.

Until the mid-1990s, Syria focused on the production of sarin nerve gas, but Damascus is now developing VX independently and is believed to have test-fired missiles armed with this agent. One test was reported to have been conducted near Damascus last May.

European Union warns Arafat

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The European Union (EU) has recently warned Yasser Arafat that Europe would freeze the transfer of financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority if the PA does not explain the disappearance of funds sent over the last two years.

Sources in the European parliament in Strasbourg told *Ha'aretz* that the ambiguous financial statements that the PA has presented have raised serious suspicions of embezzlement by Arafat's close associates.

The sources disclosed that the freeze will be announced next week in Frankfurt when the joint Palestinian-EU committee meets. At the meeting, representatives of the PA are supposed to submit a report explaining the missing funds. The EU's senior representative on the committee, Minister Manuel Marin, has received instructions not to be lenient this time and immediately announce a freeze in funding if suspicions of misappropriation persist.

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Israel Election Notebook

May 17

• Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was officially chosen by the Likud party to run as its candidate for prime minister in the election.

Some 160,000 Likud members were eligible to participate in the vote. Netanyahu handily defeated Moshe Arens.

Arens accepted the prime minister's offer to become minister of defence in place of Yitzhak Mordechai.

• Veteran member of Knesset, Dedi Zucker failed to get a spot on the Meretz party list. Zucker caused a storm in the party after he met with members of the Shas party to discuss a new approach to resolving "religious-secular" issues dividing Israeli society.

•The FBI asked Israeli police to help analyse fingerprints in the burglarized offices of political consultant Stanley Greenberg, who had been hired to advise Ehud Barak.

• Amnon Lipkin-Shahak is raising money in the United States for his new, as yet unnamed centrist party. Shahak was also scheduled to visit Montreal as part of his fundraising.

• MK Haim Ramon is once again rethinking his future in the Labor party, after its central committee went back on an earlier decision regarding the voting in the primary elections.

With files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Executive Director

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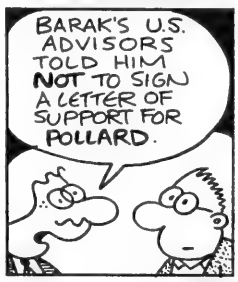

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The Week in Israel

Jan. 25

• Israel security officials rejected an Iraqi offer to sell crude oil to Israel at 50 percent below the market price, *Ha'aretz* reported. The proposal was reportedly conveyed to former energy minister Moshe Shahal by a Palestinian businessman.

Jan. 26

• The Knesset passed legislation intended to block Conservative and Reform representatives from serving on local religious councils. The bill, approved by a 50-49 vote, requires all representatives on councils to accept the rulings of the Chief Rabbinate.

• The Knesset rejected a "religious freedom" bill that included a provision to recognize civil marriages and divorces performed in Israel. The vote was 43-28.

• The Knesset, by 53-30, passed a law requiring a national referendum and a special parliamentary majority to approve any withdrawal from land under its sovereignty such as the Golan Heights and eastern Jerusalem.

Jan. 27

• The Knesset voted 10-4 on preliminary approval of a bill aimed at annexing Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. Knesset speaker Dan Tichon and other members of the Knesset severely criticized the proponents of the bill for holding the vote when most members were absent.

Jan. 28

• The Supreme Court gave the Jerusalem religious council 10 days to uphold a court order to convene with Reform and Conservative representatives. The court also fined the council some $10,000 (Cdn) in legal expenses for failing to comply with earlier such rulings.

• Israel's foreign minister, Ariel Sharon, rejected holding a trilateral meeting with American and Palestinian officials.

Jan. 29

• An elderly woman was killed and 31 other passengers injured, when an Egged bus overturned on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway after skidding on the wet road.

Files from the JTA and Ha'aretz

Iranian weapons programs alarm Israel

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Mideast Analysis

Exactly 20 years ago, in a momentous event which convulsed the modern Middle East, Iran's pro-Western monarchy, led by Shah Mohammed Riza, collapsed under the weight of a nation-wide rebellion.

The revolution ushered in a fervently Islamic regime headed by its acetic spiritual leader, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. He returned to Teheran after a long exile in France, setting into motion a radical transformation of Iran's society and of Iranian foreign policy.

The political earthquake affected all the countries of the region, but no more so than Israel. In short order, Iran severed ties with Israel, turned over the Israeli embassy to the PLO, and joined the ranks of the Arab rejectionist front.

Since then, Iran has emerged as one of Israel's prime foes. Indeed, two prime ministers, Yitzhak Rabin and Benjamin Netanyahu, have said that, in Iran, Israel has never faced a more concrete strategic threat to its existence.

Not everyone agrees with their assessment. Syria, which unlike Iran shares a common border with Israel, remains a formidable adversary. Iraq, though presently weak, could again be a potent anti-Israel force in the future.

That being said, Iran has steadily become a threat to Israel's security, a fierce critic of the Oslo peace process, as well as an ardent supporter of Hamas and Hezbollah. With the help of Russia, China and North Korea, Iran is developing a missile capability, having successfully tested a medium-range missile last summer, and is striving to build a nuclear arsenal.

These developments have stirred tension. Last September, Ephraim Sneh – a former general and cabinet minister and presently a Labor party Knesset member – suggested a pre-emptive military strike against Iran, arguing that American efforts to prevent Iran from acquiring missile technology and nuclear reactors had failed.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai rejected Sneh's proposal. But Iran's defence minister, Ali Shamkhani, shot back, declaring that Iran would retaliate "in a manner beyond the Israelis wildest dreams" if Israel tried to destroy its Russian-built nuclear reactor, or attacked Syria, its ally. Shamkhani's vitriol, though harsh, was hardly surprising. Just a month earlier, he intimated that Iran's military buildup was aimed at Israel.

In its bid to be a regional power, as it was under the shah, Iran has poured billions of dollars of its oil wealth into acquiring conventional and non-conventional weapons.

What alarms Israel most are Iran's missile and nuclear programs, not its attempts to rebuild its army, air force and navy. Iran's Shihab-3 missile, with a range of 1,300 kilometres, can reach targets in Israel. And now Iran is tinkering with an improved model, the Shihab-4. Israel is using diplomacy to deal with the problem. Russia and China have pledged not to pass on technology to Iran that could be used to manufacture weapons of mass destruction. But Israel knows it cannot rely on such promises.

Iran claims that its nuclear reactors are for peaceful purposes, but Israel is doubtful about its intentions. Iran has lobbied Pakistan – which detonated a nuclear device last year – for nuclear technology. Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi visited Islamabad last June, but it remains to be seen whether Pakistan will accede to Iran's request.

In the meantime, Iran is redoubling its efforts to bolster its chemical weapons program. Last year, an Israeli businessman, Nahum Manbar, was imprisoned for supplying Iran with chemical weapons materiel. This is not as strange as it sounds. During the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, Teheran bought military hardware from Israel.

Iran's new president, Mohammed Khatami, a moderate by Iranian standards, has moved toward greater acceptance of the Oslo negotiations. But he still refers to Israel as a "racist and terrorist regime," and Iran's hardline supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khameini, is vehemently opposed to Oslo. Viewed in this perspective, Iran is doubtless one of Israel's chief enemies.

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Russia's Communist leader takes swipe at Jews

By LEV KRICHEVSKY
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

MOSCOW — As the international community continues to probe Russian extremism, the issue of anti-Semitism among Russia's political leaders is flaring up again.

Responding to accusations that his party is anti-Semitic, the leader of the Communist Party took a thinly veiled swipe at Jews and other minorities once again last week. Speaking to journalists in Paris, Gennady Zyuganov said people with "non-Russian-sounding last names" are undermining Russia's "distinctive character."

Zyuganov also condemned "those forces that are consciously stirring up ethnic conflicts" in Russia and again blamed Russia's troubles on ethnic non-Russians in previous governments.

Zyuganov's comments came just before the UN commissioner for human rights announced he is launching a probe into anti-Semitic remarks recently made by members of the Russian Communist Party. The commissioner plans to issue a report on the matter in March, according to the World Jewish Congress.

Those remarks also came during U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's two-day visit to Moscow. She said anti-Semitism is one of the critical issues facing Russia as it confronts its ongoing economic crisis.

Albright offered this assessment during a meeting with lawmakers, religious leaders and representatives of human rights groups. She also said the United States is looking closely at how Russia handles the issues of religious freedom and political extremism.

Jewish leaders and human rights groups in Russia and the United States applauded Albright's effort to raise these issues during her visit.

Albright's "forceful and principled defense of human rights and civil society as central to Russia's development does great honor to our entire nation," said Yosef Abramowitz, president of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

Jewish groups are speaking out with increased urgency on anti-Semitism in Russia, which has increased since Russia's economy went into a tailspin last year.

It is unclear whether Zyuganov's comments were directed exclusively at Jews. But given the prominence of some Jews in the previous administrations of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, it is difficult to imagine that he was excluding Jews from his attack.

The Communist leader has several times referred to the disproportionately high percentage of Jews in Russia's government and has condemned Zionism, which he said is part of a global conspiracy.

As Russia attempts to cope with its gravest economic crisis since the fall of Communism in 1991, Zyuganov is not the only lawmaker to make anti- Semitic slurs.

Two hard-line Communist legislators, Viktor Ilyukhin and Albert Makashov, created controversy last fall when they blamed the economic crisis on Jews. They recently announced they would split from the Communists in parliamentary elections slated for December.

The deputies said they would campaign under the banner of the Movement in Support of the Army, which Ilyukhin now heads. Ironically, this movement was created by Lev Rokhlin, a Russian Jewish general who emerged as a hero during the war in southern Russia's breakaway republic of Chechnya. Later known as a bitter critic of Yeltsin, Rokhlin was shot dead last summer.

Ilyukhin has said his group would pursue a common program with the Communists.

Zyuganov expressed support for the split, saying the opposition would provide several options for voters.

Meanwhile, scant progress has been reported in the Kremlin's campaign against political extremism and anti-Semitism. Last fall, Russian leaders, including Yeltsin, promised to curb hate crimes in the wake of an outcry that began after the Communist Party, the largest bloc in Parliament, blocked a motion in the body's lower house to censure Makashov for his anti-Semitic comments.

Nikolai Bordyuzha, secretary of the Security Council, called on the leaders of the Russian mass media to play a more responsible role in the dissemination of information on political extremism.

Last week, Russian authorities launched an inspection in some areas of the country to confiscate printed, audio and video materials aimed at "propagating fascism, inciting social, racial, ethnic and religious discord."

Earlier this month, the Russian cabinet approved a draft bill to outlaw statements that fuel ethnic strife. This bill seeks to make political parties responsible for members who make extremist statements.

According to Justice Minister Pavel Krasheninnikov, a party must either disavow such statements made by its members or face an official ban.

However, experts say the bill in its current form, has little chance of being passed in Parliament. The Communist-dominated Duma, parliament's lower house, is expected to oppose the bill, which Communist lawmakers say mainly targets their party.

Despite all the grim news, the results of a recent opinion poll suggest that a large-scale media campaign against extremism and ultranationalism is yielding results.

According to the nationwide poll of 1,500 Russians, 36 percent of the respondents said fascists – a term used in the Russian media that encompasses ultranationalists and anti-Semites – provoke their greatest outrage and irritation.

A similar poll in 1997 showed that 24 percent of Russians were outraged by fascists. Four percent of the respondents in the new poll showed intolerance to Jews, compared with three percent in 1997.

The poll was conducted by the Public Opinion Foundation, a leading Moscow polling firm. No margin of error for the survey has been reported.

Aliyah from FSU down

By LEV KRICHEVSKY
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

MOSCOW — When economic conditions deteriorated here in the middle of 1998, some Russian Jewish officials spoke about a possible exodus of Jews to Israel.

That exodus failed to materialize, but emigration from Russia did increase during the last few months of 1998, according to Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics.

Some 46,020 immigrants arrived in the Jewish state from Russia and the other former Soviet republics in 1998, according to the bureau, compared with 54,621 in 1997.

But while this rate represents a decrease of 16 percent, the number who emigrated from Russia to Israel is down by only six percent, to 14,450.

The wave of emigration that started in 1989, when restrictions were eased in the former Soviet Union, has brought a total of about three-quarters of a million people to Israel. But the influx has tapered off during the past few years.

If the rate of emigration that occurred at the beginning of 1998 remained constant, aliyah from Russia would have been down by 15 percent for the year, said Alla Levy, head of the Russia office of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Those regions where the rate of aliyah increased – the Samara region in central Russia, where aliyah increased by 18 percent last year; the central part of Siberia, where the rate of emigration to Israel was up by nine percent; and the formerly autonomous region of Birobidzhan, where the rate increased by an astronomical 101 percent – are places where the economic downturn is particularly acute, said Levy.

By the end of 1998, Levy said, increasing numbers of Russian immigrants were citing anti-Semitism as their major motivation.

Levy added that the increase in aliyah Israel witnessed during the last part of 1998 is expected to continue.

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Subway scenes, human figures interest Toronto urban artist

By MIRIAM CHINSKY
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — The man on the subway is engrossed in his newspaper, oblivious of the other passengers. It's an everyday scene but this is a painting – so real that a vacant seat beckons to the viewer.

The work is from Hillel Kagan's Subway Paintings, exhibited recently at D & E Lake, at Yonge and Summerhill.

A frequent subway rider, Kagan describes the train as "a room moving through space and time."

He is a Torontonian who has lived in various parts of the city and is by his own definition, an urban artist. "I don't do flowers," he notes with a grin.

Using oils, he details his own forceful reality, constructing it brushstroke upon brushstroke from the flat canvas, often ignoring the device of perspective. "I paint what I see," he says.

Particularly interested in the human figure, his mastery is especially evident in another series, Struggling Figures, a concept triggered by 1930s photo illustrations of wrestling and ju-jitsu holds. These pictures belonged to his father, who was once an amateur wrestler.

The backdrop of the Struggling Figures series is the contained space of the house where his father used to live, which is now occupied by his own family. Here Kagan has created demanding paintings in bold, saturated color, personal in nature, embodying, he says "both the struggle of family life within the home, a struggle not violent, but more a dance or enactment with all the participants knowing their roles, and the struggle of modern figurative painting – the resolution of conflict between abstract and real, flatness and illusion."

Kagan's works are multi-dimensional in thought. He spends an extraordinary length of time in his studio, he says. "I wish I could just pop them off, but I can't."

Looking into them we discover more and more.

He also does "unstill still lifes" – a bottle of wine just waiting to be poured, shoes and boots shaped by their wearers. "I want my paintings to be alive!" he insists.

Though he is clearly an individualist, he draws strength from an alliance known simply as Eight. This is not a group in the sense of style focus, but a number of informed artists sharing friendship, respect and the conviction of painting's expressive power. Their mentor was Canadian art icon William Ronald, who died in 1998.

Since the '70s, Kagan has exhibited in such venues as Hart House's Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Rodman Hall Arts Centre in St. Catharines, the Albert Latner Jewish Library and others in the Toronto area. His works are in corporate and private collections in Canada, the United States and Israel.

"A room moving through time and space."

Canadian firms among leaders in Jubilee Awards

By JAMES PASTERNAK
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Canada had the third highest number of corporate recipients of Jubilee Awards, which were presented at the Prime Minister's Jubilee Business Summit in Jerusalem.

Six Canadian firms were among the 78 international companies, some of them the world's most powerful multinationals, listed for the Jubilee Award, honoring firms that have conducted $50 million (US) or more in commerce in Israel.

The attendance of some of Canada's most powerful business leaders, combined with the presence of Ontario Premier Mike Harris, gave Canada a high-profile role at the October business summit, according to Richard Venn, chairman and CEO of CIBC Wood Gundy World Markets and a co-chair of the Canadian delegation.

"Canada was extremely well represented. We had the highest ranking political representative in [Harris]."

Venn pointed out that the strength of the delegation reflects this country's commitment to Israel.

"We had a lot of great access to all the senior ministers. The conference went well. It was extremely well-organized...I think Canada displayed itself extremely well. I'm very proud of the team."

Venn's division of the CIBC is a major player in raising capital for Israeli high technology firms, he said.

"We're actually the largest trad-

Continued on page 40

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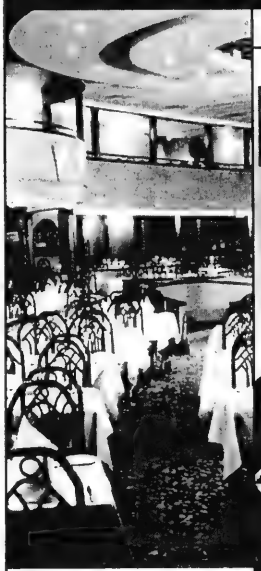

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Novel explores 'crazy universe'

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts editor

Like *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Lucille de Saint-André's partly-autobiographical novel *Bye-Bye, Baden-Baden* tells the story of a Jewish teenager's attempt to make sense of the world during the Holocaust.

But unlike Anne Frank, Uschi, the 16-year-old heroine of this novel, was fortunate – or at least less unfortunate.

The Gestapo rounds up Uschi, her parents and younger brother from their home in Baden-Baden, Germany, and sends them to a camp. However, the family manages to secure passage to Marseilles, France where they are given six months to obtain a visa to the United States or be "resettled East."

From France they travel to Spain where they eventually board the Baleares, which will take them to the United States. Much of the novel takes place on board the ship.

Most of the point of view of *Bye-Bye* is Uschi's. We see life unfolding on this ship through her relationships with other people.

She quickly observes the attempt at normalizing life on Baleares. One of the many characters aboard is Stanislaus Steinheil, a married German with "two pudgy offspring." Steinheil, a bully of the first degree, resents that all passengers have access to the sunny deck, regardless of their previous class.

"Steinheil paced around the decks topside and discovered he deeply resented the presence of people sitting in deck-chairs and breathing in fresh sea air for which they had not paid. They should be in steerage, he felt, with the rest of the riff-raff."

He is one of a strange mix of people who turn the ship into a microcosm of the world, among them, Tamara, a 24-year old who got engaged to a Spanish diplomat in Cuba because her visa expired; Alexander Hirsch, a movie director who dreams of making it big in Hollywood; a Russian countess and her hen-pecked husband; and a mysterious American journalist.

Perhaps like any teenager, Uschi's descriptions of life as a refugee in Marseille and on the ship are almost romantic. While her parents are worrying about their fate, Uschi is enjoying herself, flirting and fraternizing.

"Uschi loved Marseilles. The sun, the sea, the palm-lined Corniche snaking along the Mediterranean made her almost drunk with freedom. She loved to squeeze into the crowded tram and gaze out at the sun-woven water...ignoring a pinch or two from one of the intrepid, misguided Arabs."

Later, waiting for the ship in Spain, "Life was perfect. The Spanish boys were perfect, as handsome as the young pilots in camp, so good-looking that she never knew who to admire first."

In fact, it seems the only thing that really bothers her on the ship is a nasty rash she gets on her face when she stays out in the sun too long. But in her search to come to terms with her own sexuality, spirituality and familial responsibility, Uschi is mostly coming to grips with her own survival.

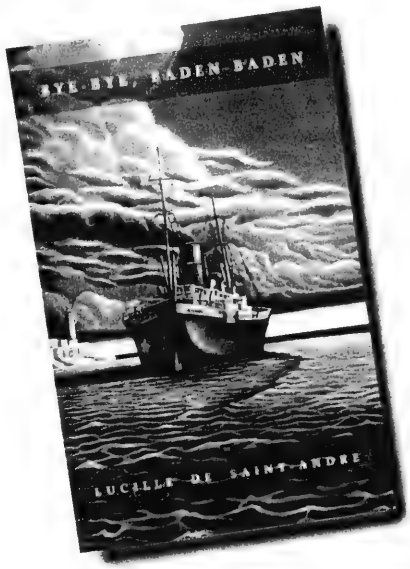
"But she needed a reason to live. Beneath the chaos in her mind, well-protected and nurtured, there was a huge, orderly demand for a reason to continue living. She wanted an explanation for a crazy universe...She wanted to see what lay ahead at the end of the trip. It was the same urge that had made her decide against suicide the day the Gestapo came for her family."

Saint-André, who escaped from Europe in much the same way as her heroine Uschi, now lives in Toronto. She admits the book is partly autobiographical with " a lot of made-up stuff."

Her first novel has some flaws. The narrative structure, especially early in the book, where the setting switches randomly from Germany to France to Spain to the ship, makes it a bit hard to follow. There's also a fair amount of unnecessary digression.

But as a psychological study into the mind of an adolescent coming to terms with her existence during a horrific era, this book succeeds.

Bye-Bye Baden-Baden ($18.75) is published by ECW Press in Toronto.



Israel's Jubilee Awards

Continued from page 39

er, through CIBC Oppenheimer, which is our U.S. division, of Israeli technology companies on the NASDAQ.

"We trade more of those companies' shares than anyone else. We're extremely active in the capital markets there."

Venn said he was impressed with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's role in the conference.

"He extended himself tremendously to really make the thing work. He was a phenomenal host and very inspirational to the conference."

Part of the Prime Minister's Jubilee Business Summit was the handing out of the Jubilee Awards.

Recipients attending were given a statue by an Israeli artist and a letter from the prime minister.

The Israeli government is also looking for a way to send the awards to the remainder of the 78 corporate recipients who were not represented at the summit, said Yael Varsano-Barzilay of the Israel Economic Mission in Toronto.

The United States had the highest number of recipients with 40 awards, while England ranked second with eight.

The Canadian companies honored at the Jubilee summit were Canpro Investment Ltd., Canadian Highways International Corporation, New Bridge Networks Corporation, Hollinger International Inc., Northern Telecom Inc. and Seagram.

The summit included a wide range of plenary sessions, speeches and networking sessions to enhance business opportunities in Israel for foreign and Israeli companies.

Travel, Arts & Business

Theaturtle debuts *The Song*

BY BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

Adam Nashman

TORONTO — Though they have the same surname and are both Jewish, and they attended the University of Toronto (U of T) at the same time, Adam and Alon Nashman, the co-founders of Theaturtle, are not related and did not meet until three years ago.

They are the only A. Nashmans in the Toronto phone book.

"Alon's resume came to me along with all the others and I heard this guy singing in the audition room," said Adam, who was casting for *The Song*, his own play. It opens at Theatre Passe Muraille Backspace, at 16 Ryerson Ave., on Feb. 17 and runs to March 7.

To shorten a long story, Alon has the lead in the play based on the biblical Song of Songs, which is Theaturtle's inaugural production.

Adam had more than a passing interest in meeting Alon, because as a freshman at U. of T. he trundled over to Robarts Library to borrow a book for the first time only to learn that an A. Nashman owed $70 in back fines for overdue books.

Born in Prague, of Jewish parents, Adam, 30, was adopted at an early age, and came to Canada 27 years ago. *The Song* took three years to write, and in the words of the company's press release is "about love, sex and the soul's journey."

Adam thinks it will appeal to a lot of his friends who are not regular synagogue-goers but who are looking for a spiritual mission in life, he says.

"Like the Song of Songs indicates, sex is a good way to start. It's universal and when it's right, it's good. It reveals much about the sacred aspect of sex, as well as the erotic essence of prayer."

In Adam's opinion, it is not necessary to know anything about the Song of Songs to enjoy the play and get "a totally modern message from it."

Along with Deborah Hay, Alon plays many other characters in *The Song*, and both sing lyrics to the music composed by Debrashis Sinha.

The play tells the story of Alan, an accountant and scholar, haunted by the death of his wife. He is unable to work and to love since his wife's death two years earlier.

Ancient and timeless teachers, Rabbi Akiva, talmudic defender of the Song of Songs and King Solomon, its author, visit Alan who undergoes a transformation of mind, body and spirit.

"Alon is much more concerned with Jewishness than I am and at his request, to which I agreed, the play will not be performed on the Sabbath," Adam says.

Previews run from Feb. 13 to 16. (416) 504-7529.

Entertainer chose dance over law

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — After actress, singer, dancer and choreographer Sid Kroach, 27, co-starring in *Tony n' Tina's Wedding* at Vinnie Black's Chapel of Love, won a starring role in a university play, she opted to practice dance instead of law.

"I took theatre at McGill University in Montreal. In my final year, I was thinking about law school but there was a set of auditions for shows. I struck myself a deal. I knew that the cast lists were going up the next day. I decided if I didn't get a part I would start studying for my [law school admission test] to prepare for law school. I ended up getting the lead in *Cold Comfort*."

After McGill, Kroach entered Sheridan College in Oakville for the triple threat program – singing, acting and dancing. She was accepted at a school in New York but decided to study closer to home. In retrospect, she's very happy about her decision, because now her focus is geared to working on Canadian shows and promoting Canadian talent. If her craft ever took her to Broadway, she would go, but she is very content to work in Toronto.

She excelled at school, winning two James McGill Scholarships for Academic Achievement, the coveted Christopher Covert Award for Improvisation and the Ben McPeek Award for Musical Theatre Performance.

She has performed in a number of theatrical productions including *Nunsense 3* at the Rainbow Theatre in Parry Sound, *Come Back To The Five & Dime* with the Scarborough Players, *Barefoot In The Park* at the Heritage Theatre in Brampton, and *Loose Cannons*, Street Theatre Improv at Ontario Place.

As the host of *Legends, Paramount On Ice* at Canada's Wonderland, Kroach played the flying ghost who haunted Paramount Theatre. When the fly track broke, she had to improvise by walking on the ice. Unfortunately, her character had to wear high heeled spikes.

Sid Kroach

Kroach has also done some choreography and some TV commercials.

"Theatre is my true passion, because everything is in the moment. You can't go back and do it over, you're there and the audience is going through it at the same time. It's an electrical connection that's not the same when you're doing film," says Kroach.

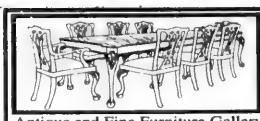
Last summer, Kroach worked at the now troubled theatre company, Livent. She worked for a month on *Fosse*, while it was in workshop. Much to her delight, Kroach spent a lot of time chauffeuring Bob Fosse's ex-wife, dance legend Gwen Verdon, around town.

"I think the state of Canadian theatre is in flux. It's been a tough year, but I'm hoping we're at a point of turn around and that more smaller theatres will be established."

Tony n' Tina's Wedding is best described as a mix of *The Godfather* and *The Carol Burnett Show*. Kroach does double duty as the choreographer and playing Connie Mocogni, a very pregnant maid of honor, who's not a big fan of weddings.

"It's an Italian-Canadian wedding; the audience is invited. Guests go to the ceremony, the dinner and even get to dance and have characters join them at their table. It's a totally interactive show."

Tony n' Tina's Wedding opens on February 9 for an indefinite run every Wednesday to Sunday. Vinnie Black's Chapel of Love is located in the Second City Building at 56 Blue Jays Way. Tickets cost from $55-$60. Call Ticketmaster at 872-1111. For groups of 10 or more, call 343-0077.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Authors & Poets

The CJN is pleased to announce the third annual Passover Literary Supplement. We therefore invite the authors and poets among our readers to submit their works to us. We are looking only for works of fiction or poetry that explore Jewish themes.

The works must be original and previously unpublished. The fiction cannot be longer than 1,500 words. We must receive your works ***no later than February 26, 1999*** at *The CJN*, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, Ontario M3B 3K4. If you want us to return the submissions, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Otherwise, we will be unable to do so.

—The editor

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Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

STORYTELLER FOCUSES ON REBBE NACHMAN

Rebbe Nachman of Breslov (1772-1810), a grandson of the **Baal Shem Tov**, told rich, dream-like stories, filled with images from Jewish lore, the Bible, the Kabbalah and his own dreams. In weaving such tales, Rebbe Nachman also wove a reputation for himself as one of the great storytellers of the Jewish people.

A close disciple of Rebbe Nachman wrote down many of the stories, and they were published in 1814. Now a Toronto storyteller and rabbinical student, **Justin Lewis**, is preparing to retell one of the longer stories, *The Seven Beggars*, in an afternoon event that is part of the 21st Annual Toronto Festival of Storytelling. The event unfolds Feb. 21 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Riverdale Jewish Community Centre, 179A Danforth Ave., Toronto.

The Seven Beggars actually contains many stories within stories, so listeners don't have to stay for the entire program of four hours, Lewis says. But those who do remain should find it a highly rewarding experience.

Rebbe Nachman's stories "are quite a bit like traditional folk tales and fairy tales, but they don't have the simple plots and motivations of most folk tales," Lewis says. "They're really much more dream-like in that the point of view is always shifting and the images are always changing from one thing to another."

A 37-year-old doctoral student and professional storyteller, Lewis has been studying chassidic stories for years. As he works towards his PhD from the University of Toronto, he is simultaneously studying at a New York rabbinical academy. He is the recipient of a fellowship from New York's YIVO Institute, where he is scheduled to present a lecture in the fall.

Lewis's aim in presenting *The Seven Beggars* is "to restore the stories to the way they were first presented in the world. It's very clear that these weren't written stories originally. They were spontaneous stories that were orally told." The meditative atmosphere he hopes to achieve will be enhanced through the singing of niggunim, or wordless chassidic prayers, led by **Michael Sidlofsky**. Lewis will also include some other poetic teachings of Rebbe Nachman.

If you enjoy Jewish storytelling, you won't want to miss this rare opportunity to hear this authentic English version of *The Seven Beggars*, based on the Yiddish and Hebrew text. Suggested admission $7 or PWYC. "Beggars free." 538-4060.

* * *

Theatre Notes:

• *Young at Heart*, a musical revue of the top hits of the 1940s and 1950s, featuring the **Voices of Showtime**, is being staged at the Leah Posluns Theatre for three matinees on Feb. 3, 5 and 7 (2 p.m.) General admission $18, seniors $15. 485-6290.

• The **Mirvishes** have announced a return of the musical *Chicago*, starring **Chita Rivera**. Princess of Wales Theatre, Feb. 2 to 26. $20-$93. 872-1212 or 800-461-3333.

• Solar Stage Children's Theatre presents *Ants in Yer Pants* by the **Stylamanders**, a high-energy show with lots of audience participation, music, wacky choreography and yo-yo tricks. Sundays at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. from Feb. 7 to 28. Madison Centre, 4950 Yonge St. $7.50. 368-8031.

Miri Yampolsky [left] and Ariadne Daskalakis perform at the Royal Conservatory of Music.

* * *

Music Notes:

• The international prize-winning young duo **Ariadne Daskalakis**, violin, and **Miri Yampolsky**, piano, perform a Schubert sonata and other works at the Ettore Mazzoleni Concert Hall, Royal Conservatory of Music. Feb. 7, 3 p.m. $20-$15. 225-4750.

•**York Symphony Orchestra** presents *At The Movies*, an assortment of movie themes, both classical and modern, including themes from *Elvira Madigan*, *2001*, *Titanic*, *Star Wars* and *The Sting*. $20-$15. Markham Theatre, Feb. 6, 3 p.m. 905-305-7469.

* * *

Photography: A photography exhibit by **Beverly Abramson**, including some vignettes from Mexico and Israel, is on view in the 2nd floor library of Ryerson Polytechnic University, 350 Victoria St., Toronto. To Feb. 11.

* * *

Agnon Under Study: Israeli writer and Nobel laureate **S.Y. Agnon** writes intense Jewish short stories that tell of a world gone awry. Word has reached us belatedly of a four-part course called Agnon's Art: Four Great Israeli Stories Revealed, running four consecutive Mondays (Feb. 1, 8, 15 and 22) at 8 p.m. at the Bloor JCC.

The instructor, **Prof. Reena Basser**, is director of Jewish Studies at Queen's University. $40. 924-6211.

CJN Purim Art Contest

It's time again for our fifth annual **Purim Art Contest**.

Who can enter: Children in grades 1 to 6 inclusive are eligible. The children of *CJN* employees are not eligible.

Prizes: The judges will choose one drawing from two different students in each grade. These "winning" drawings will be published in *The CJN* on February 25. In addition, each of the 12 children whose drawings have been selected will receive a cheque for $25.

How to enter: You may submit as many drawings as you want. However they should not be too small nor too large. Please paint or draw bright, bold, colorful pictures. You may use markers, crayons, paint or pencils. Please send us your name, address, phone number, age and grade along with your drawings.

You may mail or deliver your drawings to: CJN Community Contests, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ontario M3B 3K4. If you want us to return the pictures to you, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Otherwise, we will be unable to do so.

The contest closes at 5 p.m. on Friday, February 11, 1999. We will undoubtedly receive many wonderful submissions from children all across the country. But only 12 of the drawings will be chosen as the "winners." The judges will base their decisions on a number of factors such as: the use of color, the imaginative quality of the drawing and the way it tells an aspect of the story of Purim. The judges' decisions will be final. The chances of winning depend upon the number and quality of submissions received.

How the Winner will be announced: The children whose pictures are chosen will be notified by telephone before the start of Shabbat on Friday, February 18, 1999.

When the prizes will be awarded: The "winning" pictures will be published in *The CJN* of February 25, 1999. Many of the drawings submitted to us will be put on display at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care in Toronto. Have fun and good luck.

Any litigation respecting the conduct and awarding of a prize in this contest may be submitted to the Régie des Loteries et courses du Québec.

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Business Profile

Lawyer believes ethics and business do mix

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

It pays to be honest.

Corporate North America is discovering this simple, timeless, compelling truth, according to Mark Schwartz, a lawyer who teaches business law and business ethics at York University.

He believes that ethics and profitability are inextricably intertwined, although he acknowledges that studies have yet to confirm this thesis in any scientific fashion.

"Companies should be interested in ethics," said Schwartz, who recently co-chaired the first Jewish business ethics forum in Canada at Beth Jacob V'Anshei Drildz Congregation in Toronto. "It's the right thing to do, regardless of the consequences."

In purely pragmatic terms, ethics can be squared with the almighty bottom line.

"Research shows that there is correlation between corporate ethical behavior and its impact on consumers, employees and shareholders," explained Schwartz, author of *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Corporate Codes of Ethics, But Were Afraid to Ask* (Bentley College).

Corporations which engage in inappropriate behavior, be it price fixing, bid rigging, misleading advertising, deceptive marketing or the use of child labor, risk public relations problems, boycotts and diminishing morale among employees.

And Schwartz has found, companies which treat their employees decently can usually count on better performances from them.

As for shareholders, they now realize that a company steeped in ethics can avoid costly and onerous government intervention.

Corporations and governments, in his view, are increasingly aware of their ethical responsibilities.

The Conference Board of Canada has established a Corporate Responsibility and Ethics Council which meets regularly to discuss business ethics issues.

Not to be left behind, the federal government has come out with a voluntary International Code of Ethics for Canadian Business. Several corporations, including Alcan Aluminum and Shell Canada, have endorsed the code.

A little more than a year ago, Canada was among a group of countries which adopted the Convention for Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions. Canada, he noted, will soon amend its criminal code or introduce new legislation making bribery an explicit criminal offence.

Canada has suffered its share of scandals, from the Bre-X fiasco to the Westray mine disaster. But compared to Nigeria, Indonesia, Mexico and Russia, Canada ranks low in the prevalence of corporate corruption, a byproduct of lax or nonexistent ethical business standards.

There is, Schwartz argued, a causal link between corruption and economic development.

"The poorer a country, the greater the corruption." Bribes and payoffs are common in places where the salaries of civil servants are pitiful. Yet, in underdeveloped countries with strong democratic traditions and judicial systems, corruption tends to be less severe.

Whistle blowers – the bane of dishonest employers – sometimes tend to be motivated by religious convictions, Schwartz said.

Mark Schwartz

Indeed, studies reveal that religion may be a factor in influencing ethical behavior.

Jewish law, he explained, addresses not only aspects of daily life, but also how one should conduct one's business.

Schwartz and Meir Tamari, director of the Centre for Business Ethics at the Jerusalem College of Technology and former chief economist of the Bank of Israel, have compiled a halachic corporate code of ethics.

They write: "Each of us, as human beings, and as managers and employees, have a natural desire for wealth and profits, known as our *yetzer* (natural inclination), similar to our need for sex, food and clothing. Although such needs are legitimate, they must operate within a certain moral framework. The goal is to channel this *yetzer* into permitted and moral parameters so that this wealth may be kosher."

With that credo as their point of departure, Schwartz and Tamari proceed to define ethical behavior in terms of pricing, selling practices, conflicts of interest, competitive practices, repayment of debts, and the like.

Last November, Schwartz and Rabbi Jay Kelman of Beth Jacob Synagogue, co-organized Money, Morality & the Marketplace, a one-day conference which featured such speakers as Tamari and Rabbi Eliezer Breitowitz, dean of Toronto's Ohr Somayach.

"More questions were raised than were necessarily answered," said Schwartz, recapping the results of the conference. Nevertheless, he hopes it will not be the last one of its kind.

"Some claim that business ethics is a fad," he observed. "If it is, it's the longest-running fad in history."

The topic is addressed not only in the Talmud and the Torah, but in the Koran and the New Testament.

In modern times, the Watergate scandal, which prompted Richard Nixon's resignation as president of the United States in 1974, inspired the first national conference on business ethics in the United States. The event was held at Bentley College in Waltham, Mass., in 1976.

Since then, universities have paid far more attention to business ethics. American institutions like Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania now offer business ethics programs. In Canada, the University of Toronto was the first to make business ethics mandatory for students pursuing master of business administration degrees.

Three Canadian universities – York University, University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia – have funded chairs in business ethics.

Schwartz claims that York University's Schulich School of Business was the first to create such a chair. It is held by Wesley Cragg, Schwartz's PhD supervisor.

Last year, Schwartz, 33, turned in a successful dissertation entitled *The Relationship Between Corporate Codes of Ethics and Behavior*. To the best of his knowledge, he is the first person in Canada to have obtained a PhD in business ethics. (His friend, Neil Shankman, who expects to receive his doctorate within two years, may well be the second).

Born in Toronto, the son of Albert, a chartered accountant, and Eileen, an elementary school teacher, Schwartz studied political science at York before entering its joint MBA/law program. After articling at Goodman and Carr, he was called to the bar in 1993.

He enjoyed law, but his heart was really in teaching. After connecting with Cragg, he knew he had discovered his real calling.

No longer a practicing lawyer, Schwartz is now associate director of business ethics at the Schulich School of Business. By design or coincidence, Jordan, his younger brother, is currently completing an MBA there. His sisters Lisa and Karen, are teachers in Israel and the United States respectively.

Last December, after receiving a postdoctoral fellowship from the Hebrew University, Schwartz and his family (wife Iris and children Michaela and Shalom) headed off to Israel for one year.

"I will be conducting research on business ethics within the Israeli corporate community," he said in an interview about a month before he left.

Eager to live in Israel again after spending a year at the Hebrew University in 1985-86 as an exchange student, Schwartz said he is looking forward to the experience.

He'll be working with his old colleague, Tamari, as well as with Daniel Attas of the Hebrew University and Dove Israeli of Tel Aviv University.

Schwartz, whose own personal integrity brought him to this growing discipline, thinks that he can make a difference.

As he put it: "I can have a positive impact on society."

What more can one ask?

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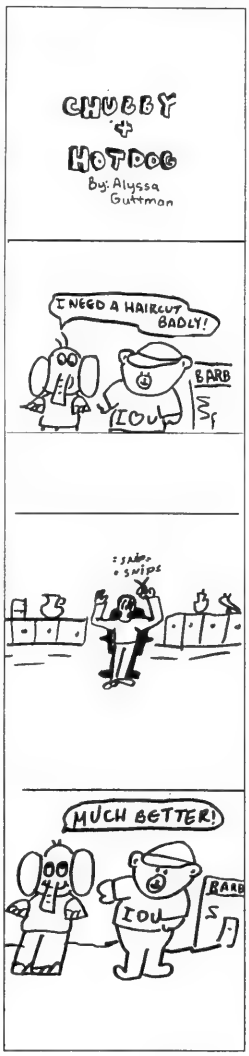

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New book tells the story of immigrants' fears, hopes

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Most North Americans came here as immigrants. Some came from Europe, some from Asia, some from Africa or South America. There are those who came to escape persecution, and others who just wanted a better life.

It is hard to imagine what it must be like to leave everything and everybody that you know and go to a strange country where the life is often very different, where you don't know the language, and where you have to start a new life. Even the weather is different.

Many who came to the United States, including many, many Jews, came through Ellis Island, an immigrant processing centre near New York City. Here, they were examined to be sure they were healthy, and questioned about whether they had someplace to go, and if they had some means of support.

While for most people this was a temporary stop, Ellis Island was also known as the Island of Tears, because if someone was found to be unadmissable, they had to turn around and go back where they came from, a real hardship, if not actually dangerous.

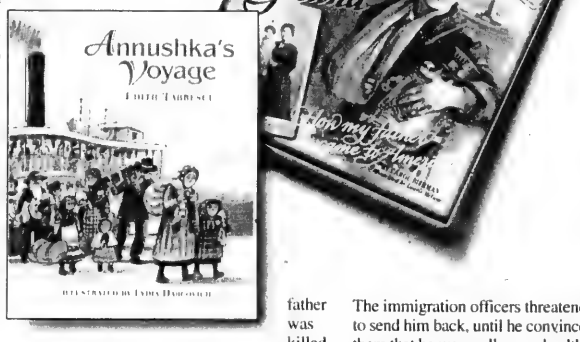
Two books have been published in the last little while that tell the story of the immigration to America. *Annushka's Voyage*, by Edith Tarbescu, with illustrations by Lydia Dabcovich (Clarion Books, 1998) is for children from about 8 to 10 years old, while preteens will enjoy *Journey to Ellis Island*, by Carol Bierman, illustrated by Laurie McGaw (Hyperion/Madison, 1998).

Annushka, the heroine of *Annushka's Voyage*, lives in a small village in Russia with her grandparents and her younger sister Tanya. Their mother had died, and their father had gone to America, and was saving money to bring the two girls to live with him.

After two years, he sent them steamship tickets, and they sadly kissed their grandparents goodbye, and set off on their long journey. Besides their clothes, they each carried one of their grandmother's Shabbat candlesticks.

The trip was very long and difficult. First, they had to take a train to Holland, and then spend two weeks in the very lowest desk of the ship, called steerage, until they got to America.

Can you imagine travelling all the way from Russia without a grown-up, or anyone you knew? How scared Annushka and Tanya must have been. In fact, several times, if it hadn't been for the candlesticks, they might have lost each other.



Journey to Ellis Island is what is called historical fiction – something that really happened, but that is told like a story.

Yehuda Weinstein is a young boy in Russia during and just after World War I. His father was killed in the war, and his older sister died from a shrapnal wound. Life was very hard for the family.

Luckily, Yehuda's older brother had already left for America, and he sent the rest of the family money to join him. Like Annushka and Tanya, Yehuda, his younger sister Esther and his mother Rachel, travelled in steerage from Holland until they landed in Ellis Island.

The book describes the different examinations immigrants had to go through until they could assure the officials that they wouldn't be a burden on society.

Unfortunately, Yehuda had lost part of his ring finger to a German bullet, and he had his arm in a sling. The immigration officers threatened to send him back, until he convinced them that he was really very healthy.

This book also talks about what happened to the family when they finally landed, how Yehuda's name was changed to Julius at school, and how the family established itself and prospered.

Both *Annushka's Voyage* and *Journey to Ellis Island* show the fear, the excitement, the hopes and the dreams of those who immigrated to America.

While there was nothing like Ellis Island in Canada, immigrants often landed either at Montreal or in Halifax. Pier One, in Halifax, where the immigrants landed and were checked by government officials, is now being restored as a historic landmark.

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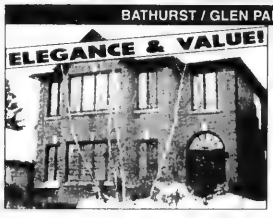

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Detached 2 storey, 3 + 1 bedrooms, family room / fireplace, premium oversized lot, gorgeous landscaping, finished basement, close to BAYT Shul, only $279,900. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

CLANTON PARK – SPACIOUS 3 + 1 BDRM. BUNGALOW! Huge family room addition at rear, 50 x 150 ft. lot, quiet street, only $279,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

THORNHILL — NEAR BAYT SHUL — RENOVATED & DECORATED! Bright, open concept, 3 + 2 bedrooms, separate entry to in-law suite. **ACT NOW!** Call Esther Rubenstein (416) 787-1712.

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BATHURST / LAWRENCE — SPACIOUS RANCH BUNGALOW! California-style, 2,700 sq. ft. (approx.), 4 bdrms., oversize family room, 69 x 120 ft. lot, eat-in kitchen, only $349,000. **ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

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BATHURST / LAWRENCE Lowest price in area! Renovated + decorated 2 bedroom, new kitchen & baths, hardwood floors, finished basement, only $172,000. **DON'T MISS THIS ONE!** Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

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BATHURST / WILSON Spacious 3 bdrm. bungalow on gorgeous lot, steps to Clanton Park, renovated white kitchen, sep. entry to in-law suite, asking $329,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

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51 Leah Crescent	51 Karen Street*
12 Tova Place*	29 Faye Court
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40 Flamingo Road*	199 Campbell Avenue*
7420 Bathurst St., #614*	1101 Steeles Ave. W., #PH106
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4 bdrm. townhome, 2nd floor laundry, quiet court, $289,800!

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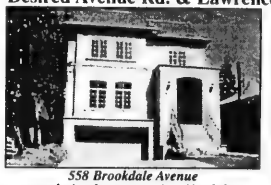

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Features include: 10' ceilings, crown mouldings, marbles, kitchen walk out to deck and large back yrd., Louis XVI gas fireplace, Bosh appliances, Kohler & Jado fixtures, skylights, and numerous other luxuries included in sale price of $798,000.00. **MUST SEE TO BELIEVE.** Call any time for showing or visit **Open House** on Sat. 12 to 5 p.m. & Sun. 1 to 5 p.m. **(416) 876-8703 or (416) 785-0375**

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Detached w/main floor family room w/fireplace, white kit., cac, security. Quiet cres., 2 car gar. & more! Hedda Zaionz* 226-1987

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Olde Thornhill - opportunity to build your dream home - land is affordable! Hedda Zaionz* 226-1987

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BATHURST/LAWRENCE
2 bdrm. suite with balcony & pkg. TTC at door. Avail. March 1st - $800/mthly. lease. Call Eva **782-0479**

10 HOUSES FOR SALE PRIVATE

York Mills/Bayview Custom built 5 bdrm home backing to quiet park. Main fl fam rm & library, 7 baths, cac, nanny suite, fully fin. bsmnt., dble. garage. 4,700sq.ft. $989,000. 364-1063.

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Bath/Lawrence, lovely 2 stry., 3 bdr. home, 4 appl., gar., sunrm., bsmnt., avail. Feb. 1. $1600/mo & util. 416-364-1063.

Clanton Park area, lge., 4 bdr., newly reno'd. 905-660-1919.

Viewmount Ave., 3 bdrm., 3 bth., new kit., kosher, 7 appl., fin. bsmt., great backyard, walk to subway, school, shuls. Avail Feb. 16. $2500/mo. 787-9356.

75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

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Tridel's 265 Ridley (Avenue Rd & Wilson), 2 bdr., panoramic city view, sec., conv. to shopping, restaurants, schools, 401 & subway, $269,900. 782-0581. No agents please.

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

100 Antibes - 3 bdrm., 2 bth., fam. rm., din. & liv. rm., eat-in kit., 6 appl., 3 car gar. $1450 all incl. March 1. 705-484-1539.

50 ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Bath/Steeles looking for middle aged lady for furn. room in quiet home. TTC at door. 225-6277.

55 ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Seeking apt. or condo rental in central Toronto, south of Lawrence. Tenant is responsible professional with references. For one person. Max rent $1,000. Required April 1. Basement not acceptable. You would feel comfortable renting this tenant a self-contained suite within your home or leasing your condo. 416-742-0372.

60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION

Female wanted to share spac. 2 bdrm. house. 2 min. walk to Pape Subway. Friendly area. Non-smoker. $515/mo+. Evelyn at 416-406-2893.

75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

BATHURST-SHEPPARD
Very lg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrms., ample closets, some 1½ baths & 2 balc., roof, laundry, ravine setting, pool, ind. pkg., 6 apts. per flr. From $900.
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130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

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Eglinton/Yonge - $295,000. Two storey house, 1 bdrm. apt. on main flr., 2 bdrms. on upper (both rented), separate entrances. Bsmnt. is unfinished with sep. entrance. Walk to subway & amenities. Demand Location.

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Instructors/Lifeguards wanted for day camp. Must have Red Cross Instructors and NLS. Fax resume to 905-731-0005 or mail to Lubavitch Day Camp, 770 Chabad Gate, Thornhill, Ont., L4J 4V9. Attn: Swim Director.

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Jewish prof. man 48, 5'8" looking to meet Jewish female, 30-40 to start family.CJN Box 7149

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If you believe that dog people should be with dog people and cat people should be with cat people, then read on! This 33 yr. old SJM, 6'1", blue eyes, brown hair, self employed, established, university educated, dog person who has two. I am easy going, humorous, loves sports, outdoors, camping, dining, traveling, movies, kids and much more. I am looking for a SJF, 28-34, good hearted, sincere, slim/medium build, non-smkr. Drop me a letter. CJN Box 7139

SJM. Could you love a sensitive and highly intelligent person who could give you great respect and place you first in all ways? Exceptional, kind, knowledgeable man seeks mature woman who is intellectually sophisticated, honest with integrity, empathetic, compassionate. Seeker is 6' and good looking. Photo preferred (returned) but optional. CJN Box # 7147.

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FRIENDSHIP & COMPANIONSHIP
Professional Jewish widow, 42, have a 2yr old child, very outgoing, good sense of humour, open, enjoy movies, theater, dining & dancing, long walks. Seeking a single Jewish male, assertive, financially secure, professional, non-smoker, sincere, who does not focus on ones attributes. AD#1963

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single Jewish female, 42, tall, warm, intelligent, attractive, curious, strong Jewish identity. Seeking a Jewish male, communicative, healthy, counter mench with strength and integrity, accomplished. AD#1850

ROMANTIC LADY
Single Jewish female, 43, 5'10", attractive, sophisticated, non-smoker, very romantic, enjoy sports, dining and dancing, quiet evenings, live shows. Seeking a Jewish male, 5'10"+, non-smoker, handsome, who enjoys working out, for a serious relationship or friendship. AD#1852

HAPPINESS TOGETHER
Divorced female, 49, 5'6", 173lbs, professional, attractive, non-smoker, down to earth, blond hair, hazel eyes, warm, enjoy movies, dancing, dining out. Seeking a professional male, 49-60, loving, outgoing, honest, romantic, and caring. AD#1835

LOVING
Divorced Jewish female, 38, kind, caring, loving. Seeking a Jewish male, 32-43, who is attractive. AD#1816

INDEPENDENT
Single Jewish female, 48, 5'8", professional, dark eyes, dark brown hair, outgoing, with a great sense of humour, enjoy dining out, dancing, outdoor activities, travelling. Seeking a male, professional, down to earth, sincere, who enjoys dining out and having fun in life. AD#1837

LIKES TO LAUGH
Single Jewish female, 24, auburn hair, brown eyes, enjoy travelling, long walks, candle lit dinners. Seeking a Jewish male, professional, 27-32, who is honest and kind. AD#1838

STRONG FAMILY VALUES
Divorced Jewish female, 52, non-smoker, university educated, enjoy theater, movies, quiet times. Seeking a male, 48-65, non-smoker, university educated, with strong family values. AD#1840

GOOD COMMUNICATOR
Single female, 5'5", 125lbs, attractive, slim, dark hair and eyes, enjoy art, outdoors, films, nature and everything life has to offer. Seeking a down to earth male, who is intelligent, successful and a good communicator. AD#1845

WELL GROOMED
Attractive Jewish female, 38, 5'5", brown hair and eyes, down to earth, family oriented. Seeking an educated male, who is well groomed, intelligent, 37-44, sensitive, active, who likes to have fun. AD#1846

STRAWBERRY BLOND
Single male, 39, 6'1", strawberry blond hair, hazel eyes, enjoy movies, sports, baseball, hockey and football. Seeking a female, 28-48, who is nice, kind, considerate, loving, affectionate and gentle. AD#1841

COMPATIBLE RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish white female, 40's, have many and varied interests. Seeking a mature Jewish male for a compatible relationship. AD#1827

HOLDING HANDS
Single Jewish female, 40's, 5'1", 105lbs, slim, professional, divorced, confident, playful, enjoy art, long walks, theater, dancing, movies. Seeking a slim, youthful male, in his 40's or 50's, who is educated, successful, fit and a non-smoker. AD#1817

FUN LOVING
Single female, 5'5", brown hair and eyes, well groomed, passionate, romantic, fun loving, enjoy long walks, dining out, movies, theater, golfing, spending time with friends. Seeking a male who is a good listener, sincere and romantic. AD#1822

KEEP SMILING
Separated mom of 2 kids, 5'4", 34, medium built, long wavy blond hair, dark blue eyes, dazzling smile, intelligent, unique, sensitive, attractive, enjoy reading, cooking, music. Seeking a male, 35-46, with similar interests. AD#1828

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single female, 35, attractive, young looking, slim, 5'4", brunette, enjoy the theater, travelling, movies, ethnic foods, country and cottage life. Seeking a male, 33-44, professional, employed, intelligent, attractive, and a good communicator. AD#1831

QUALITY SEEKING QUALITY
Lovely lady, accomplished, well travelled, loyal, sincere, compassionate, warm, 136lbs, 5'7", enjoy the arts, love gardening, cooking, movies, theater. Seeking a male, tall, honest, 47-56, who is not afraid to share and enjoys meaningful conversation. AD#1824

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single Jewish female, attractive, 32, 5'7", brown hair, green eyes, enjoy the outdoors, dining and dancing, cooking, candlelight, romantic evenings. Seeking a male, romantic, successful, honest, caring, who is a good communicator and believes that best of friends is the way to a great relationship. AD#1833

Men seeking Women

SOULMATE
Divorced Jewish male, 6', 240lbs, easy going, great sense of humour, enjoy sports, movies, and love to laugh. Seeking a female, 26-31, with similar interests. AD#1818

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single male, Goldsmith and an artist, enjoy music, fine arts, sports, writing. Seeking a female, attractive, single moms OK, 28-38, with similar interests. AD#1907

BEST FRIEND OR LOVER
Single Jewish male, 5'7", 30 something, Andy Garcia looks, impeccable dresser but a cowboy at heart, fun loving, romantic, stable, resourceful, professional. Seeking a Jewish female, late 20's- early 30's, attractive, vibrant, classy and slim. AD#1823

ONCE BITTEN, TWICE SHY
Single male, 50's, financially secure, handsome, from the Thornhill area. Seeking a female, good looking, with a good sense of humour, slim, age is not important, financially secure, a picture is a must after contact is made. AD#1810

FUN LOVING
Single Jewish male, 33, easy going, fun loving, enjoy outdoor activities, movies, long walks, camping. Seeking a female, 25-36, with similar interests. AD#1777

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single Jewish male, 6', handsome, athletic built, love sports and keeping fit, artistic, with traditional values. Seeking a Jewish female, who is ready to make a commitment and start a family, who enjoys life and has old fashioned values. AD#1809

OLD FASHIONED
Single male, mid 30's, old fashioned, sensitive, stubborn, romantic, enjoy cuddling, outdoor activities, movies, camping. Seeking a female, 30-35, with similar interests. AD#1762

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single Jewish male, 36, 5'7", professional, traditional values, warm, fit, and fun. Seeking a Jewish female, late 20's to mid 30's, down to earth, creative, spontaneous, well grounded, with a good sense of humour. AD#1771

LET'S GO FOR COFFEE
Single Jewish male, 32, professional, 180lbs, self employed, own his own business, fit, enjoy all aspects of life, movies, dining and dancing, travelling, working out, motor cycling. Seeking a Jewish female, very down to earth, non-smoker, strong morals and values, clean and neat. AD#1774

LET'S CONNECT
Single male, 19, seeking a female, tall, slim, loving & caring for a meaningful relationship. AD#1814

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, early 50's, down to earth, tall, slim, caring, easy going, professional, enjoy movies & quiet times. Seeking a Jewish female, 39-49, warm, sensitive, and health conscious. AD#1718

EASY TO LOOK AT
Single white male, young looking, late 50's, blue eyes, brown hair, medium built, financially secure, down to earth, great sense of humour, enjoy the outdoors. Seeking an attractive female, caring down to earth, trim figure, of any age. AD#1720

GOOD CONVERSATIONALIST
Single Jewish male, 6', slim, attractive, brown hair, blue-green eyes, have a B.A., enjoy cooking, travelling, movies, dining out. Seeking a Jewish female, 30-34, who is well read. AD#1730

LIKES LAUGHS & OUTDOORS
Divorced Jewish male, 29, brown hair, blue eyes, professional, enjoy outdoor activities. Seeking a female with good sense of humour, caring, & kind. AD#1787

CALL ME
Single male, 32, professional, fit, enjoy motor cycles, travelling, moves, working out, life. Seeking an attractive female, down to earth, fit, who also has a zest for life. AD#1733

COMPANIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 55, professional. Seeking a non-smoking, Jewish female, 50-60, with traditional values, who enjoys the theater, dancing & dining. AD#1710

SEEKING NICE LADY
Single male, 18, enjoy movies, dancing. Seeking a single female with similar interests. AD#1670

MY KIDS TAUGHT ME WELL
Single male, 40, ready to get into life again. Seeking a special lady to share life with. AD#1779

TIME WAITS FOR NO ONE
Single male, 45, conservative looking, enjoy country drives, art auctions, have a business degree, stock market investor and analyzer. Seeking a lady, no need to be slim, for serious relationship. AD#1681

ROMANTIC AND CARING
Single white male, 56, self-employed, businessman, enjoy movies, music, travel, good conversation, quiet times. Seeking a female, compassionate, loving, attractive, sensitive, to be his special lady. AD#1784

ACTIVE JUNIOR SENIOR
Single male, mid 60's, 5'6", non-smoker, Anglo-Jewish background, enjoy music, theater, outdoors, travel, public affairs. Seeking a semi-dependent, warm, educated, outgoing, caring lady, 50+. AD#1690

DON'T MISS OUT
Youthful Jewish senior, 65+, semi-retired, 5'7", 180lbs, blue eyes, thoughtful, sincere, reliable, romantic, affectionate, humorous. Seeking a special lady to share love, understanding, and friendship, 50-64. AD#1676

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Sports

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B.C. athlete jumps to the top in sport aerobics

Ross finishes fourth in Canadian championship

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — At age 23, Tami Ross is the real deal: strong and agile as a gymnast, graceful and poised like a dancer.

Lucky for her, she recently discovered a sport that allows her to combine those elements and perform on a national stage.

Ross is a practitioner of "sport aerobics," not exactly a brand-new out- of-the-box sport, but one that has only recently started to attract the attention of fans and sports television networks in Canada and the United States.

Two weeks ago, in only her second major competition, Ross finished fourth out of 13 athletes in the Open Division at the Canadian National Championships in Ottawa. Last year, in her first foray into the world of competitive sports aerobics, Ross won the silver medal in the Novice Division. She also competed in a mixed event (a team of three women), winning a bronze medal.

The margin of victory in Ottawa was narrow, only about one point between first and fourth, Ross explains. It wasn't one major flaw that cost her a medal, but probably something minor that a casual observer wouldn't even notice. Failing to smile can cost you one-10th of a point, she notes.

In her individual routine, which lasted one minute, 45 seconds, Ross performed the compulsory 12 exercises from "six element pools." They're designed to show flexibility, kicks, strength, balance and power. As in the past, the "power" exercises, which include jumps and leaps, were her strong point and kept her in medal contention.

A native of Richmond, B.C., a suburb of Vancouver, Ross came to the sport naturally. For nine years, she trained at the Richmond Gymnastics Club, competing at the B.C. Winter Games. At the same time, she studied ballet, jazz, tap dancing and hip hop, performing for one year in a hip hop company known as D Funck.

Tami Ross kicks up her heels

She also remained active in Jewish youth activities, participating in United Synagogue Youth (USY) programs from grades 9 to 12 and later serving as a youth group adviser in a USY Kadimah program. Ross was one of 100 young people who travelled to Poland and Israel on a "pilgrimage seminar."

About two years ago, she attended the Regional Sports Aerobics Competition and watched the athletes go through their paces.

"I thought I could do what they were doing," she says matter-of-factly.

She approached a gymnastics instructor who was serving as a judge at the event, and was pointed in the right direction to get her certification as an aerobics instructor. Afterwards, she took a job at a Richmond sports club where she now teaches step classes, power pacing (spinning) and circuit training.

To get an edge over other aerobics aficionados, Ross makes a weekly two-and-a-half hour trek down the highway to Kirkland, Washington, where she trains with a former aerobics champion. "The same two coaches work with all the athletes in Vancouver and I wanted something different," she says.

Only three or four months after she began taking the sport seriously, she participated in the Canadian Nationals, winning the silver. Following her fourth place finish this year – in a more competitive division – Ross says she's upgrading her goals.

"I'd like to finish in the top three at the next Canadian competition," she says. "In the long run, I'd like to attend a world championship."

In 2000, sport aerobics will be a demonstration sport at the Sydney Olympics. It may become a medal sport by the 2004 Games. And Ross believes there's no reason why she can't be on the Canadian team at one of those events.

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The Inside Back

ספרותנו

מאת: יעל זליגר

הזכות לכבוד והחובה לכבד - גם "ילד של שוקולד"

העיתוי לפרסום ספר הילדים ילד של שוקולד תואם את הנושא המרכזי שנקבע ע"י משרד החינוך לשנתיים הבאות: "הזכות לכבוד והחובה לכבד." באווירה חינוכית זו נשא השתלבות הילד האתיופי בחברת הילדים הישראלית הוא מהותי.

לא קל לילד האתיופי; הוא שייך לקבוצה המאופיינת במספר סממני אי-שיכות. בנוסף להיותם עדיין בחזקת עולים חדשים, חסרי אמצעים וממוצא "אחר", לאתיופי צבע עור שמהווה תג שונות מהחברה הישראלית הסובבת. ומדפי ההיסטוריה האנושית האומללה ידוע לנו ששונות בצבע עור היא מן המכשולים הקשים ביותר בנתיב הסובלנות.

מדינת ישראל חוללה נפלאות בפתיחת שעריה לקבוצות אנשים בעלת מיגוון עשיר של שונות. ואולם, על-אף רצונה הטוב של המדינה, לא תמיד הצליחה החברה הישראלית להתגבר בקלות על מצב של שונות. זו איננה ביקורת מהותית על החברה הישראלית אלא קביעה פשוטה הקשורה מן הסתם לטבע האנושי. רק יחידי סגולה אינם סובלים מדעות קדומות המשפיעות על פתיחותנו לשונות.

מכל סוגי השונות, מניב צבע עור את התגובה המידית ביותר אצל ילדים. שלא באשמת איש, למבצע הצלת יהודי אתיופיה של שנות השמונים לא קדמו הכנות תרבותיות-חינוכיות. בתחום ספרות הילדים למשל, החלו להופיע ספרים על ילדים אתיופים וזיקתם לילדי החברה הישראלית רק מספר שנים לאחר מבצע ההצלה.

ילד של שוקולד מאת תגית כהן ואיורים של כריסטינה קדמון, הוצאת ספרית פועלים, יצא זה עתה לאור ותבוא על הספר הברכה. ללא היסוסים והתפתלויות מבקשת תגית כהן לקרב את ילדי הגן הישראלי לילדים האתיופים. צבע העור הוא הענין המרכזי בסיפור. פשוט מאוד, וללא פטרונות מזוייפת מובא בפנינו סיפור (בעזרת איורים נאים) על צבע עור חום כהה שבתחילה מעורר אצל הילדים דימוי של לכלוך אך עם תום הסיפור דימוי עליז ומאוד אהוב.

יום אחד, כך מספר, בעת משחק בחול, בחצר גן הילדים, מכריזה הילדה דנה שהיא "לא רוצה לשחק עם גיל!" גיל, הילד עם שם ישראלי הוא ילד ממוצא אתיופי. שואלת הגננת דליה: למה? ודנה משיבה: "כי הוא מלוכלך!" בתחילה מסבירה הגננת בתמימות שבמשחקי חול כולם מתלכלכים ואחר-כך מתרחצים והכל בסדר. אלא שלאחר כניסת הילדים לגן והרחצה ועריכת שולחן מעדנים לבובות, שוב מכריזה דנה שגיל מלוכלך. הגננת בשלה ומשיבה שגיל אחרי המקלחת ונקי כמו כולם ואז דנה שולפת את שאלת השאלות: "אם הוא נקי - אז למה יש לו צבע כזה?!"

הגננת אינה מחמיצה הזדמנות חינוכית זו ומעדיפה בחוכמתה לא ללכת סחור וסחור ושואלת את דנה: "את חושבת שגיל מלוכלך בגלל שהעור שלו בצבע חום?" וגוצר דיאלוג קצר שבסופו כל הילדים מושיטים ידים ובוחנים את צבע עורם והרי זה פלא, לדנה יש עור בצבע לבן, וגם לטל, לדור צבע קצת חום, לנועה עור חום בהיר ולגיל "יש צבע חום כהה יותר מכולם." אבל מוחה דנה, "הצבע הזה כמו לכלוך!" באמת! דווקא לא כך בעיני דליה; לה מזכיר חום כהה משהו שהיא מאוד, מאוד אוהבת. הילדים מוזמנים למשחק ניחוש מה אוהבת כל-כך הגננת וילד אחד חושב על גוזע עץ, אחר על אדמה, אולי דובי, כלב אהוב אך זה לא זה. דליה רומזת על משהו מתוק, מתוק ובסופו של דבר ובשמחה רבתי ילדי הגן צוהלים: ש-ו-ק-ו-ל-ד!!! שמחה וששון לילדי הגן ודנה... לדנה נהדר שכן כל-כך טוב לשחק עם ילד של שוקולד!

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CANDY BAR BROWNIE CAKE

CAKE — 4 squares unsweetened chocolate
1 cup granulated sugar
1-1/4 cup all-purpose flour
4 Skor chocolate bars, coarsely chopped
1 cup walnuts, almonds or pecans, coarsely chopped and toasted
2/3 cup butter
1 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
3 eggs
2 tsp vanilla

GLAZE 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips 3 tblsp butter

Preheat oven to 325°F. Lightly grease springform pan. Melt chocolate and butter in a saucepan over low heat.

Mix flour with baking powder and salt.

In a large bowl, whisk eggs. Gradually stir in sugar, slightly cooled chocolate mixure and vanilla. Stir in flour mixture until blended. Stir in chopped candy bars and nuts.

Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake for 35-40 minutes or just until cake begins to pull away from sides of pan.

Glaze: melt chocolate and butter in saucepan.

About families

Dear Susan,

I am really upset about the condition of my teenage daughter's room. She never makes her bed and she leaves dirty clothes on the floor. Lately she has also taken to leaving wet towels and food in her room. Can you give me some pointers?

I'm quickly going grey!

Dear Reader,

It sounds as if you are at the end of your rope, held hostage by a tidal wave of clutter. Have courage, this is a common problem with a very real solution.

You need to revisit your rules pertaining to your daughter's room. It is reasonable for you to expect that your daughter will not have food in her room, nor leave wet towels on the floor, and that her dirty laundry should be deposited in a hamper. These three rules will serve to protect her health.

The payoff for your daughter is that you will have no need to enter her room and her privacy remains intact.

A child's room should be their sanctuary. They need to feel it is a place where they can dream, visit privately with friends, or keep a personal journal. These activities are sacred and boundaries ensure one's right to privacy. If boundaries are not respected a whole range of resentment and acting out may occur.

Tell your daughter you respect her need for privacy. In return you ask that she respect your need for a sanitary room. Explain that her neglect in this area can lead to health problems which are not in anyone's best interest. Set up a reward system and try to punctuate the positive before focusing on the negative.

Susan Leventhal is a psychotherapist with 20 years of experience.

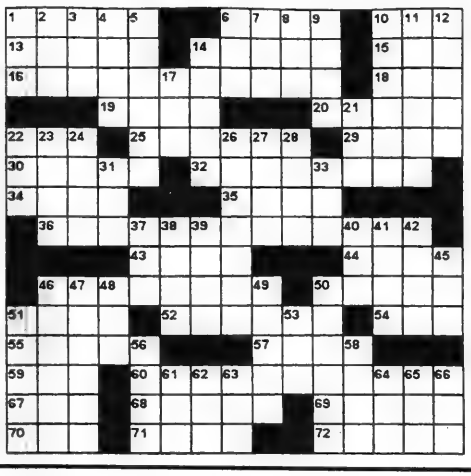
What are you laughing at?

A shipwrecked Jew was rescued after many years on a tiny South Pacific island. Resourceful and energetic, he had done much to improve his lot — including building a hut, planting crops, putting in irrigation ditches and a narrow road. At the end of the road were two small buildings.

"Those," he told his rescuers, "are synagogues."

"But why two? You're all alone."

"Yes, but this one is where I pray and the other I wouldn't go into if you paid me."



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

The Canadian Jewish News

On the Mound

By Matt Gaffney & David Bianco (QSyndicate – aol.com)

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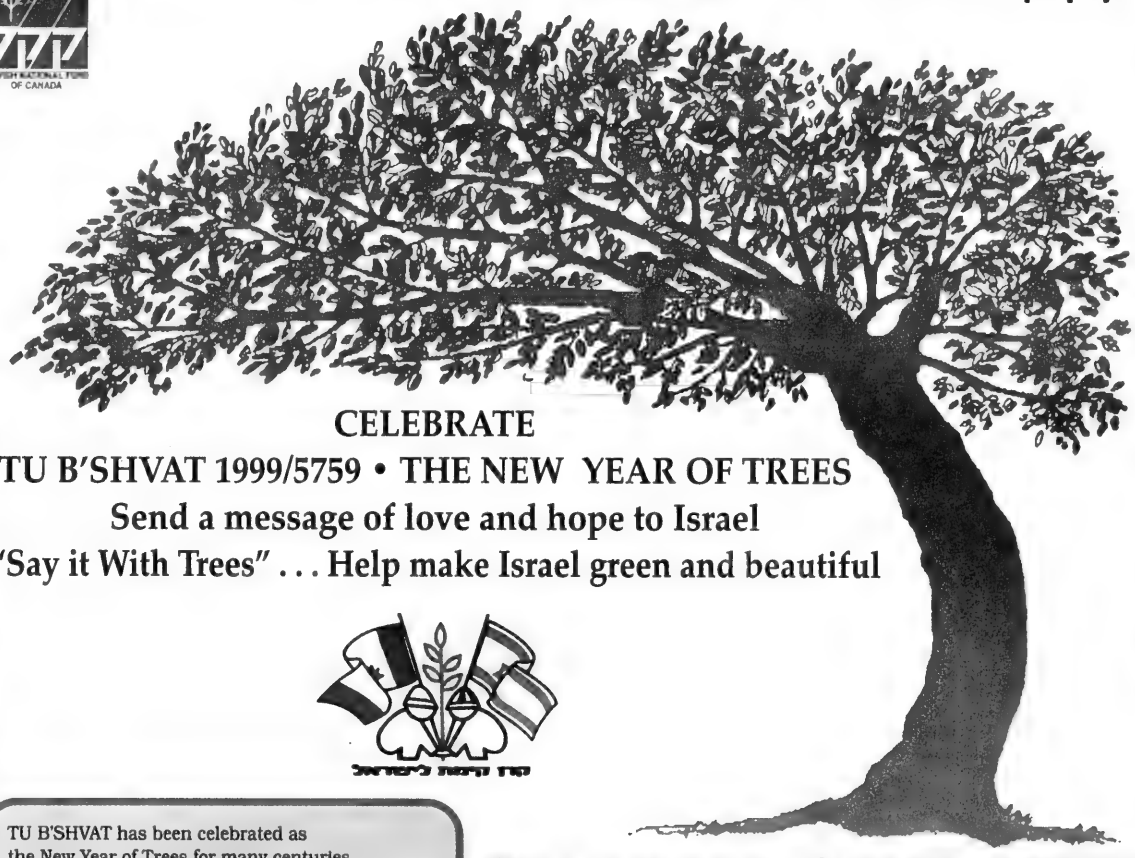

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Shabbat Shekalim: Mishpatim
Candlelighting: 5:25
Shevat 26, 5759
Havdalah: 6:30

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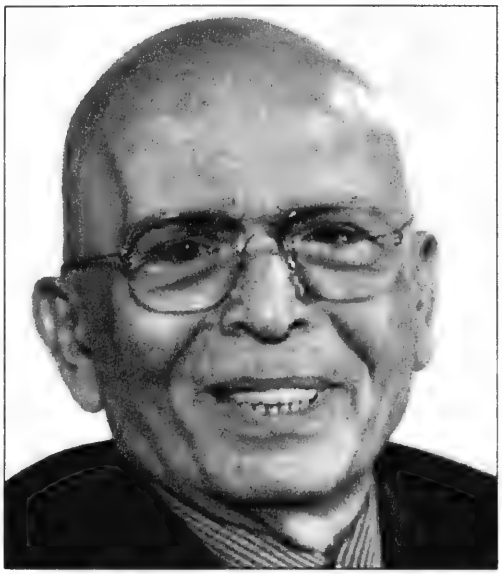
King Hussein mourned



King Hussein as he appeared in October 1998 at the signing of the Wye Plantation Accord at the White House. *[RNS/Reuters photo]*

By VIVA PRESS
CJN Israel Bureau

JERUSALEM — Israel went into mourning last Sunday upon hearing official reports that Jordan's King Hussein had died.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered flags to be flown at half-mast for the once former enemy-turned peacemaker. Israel Radio played sombre music throughout the day, a practice usually reserved for national memorial days and the deaths of Israeli leaders. Two large movie screens played footage of Hussein's life in Tel Aviv's Rabin Square.

The general feeling of Hussein's death was one of sorrow and loss. "I don't feel good about his death," said Yossi Mizrachi, a Jerusalemite for more than 30 years. "We love him, we need him. He wasn't just a friend, but a brother. He was a good man with a good heart."

Mizrachi's sentiments were shared by many. "It wasn't a surprise, but it was upsetting," said Tzafrir, an on-duty soldier in the Nahal brigade. "He was a good man, a good king for Israel and Jordan. It hasn't affected me on a day-to-day basis, but in general it is sad."

"He was a good man, and his death upsets me. He was like one of us," Avi Assayag, a Beit Shemesh resident who works as a security guard in Jerusalem, told *The CJN*. "I hope Abdullah will follow in Hussein's footsteps and that there will be peace."

Although once seen as Israel's enemy, King Hussein lived his last few years as a symbol of Middle East peace. Now people are looking to the new king, King Abdullah II, to carry on this mission.

Hebron resident Samar Muktasib, a father of four, truly wants peace. "I ask for God to help the country so there won't be chaos there, to help Abdullah, to help that there will be peace," Muktasib told *The CJN* in his glassware store in Jerusalem's Arab shuk. "I'm a Muslim, he's a Muslim. When you hear a Muslim died, you're sad. For me, a Palestinian, a Jerusalemite, a Muslim, I'm

Continued on page 22

Harris mum on school funding

Hints at support for school health services

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Ontario Premier Mike Harris did not even mention the question of financial aid to Jewish schools, despite specific requests by Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) regional and national presidents to address the issue.

The premier sat impassively when Ontario region chair Keith Landy and national CJC president Moshe Ronen made their requests and Landy said that young Jews "are mortgaging their future" to pay tuition fees at Jewish schools.

The tax dollars that young Jewish parents pay should follow their children to the school system of their choice, said Landy, in introducing the premier.

However, during a session with Congress' regional leadership prior to the meeting with the regional executive, Harris did agree that students in Jewish and other independent schools should receive the health support services made available to all public school and Roman Catholic school pupils.

"Certain health support services are granted to children with special needs in public and Roman Catholic

Continued on page 16

Ontario's Premier Mike Harris and Attorney General Charles Harnick (left) seen here at their meeting last week with CJC Ontario region chair Keith Landy. *[Stephen Epstein photo]*

INSIDE

A photo retrospective of King Hussein.
Please see page 9.

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A man who was born to be king — pleas

The News in Brief

CANADA

Lubavitch Centre Approved

VANCOUVER — City council here has approved construction of a new $25-million Lubavitch centre. The council and Mayor Philip Owen unanimously approved the building of the proposed six-storey building for the non-profit Central Organization for Jewish Education, Lubavitch British Columbia. To be located on Oak Street, the facility is planned to have 60 condominium units totalling 58,000 square feet, as well as offices and retail outlets.

New JFS Director Named

CALGARY — Roni Nisenson has been named the new executive director of Jewish Family Service (JFS) here. A social worker who moved to Canada from Israel in 1982, Nisenson's first job in this country was at JFS.

ISRAEL

Pledge To Fight Terror

JERUSALEM — Ministers from the Palestinian Authority and seven Arab countries called for an international conference on terrorism. The ministers made their call after a two-day meeting in Jordan, where they pledged to cooperate in the fight against terrorism. The gathering included representatives from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Sudan, Algeria, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates.

Smokers Can't Sue

JERUSALEM — An Israeli court has ruled that a group of 80 smokers cannot file a class-action suit against a cigarette company. The plaintiffs will instead have to seek damages on a case-by-case basis, the court ruled. The plaintiffs had sought some $243,000 each, charging that the Dubek cigarette company had failed to adequately inform the public of the dangers posed by smoking.

Rape Trial Starts

JERUSALEM — A trial began in Israel of a travel agent accused of raping an Israeli woman two months before she won the Miss World beauty pageant. Shlomo Nour, who is charged with kidnapping and raping Linor Abargil in Milan in October, reportedly faces a maximum jail sentence of 56 years if convicted.

Aid Sent To Columbia

JERUSALEM — Israel dispatched aid to the victims of the recent earthquake in Colombia. The relief includes 1.5 tons of medicine and 3.5 tons of food.

WORLD

Russian Developments

MOSCOW — Moscow's mayor has vowed to crack down on political extremism after Russia's largest ultranationalist group marched in the capital. Yuri Luzhkov, a possible contender for the Russian presidency, also lashed out at his own police force for failing to prevent the march by Russian National Unity, whose members favor black shirts and Nazi-style armbands. Meanwhile, Luzhkov last week ordered that neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic newspapers not be sold in a central Moscow square near the Kremlin.

At the same time, dozens of scholars and university students from across the former Soviet Union and abroad gathered here for a three-day Jewish studies conference.

As well, a centre for Jewish studies was inaugurated last week. The centre is being run jointly by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Moscow State University and the Jewish University of Moscow.

Tax Exemption Sought

WASHINGTON — Two members of the U.S. House of Representatives have introduced legislation to ensure that any settlements paid to Holocaust survivors and their heirs are exempt from federal income taxes. Similar bills have been introduced in several states to exempt settlements from state income taxes.

Lauder New Boss

NEW YORK — Ronald Lauder is the new chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. The cosmetics heir and philanthropist received 41 of the umbrella group's 55 member organizations' votes.

Falwell Apologizes

LYNCHBURG, Tenn. — Rev. Jerry Falwell has apologized for saying last month that the Antichrist is a Jewish man who is probably alive today. "I apologize to my Jewish friends here and around the world," Falwell said, adding that he "should have known better." However, Falwell said he was not apologizing for his beliefs.

Moses Film Banned

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysian censors have banned the film *The Prince of Egypt* without explaining their decision. The move against the animated depiction of the life of Moses came five years after Malaysia refused to show the Holocaust epic *Schindler's List* because filmmaker Steven Spielberg, who also made *The Prince of Egypt*, refused to make the cuts demanded by the country's censors.

Matzah Do About Matzah Balls

NEW YORK — It wasn't the Olympics, the World Series or even the Maccabiah Games. This was a truly important test of athletic prowess: a matzah ball-eating contest at Ben's restaurant.

"I'm very excited. I'm psyched," said defending champion Bruce Stock, who had a trainer and nutritionist on hand for last Tuesday's second annual event at Ben's, a Manhattan kosher eatery.

The contest did have a serious purpose: to raise funds for the Interfaith Nutrition Network, which operates soup kitchens and homeless shelters in New York City. Streit's Matzos also helped support the contest, which, all told, raised $5,000 for the nutrition network.

When the matzah meal had settled, two contestants had consumed 11⅛ matzah balls each. Defending champ Stock was not one of them. But he vowed to return next year.

In the sudden-death eatoff, Russell Machover, a 41-year-old investment banker, defeated his 19-year-old rival, Corey Barrett. Together, Machover ate more than 16 matzah balls in the two rounds. "My kids can now say I'm a matzah ball-eating champion," he crowed, but added, "My wife makes them better."

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Katriuk testimony 'not plausible,' citizenship to be lifted

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The ruling on Jan. 29 by the Federal Court of Canada, that alleged Nazi collaborator Vladimir Katriuk of Montreal came to Canada under false pretenses in August 1951, proves that the Canadian government's efforts to strip suspects of their citizenship and deport them, are working, Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) said.

"This was an important case," said CJC national director Jack Silverstone. "It reinforces our view that each case has to be looked at individually."

Silverstone was referring to the fact that the Jewish community was, of late, portrayed as being dismayed by the Canadian government's recent failures to revoke the citizenships of Peteris Vitols and Johann Dueck.

Although Silverstone disagreed with those decisions, there has also "been a fairly reasonable rate of success," he said.

"There is no vast corpus of jurisprudence on this. There is no trend. Each case has to be weighed on its own merits, and I personally believe the government has been going in the right direction.

"The one thing the Jewish community always wanted, is that things be conducted as part of an orderly administration of justice. Each case cannot be seen as a test case," he said.

Katriuk, a 77-year-old retired butcher and beekeeper from Ormstown, was the first Nazi war-crimes case to be tried in Montreal, and the court ruling paved the way for the federal cabinet to strip him of his citizenship, "within weeks," Silverstone said.

Katriuk, however, could challenge subsequent efforts to deport him, a process that could last months.

Katriuk, who once worked for a kosher butcher after moving to Montreal, was "at a loss for words" after the ruling, it was reported in the *Gazette*. At breaks during his testimony last summer, he would pace back and forth nervously in the courtroom.

Katriuk and his lawyers steadfastly maintained his innocence, his attorneys claiming that his wartime activities were never inquired about when he applied for a visa to Canada, and charging that denaturalization efforts have been an underhanded way to try Canadians for war crimes.

Katriuk has no appeal, accord-

Continued on page 19

Collins loses human rights case

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Retired journalist Doug Collins and a Vancouver-area community newspaper, have been ordered to pay $2,000 and apologize for a series of articles that promoted hatred against Jews.

Collins and the *North Shore News* were also ordered to refrain from publishing additional articles that attack Jews, and to print a summary of the decision in an upcoming issue of the newspaper.

In a decision released last week, the British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal found that four articles that appeared between January and April 1994 "collectively and through repetition of anti-Semitic themes, take on a vicious tone that taps into a centuries-old pattern of persecution and slander of Jews."

Tribunal member Tom Patch found that publication of the columns "is likely to increase the risk to Jewish people of being exposed to hatred or contempt."

Collins, who did not attend the tribunal hearings, called the judgment "a direct threat on freedom of expression." He said he was considering challenging the decision.

In 1997, Collins won a case before a human rights tribunal brought by Canadian Jewish Congress. That case focused on a single *North Shore News* column, titled Swindler's List, which attacked the Oscar-winning film, *Schindler's List*.

The tribunal ruled the article, though anti-Semitic, did not "capture the degree of calumny, detestation or vilification signified by 'hatred or contempt' as the phrase is used" in the B.C. Human Rights Code.

A second complaint against Collins was launched by Victoria businessman Harry Abrams, who alleged that four of Collins' articles, taken together, promoted contempt of Jews. The columns, which included Swindler's List, focused on

Continued on page 19

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From the editor's desk

A genuine friend passes on

In the photo in this column we see throngs of Israelis and Jordanians traversing the then newly opened Sheikh Hussein Bridge near Beit Gavriel on Lake Kinneret.

The date was Nov. 10, 1994.

Yitzhak Rabin, who was then prime minister, and King Hussein met in Israel to exchange the peace treaty documents they had signed one month earlier.

It was the first public visit by King Hussein to Israel and, as the news reports recorded that day, "he was given a rapturous reception both by Israeli political leaders and by hordes of cheering and flag-waving schoolchildren."

But of course, it was not the first time the king had actually visited Israel. He had already met secretly with Israeli officials a number of times. One of the most compelling of those visits was on the eve of the Yom Kippur War. "The little king," as he was affectionately known in Israel, had come to the Jewish state urging its leaders to effect some movement in the multilateral political arena to pre-empt an impending explosion in the military arena.

For various reasons, that explosion was not pre-empted. War once again descended on the region in its full brutal force.

The King sent a brigade of his army into Syria, but he did not attack Israel, thus sparing Israeli forces from having having to fight on a third front. Israeli leaders understood the significance of the King's decision.

So too did the Israeli people.

The King was universally liked and respected by the people of Israel.

He was genuine. And the people of Israel knew it instinctively, after five decades of bitter experience measuring the gap between what their neighbors said and what they did.

On that sunny day 4½ years ago, Nov. 10, 1994, King Hussein told the world: "The Israeli and Jordanian people are on the threshold of a peace which I hope generations to come will cherish, protect and enjoy."

He meant every word.

Knowing this to be true, Israelis received him "rapturously" and "hordes of schoolchildren" cheered him and waved their flags.

Rabin responded to the king that day with the following words: "I believe this is the most beautiful thing, the most beautiful act, to end not just the state of war, but to establish the structure of peace, to build the relations of peace."

Now, 4½ years after that sunny November day, both signatories to the peace treaty are gone. Indeed Rabin was murdered almost exactly one year to the day after the photo of the congested, but obviously delighted, human traffic on Sheikh Hussein Bridge.

It is for this reason, the accompanying photo is so precious.

It depicts so plainly but ever so poignantly the "structure of peace" being put into place: ordinary people, and of course, not so ordinary people, simply walking across the metal expanse connecting the two countries, into their neighbor's land, people simply meeting other people.

It was both a deeply symbolic and a deeply substantive act in the slow, incremental nurturing of peace between two neighboring peoples that the late King Hussein sought to his very last moment on earth to help bring about.

And in all its plain and simple ordinariness, the scene of people walking on the bridge, was indeed a "most beautiful thing."The people of Israel and Jews around the world bid a respectful farewell to a genuine friend.

MBD

Correction

The headline for the story on the Shalom Food Project (*CJN Feb. 4*) was incorrect. The program helps provide food for low- income families in the general community.

Jewish Family & Child Service helps to provide food for low-income Jewish families.

The CJN regrets the error.

SEE JN

"TO THE GLORIOUS STATE OF ISRAEL"

This school building in Tegucigalpa, Honduras was used as a shelter for individuals displaced from their homes last December by Hurricane Mitch. [Charlie Moses photo]

'Shidduch' brings together Conservative synagogue districts

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Leaders of the newly formed Canadian region of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism look forward to better serving member congregations as a result of the recent merger of the organization's Ontario region and Eastern Canada region.

Among the plans they intend to implement is a first-ever Canadian conference to address issues such as membership retention, synagogue attendance and religious observance, said regional president Gabe Grushcow of Toronto.

Other anticipated regional events include celebrations of the merger in Toronto and possibly Montreal, as well as a contest to come up with a more appropriate name for the region. (Although the Canadian region serves congregations in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes, Canadian congregations west of Ontario tend to affiliate with geographically closer American regions.)

Celebration plans are not yet firmed up, but "we're calling it a simchah," said Chuck Dixter, senior vice-president of the Canadian region.

"We've been calling this a shidduch," he explained, adding that United Synagogue's central office in New York, which initiated the merger, is known as "the in-laws."

Still in the early planning stages is a program that will match university students from out of town with surrogate families at universities across the region, said Dixter.

The new region retains its former offices in Toronto and Montreal. It is headquartered on Steeles Avenue West in Concord, Ont., and serves 22 congregations – eight in the Greater Toronto Area, five in Montreal, two in Ottawa, and one each in Hamilton, London, North Bay, Sarnia, St. Catharines, Halifax and Saint John – representing an estimated 100,000 people.

Gabe Grushcow

Last July, Shirley Gossack, former part-time executive director of the Ontario region, became full-time executive director and youth director for the two regions. She continues in the same capacity for the Canadian region.

Chuck Dixter

The former regions are now districts of the Canadian region. Grushcow, a retired engineer, is president of the Ontario district, and Dixter, a Montreal dentist, is president of the Eastern Canada district – in addition to their regional positions.

The merger allows the two districts to "have a better infrastructure for both and to be able to provide services and programming to more people on a more thorough basis," said Dixter in a telephone interview.

"We're trying to develop a Canadian point of view," said Grushcow. Canadian Jews tend to be more traditional than their American counterparts, he noted.

In addition, the merger will allow Canadian Conservative Jewry to have a stronger voice on issues such as pluralism in Israel, he said. A case in point is a recent letter-writing campaign to protest the first of three Knesset votes aimed at bypassing Israel's Supreme Court decision requiring the government to appoint Conservative and Reform representatives to municipal religious councils.

The United Synagogue merger was preceded last year by a parallel merger of United Synagogue Youth, the Conservative movement's program for high school-age students, which led to more exchange programs and "much improved" youth programming, said Dixter.

The umbrella organization, founded in 1913, represents some 750 synagogues in the United States, Canada, Mexico and Israel.

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Kolel revives Tu b'Shvat seder

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — As kids, we celebrated Tu b'Shvat, the new year of the trees, by buying trees in Israel and feasting on dried fruit and (usually) dried up boxer (carob).

This year, an old tradition was renewed by Kolel: a centre for Liberal Jewish learning: the Tu b'Shvat seder.

Over 60 people took part in the event, which was led by Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, director of Kolel, and Rabbi Jeremy Schwartz, assistant director. Long tables held trays of fruit, nuts and cookies; green paper leaves hung from the ceiling; and a corner pillar was decorated to look like a tree.

Rabbi Goldstein explained that the Tu b'Shvat seder is "a great kabbalistic tradition that has fallen by the wayside.

"It's all about going into the symbolic level of nature, Torah or life itself," she said.

It is not surprising that the Mishnah, which describes many new years, also lists one for trees, she said. "It made so much sense when we lived on the land. We depended on trees for everything – for shelter, for food, for warmth."

Now, people tend to take nature for granted, said Rabbi Goldstein, adding that we must learn to "re-appreciate it, to be a shepherd and care for the environment."

The seder was modelled after the Pesach seder, with the four cups of wine, the symbolic use of foods, even the concluding prayer *L'Shanah Haba'ah b'Yerushalayim*, Next year in Jerusalem.

The four seasons were symbolized by different colors of wine, particular foods, and unique insights.

Rabbi Goldstein said that in winter, the body shuts down. "We eat too much, stay home, watch too much TV, become couch latkes."

This section of the seder reminds us that we have to force ourselves to care for our bodies, she said.

It is important to realize that one does not connect with God only by mystical means, she said.

She urged the participants to eat almonds slowly. "Really taste them, and realize that both the food and the taste are from God."

Spring is the world of the heart, the world of emotion. "In spring, we thaw emotionally and physically. We are more open to each other, to relationships."

The rabbis say that this is the time we should begin thinking about tshuvah, repentance, in preparation for Rosh Hashanah, Rabbi Goldstein said.

Spring is also a time for lovers, she said, not just romantic love, but also love for one's children, love for a cause, love for God.

Just as winter recognizes the world of the body, so summer recognizes the mind. "Just as in winter, we ignore the needs of the body, in summer we have to be forced to challenge the mind and to grow intellectually," she said.

Raisins, the fruit for summer, is soft all over. The handout for the seder explained that this is like Israel, where no part is wasted, and the Torah, whose every part is sweet.

The wine was half white and half red, warning us to temper the mind with the heart, intellect with emotion.

Autumn is a coming together, the rabbi explained, a "transcendence of mind, body, and heart. We are at one with other people, with our self."

This unity also allows us to prepare for the messianic world, the world of redemption, she said.

During each section of the service, rabbis Goldstein and Schwartz said the blessings over wine or fruit, led the singing of an appropriate song and encouraged discussions between those at the same table.

As is traditional on Tu b'Shvat, a new fruit was served, so that the participants could recite the Shehechianu blessing.

Rabbi Goldstein urged that people pray not just for physical peace in Jerusalem, but for ecological peace as well.

The next day featured seminars on ecology.

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ISRAEL FAIR

Aliyah shlichah Shula Ofir, right, tells 18-year-old Ella Schondorf about Israel-based programs for Canadians. The Kibbutz Program Centre, which is housed in the Israel Aliyah Centre, was one of over a dozen exhibitors at the Israel Experience Fair held recently at the Promenade Shopping Mall in Thornhill. Others included Canadian Young Judaea, Bnei Akiva, Betar Tagar, Habonim Dror, National Conference of Synagogue Youth, Project Otzma, Sar-El, the Canada Israel Experience Centre and Toronto-based representatives from several Israeli universities. This is the fourth year Toronto has held Israel Experience Fairs. A similar display was also held recently at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.

[Frances Kraft photo]

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Greater Toronto Area

Visit to Kiev rekindles old memories, friendships

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — In June 1973, Igor Korenzvit left his native Kiev with his sister and their widowed mother. Friends warned the young man he would be sorry, but Korenzvit's confidence in his decision was unshakable.

"I was born a capitalist, I guess," he jokes now.

On December 11, 1973, the family arrived in Toronto. Korenzvit, then a 27-year-old engineer, had $8.25 to his name, and knew only a dozen or so English words, but he was determined to make a go of it.

Fourteen years ago, he established what is now a successful upscale office furniture business, IKOR Integrated Facilities Inc.

In the past decade, he has become involved in a number of Jewish organizations and serves on the boards of about half a dozen.

Until last year, Korenzvit never seriously considered returning to Ukraine. In December, however – shortly after celebrating the 25th anniversary of his arrival in Canada – he and Bonnie, his Toronto-born wife of 23 years, went to Kiev as part of a Canadian Jewish delegation on its way to Israel for the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations.

The whirlwind 36-hour trip included a poignant reunion with three childhood friends with whom Korenzvit had been close from age 6 until he emigrated.

All four had had much potential – Korenzvit had a good position as an engineer; one friend was a doctor; another an academic (one step above a professor); and the third, an architect.

When the four reunited, Korenzvit was dismayed to learn that – although they were fairly well dressed – none of his friends could afford a car. The doctor, a heart specialist, brings home $120 a month after expenses, he said.

"I knew the situation was bad in Russia, but they were bright and their families were doing well," said Korenzvit.

He answered their questions about life in Toronto with mixed emotions, not wanting to show off or disparage his friends, but also feeling it was his obligation to tell them the truth.

He tried very hard to persuade them to leave the country, he said, sifting through his Kiev photos in an IKOR meeting room. But at age 52 (in a country where life expectancy for males is considerably lower than it is here), the three friends felt they were too old to leave. They were still hopeful that their sons might have a brighter future without having to emigrate, they said.

"It was hard for me to judge if they were rationalizing," said Korenzvit.

He also tried to convince people to leave the country, when the delegation visited Jewish organizations run under the auspices of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Among other services, the organizations help the elderly, and offer Hebrew classes and assistance to prospective olim.

Korenzvit didn't accept the arguments of staffers that people have to decide for themselves about emigrating.

"They can't, because they don't have enough information," he insisted. Canadians, he pointed out, are better informed than local Jews about anti-Semitism in the former Soviet Union.

Kiev's Jewish population has dwindled from 350,000 when Korenzvit lived there to under 100,000.

Twenty-five years later, Korenzvit's perspective on Jewish Kiev had also changed.

Growing up, he knew he was Jewish, but even his parents had no formal Jewish education, having been raised under the Soviet regime. "My parents would go to someone's basement with the windows covered to bake matzah, but we kept it in the basket with the bread. We didn't know you couldn't eat bread [on Passover]."

Nor did they know the details of the 1941 mass killing at Babi Yar on the outskirts of the city. Korenzvit's participation in a memorial service there, reading an English poem and joining other group members in placing red roses on the fresh snow covering the mass graves, was "very, very touching."

A new revelation for Korenzvit was that the puppet theatre he knew as a child was once a synagogue. The "very beautiful" 94-year-old building has since been sold back to the Jewish community by the government. It is in poor shape, but money for repairs, let alone maintenance, is scarce.

They also visited the synagogue Korenzvit remembers from his one childhood visit. "We were afraid to go there," he recalled.

The nursery where he took his little sister, atop his shoulders, now houses a Jewish organization that was on the group itinerary. Around the corner was the run-down apartment where he used to live. The kitchen fan he installed 27 years ago is still visible from outside.

It was his first time back to Kiev in 25 years. Igor Korenzvit, below, stands at the doorway to the apartment in which he grew up. At right, he visits the synagogue of his youth. "We were afraid to go there," he recalled.
[The photo of the synagogue has been altered to eliminate the reference in the priestly blessing of the Hebrew spelling for God's name.]

In retrospect, Korenzvit is glad he decided to go. He took every opportunity to supplement the remarks of the local guide and feels he helped other group members get a complete picture.

But he was much happier when it came time to leave for Israel. "I have to tell you, it was like I couldn't wait to leave," he said, his tone of voice leaving no doubt that he meant each word.

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A rare man

Many special images come to mind as we remember King Hussein ibn Talal of Jordan. There is the most recent image of the frail, obviously ill man who left his hospital bed in Minnesota in late October to travel to Wye Plantation in Maryland to help ensure an agreement between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat.

Or we can recall the image of the monarch wearing his ancestral, red-checked, Bedouin kaffiyeh standing on Har Herzl in Jerusalem alongside the blue and white flag-draped coffin of Yitzhak Rabin, eulogizing the Jewish man he called "brother."

Perhaps the most poignant of the many poignant images, however, was that of the sovereign ruler of Jordan kneeling in sorrow before each of the grieving families of the eight Israeli school girls killed by a Jordanian soldier at Naharayim two years ago.

He was indeed a rare man and a rare leader. After Anwar al-Sadat, he was the only one among all of the Arab heads of state in the region who demonstrated peace as much as spoke about it, who set an example of peace to his own people, and finally, who signed a treaty of peace with the Jewish state.

He was, of course, not a perfect man, nor a perfect ruler, nor always a perfect friend, but he was sincere and courageous and, as most Israelis will agree, he became a much admired, trusted, honored ally.

The countries of the west, including Canada, must quickly act to help ensure the economic stability of the nation that he passes on to his son Abdullah. For there are many cruel and callow villains lurking in the high weeds of the harsh Middle East who will soon test the strength and the mettle of young king.

King Hussein is dead. May God rest his soul.

A good deal

Not to be overlooked in the drama of last weekend's events was the signing of the social union accord last Thursday by the federal government, nine provinces and two territories. The leaders of the country who sat around the table are to be commended. They struck a good deal.

Political and governmental experts will still be debating the substantive merits of the agreement well into the next millennium. But the key achievement was in the very fact that an agreement was signed at all, for it meant that compromise and cooperation carried the day, that principle found its reasonable balance with pragmatics, and that common national interest was given higher priority than discrete provincial interest.

The federal government retains the right to act in the social sphere but has promised not to do so unilaterally. The provinces will receive substantially enhanced financial abilities to directly provide health, education and social programming for their residents.

And a mechanism will be established to resolve the disputes that will inevitably arise between the two levels of government.

Predictably, Quebec did not join the consensus, despite the many alternative proposals for doing so suggested by other provinces. The people of Quebec, however, will not be deprived of their share of the new funding that will flow to the provinces over the next three years.

It does appear, however, that they have been deprived the opportunity to join formally in a new, evolving, cooperative federalism – a federalism that acknowledges the need, enshrines the legitimacy and devises appropriate ways for both levels of government to operate in the social field for the benefit of everyone in Canada.

WISDOM OF THE AGES

"Do not extend your hand to a wicked person to become a corrupt witness."(Parshat Mishpatim)

Dry Bones

THE MILLENNIUM BUG WAS CAUSED BY COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS
WHO DID NOT BELIEVE THAT HUMAN SOCIETY WOULD LAST 'TIL THE YEAR 2000!
WOW.
SO THERE'S STILL 347 DAYS LEFT TO PROVE THEM RIGHT?
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Claims researchers on PA books not credited

Re: PA "preparing children for war" (*CJN*, Jan. 28). David Bedein did not research the PA school books. The research was conducted by a different organization called the Centre for the Monitoring of Peace. The full report on PA books is available at the centre's Web site – http://www.edume.org. Bedein was misleading you by claiming this material as his own.

These are the facts: The research was initiated by Andre Marcus of Monaco, who also funded the project. Marcus realized that no other research of this kind had ever been conducted, and wanted to see if peace was in fact being taught as a result of the Oslo accords. The research was carried out by Itamar Marcus, director of research for the project, together with Prof. Yochanan Manor and myself, and a large staff of translators who reviewed and analyzed 140 PA school books over a period of a year.

Yisrael Y. Feldman
Jerusalem, Israel (Originally from Toronto)

Objects to columnist Gerber's views on Orthodoxy

Jean Gerber in past columns and particularly in her column of Jan. 28 seems to relish the very same "gut-wrenching slanging" that she herself condemns in others. Words like "ugly…disgusting…[and] zealotry" have no place in a discussion of the religious divisions among Jews today.

Furthermore, to describe other Jews as having the motivations of "crass" politics and money "wringing" is unwarranted and irrelevant to the issues, imputing expedient and base intentions to your opponents. It is the empty rhetorical gimmick of one who herself is not truly interested in "honest dialogue."

I am sure that many would like to challenge her false accusations and portrayals of the Orthodox position, her questionable interpretations of Jewish history and her faulty criticisms of the analogy between the rules of religion and sport.

Robert Levine
Toronto

Montrealers schlepped equipment to Israel

On Jan. 12, the Israeli under-17 junior hockey team played a game against Bialik High School. The game was truly spectacular, not because of the level of play, but because of who the participants were. The fact that a group of Israelis played a game in a sport that was unknown in that country prior to 1990, is remarkable to say the least.

If one were to ask how these kids got to the Samuel Moskovitch Arena, the correct answer is not because some New York philanthropist brought them to Montreal, nor is it because Bialik High School invited them. The Israelis are able to ice this team because of the efforts of a group of Montrealers who have been schlepping equipment to the Metulla ice rink in Israel for over seven years now.

The Canadian Friends of Israeli Winter Sports, formerly, the Canadian Friends of the Israeli Ice Hockey Association, guided by the efforts of David Lisbona and Larry Markowitz, has sent over 800 pounds of equipment to Israel since 1991. Every native Israeli who skated last night owes his success in the sport, in part, to this organization.

The true mark of success of the Israeli Ice Hockey Association cannot be measured in goals and points, but rather in the fact that it even exists at all. In not acknowledging those people who have truly made it all possible, the organizers unfortunately missed the boat, or should we say the net.

Isaac Cohen
Montreal

Society missing the boat on value of seniors

My work as a social worker at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care has enabled me to see and to understand that we sometimes miss out on the wealth of experience that our seniors have accumulated in their lives.

At the end of World War II, after escaping tyranny, Holocaust survivors had to return to living life. These very same heroes started new jobs, learned new languages, married/remarried and started families. They began to live as we do, with dignity, with spirit, with the desire to go on. Their blueprint for life continued to be survival.

There is not much room for elderly heroes in our frenetic culture. The shame of it is that all generations lose when the young and the busy, don't have the time to listen to our living history. Their stories, the distillation of their lives, deserve our recognition and perpetuation.

Wally Reinstein, MSW CSW
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Recollections and images of a king

Clockwise from above: King Hussein at the Defence Ministry in Tel Aviv in December 1997 with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, trying to revive the stalled peace talks; at the White House signing ceremony last October for the Wye Plantation accords; speaking to those assembled on Har Herzl at the funeral for slain prime minister Yitzhak Rabin; at the formal signing in the Arava Desert on Oct. 26, 1994, of the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan; comforting the family of one of the Israeli schoolgirls killed by a Jordanian soldier while on a school outing at Naharayim; with prime minister Yitzhak Rabin in November 1994, exchanging the peace treaty documents that they had signed a month earlier.
[photos by Israpet, RNS/Reuters and IPPA]

Opinions

The Itzik Mordechai factor

One hundred days before the Israeli election, the fog is beginning to lift. It now appears that the three serious contenders for the position of prime minister will be the incumbent, Benjamin Netanyahu, Opposition leader Ehud Barak, and former defence minister Itzik Mordechai.

Shira Herzog in Toronto

Mordechai, who is not well known to North American audiences, recently joined the new, centre party after being summarily fired by Netanyahu. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Dan Meridor and Roni Milo all agreed to give him the top slot on their list.

While Mordechai's defection from Likud does not carry the same ideological weight as Meridor's earlier departure, it is another concrete indication of the crisis of confidence within the Netanyahu cabinet. Mordechai is relatively new to politics.

The son of Kurdish immigrants who came to Israel from Iraq in 1951, he had a successful military career, and reached the rank of general, responsible for the Central Command. In 1996, when he decided to run for office, Mordechai held lengthy talks with Labor, his first political choice. When Shimon Peres refused to promise him the position of defence minister, Mordechai turned to Likud, where he extracted the same promise from Netanyahu.

For Netanyahu, Mordechai's appeal to centrist, security-minded voters, combined with his Mizrachi (Middle Eastern) origins, were an important plank in his election campaign. Indeed, many observers argued that Mordechai "gave" Netanyahu the centrist voters, who were crucial to his success.

Throughout the tenure of the Netanyahu government, Mordechai has been pegged as one of the "dovish" ministers, firmly committed to the Oslo process. He has been courted by the Americans, and is viewed as a critical factor in the success of the Wye talks last October.

Others criticize him as indecisive, and as motivated more than anything by his personal need to maintain a senior position on the Netanyahu team. Netanyahu has perceived Mordechai as a threat and, therefore, as a rival to be managed.

In fact, it was Netanyahu's refusal, this time around, to guarantee Mordechai the defence post in the next Likud government that finally pushed Mordechai to leave the ranks. (Netanyahu calculated that even if he won, the next government would likely be a unity government, in which the defence slot would go to Barak or Shahak, then the lead man in the centre party).

When Mordechai met with Shahak, Meridor and Milo to explore the potential for himself in the centre party, he presented them with both an opportunity and a threat. By then, the "big bang" of the centre party had been reduced to a faint whimper.

Shahak was dropping in the polls, and he and Meridor had not yet agreed on the leadership of their list. Mordechai's obvious ability to draw voters from the right made him irresistible to the threesome at the helm of the fledgling party.

Shahak was relieved of the need to face the reality of his own dropping popularity. Meridor, on the other hand, was forced to concede the chance to fight for the top slot himself. His image as an "almost No.1" is now likely to stick forever.

As for Milo and Mordechai, only time will tell if their differences can actually be bridged. Milo (also formerly with Likud) embarked upon this new political venture on a single-issue platform – the fight against religious coercion.

He succeeded in raising significant funds abroad by appealing to members of Reform and Conservative congregations, who have been angered by the proposed conversion law and other measures taken by the Orthodox parties and the rabbinate.

Mordechai, in turn, describes himself as traditional, and professes a close relationship with the leadership of the powerful ultra-Orthodox party, Shas.

The inherent conflict in the new Milo-Mordechai alliance was demonstrated in the last week of January, during the Knesset vote on a new bill dealing with religious councils.

Earlier, the Supreme Court had ruled that Reform and Conservative representatives must be allowed to serve on the councils (which deal with all aspects of religious services provided by the state). In response, a bill was tabled in the Knesset, requiring all members of the religious council to accept the authority of the Orthodox rabbinate.

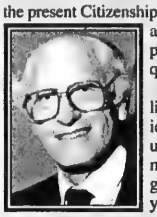
Mordechai's "yes" vote broke the deadlock, but illustrated the difficulty he and Milo will face in drafting a coherent platform to take to their voters.

In Israel, perhaps more than anywhere else, politics make strange bedfellows. In the course of the next 100 days, several new permutations could emerge. Barak may yet try to convince Mordechai to join the broad Labor umbrella, entitled "One Israel."

If Mordechai insists on running alone, the key question will be to whom he will throw his support in the almost-certain second round. Even if the new party does not survive into the future, its ultimate significance may be its role in toppling Netanyahu.

Canadian citizenship redefined

On Dec. 7, the federal government tabled Bill 63, a new law on Canadian citizenship that would replace the present Citizenship Act. I both welcome and regret some of the proposed changes, and question some others.



Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Some critics believe that the new residency requirement is unduly onerous. Formerly, a new immigrant had to wait five years before he or she could become a citizen. That has not changed, but the government proposes to reduce the provision that the applicant must have spent at least three of the five years in the country. This is a reduction from the former four-year stipulation and is to be welcomed. But in my opinion, it is still onerous for people whose business requires repeated absences from Canada or whose health may suggest that a warmer clime during the winter would be beneficial or even necessary. Requiring three years' physical presence out of the five-year obligation span is more than is required by many other countries. Australia and the United States require only two years.

This rule also does not take into consideration the fact that the applicant may already have resided in Canada for many years.

The language requirement is also increased: The applicant must now show a knowledge of either French or English. That looks OK at first sight, but the knowledge of one of our national languages must be sufficient to pass oral and written exams. If that rule had been in existence years ago, many of our grandparents would not have passed, for being able to speak a language is one thing; commanding it sufficiently for an exam is another.

Citizenship judges (who are appointed without necessarily being lawyers) will no longer have the responsibility for making decisions on individual applications. These will be made by bureaucrats in an administrative rather than a judicial process, which rules out the normal course of appeals. From now on, the minister can annul citizenship of people who are believed to have obtained it by using a false identity or who have been judged ineligible for other reasons. Though the minister may be in error, there will be no court to review his or her actions.

Up to now, a child born to Canadian citizens has automatically become a citizen – but no longer. Citizenship can be passed on only for two generations to descendants born outside of Canada. Fortunately, this provision has one exemption: If the person thus deprived of the opportunity of being a citizen risks statelessness, the opportunity to become a citizen remains. But even so, there is a worrisome flaw: The bill introduces a distinction between children of naturalized and of native-born citizens. It is a distinction of dubious worth.

The proposed changes are not radical, but I always question an arrangement that provides for bureaucrats to make decisions against which there is no appeal. It may shorten proceedings, but it will not make them necessarily fairer or more humane.

On the whole, the new law would uphold a basic principle: that Canadian citizenship is a privilege, and privilege never comes without obligations.

Sticks ... stones ... and words

Words can kill. Perhaps not directly, but certainly indirectly. Every recent case of genocide, from the Holocaust to Rwanda to Bosnia to Kosovo, has been accompanied by a torrent of words, which we now term as "hate speech." Sometimes these words do not lead to action. But at times they do, or at least they seem to reinforce and exacerbate existing hatreds, with horrific results.

Morton Weinfeld in Montreal

For this reason, all liberal democracies with the exception of the United States have laws in place which restrict speech that promotes hatred against identifiable groups. But these laws are not and should not be aimed at speech which some group may find offensive. A higher standard is required, and for good reason. Too often we can be offended by speech with which we disagree. Critical speech, argumentative speech, offensive speech – these are not hate speech.

What is ironic is that the United States, the lone liberal democracy with a nearly absolute standard of free speech, is nevertheless prone to fits of political correctness that are as ludicrous as any that might be caused by a misapplication of hate speech laws. Indeed, my sense is that speech is at least as free in Canada, with its hate speech laws at federal and provincial levels, as it is in the United States. We are not waging "culture wars" on the American scale.

A recent American case is tragicomic. A white aide to the black mayor of Washington D.C. has had to submit his resignation. In a private conversation with two other officials, one of whom was black, the white aide said, "I will have to be niggardly with this fund because it's not going to be a lot of money." The black official stormed out, the incident became public, and the aide – who happens to be gay – is looking for a new job.

The problem here is that the word "niggardly" is not a racial slur. The word is Scandinavian in origin, apparently dating back to a 14th-century Scandinavian word meaning miser. But to lexical hard-liners, that may still not be benign. The past president of the National Bar Association wondered: "Do we really know where the Norwegians got the word?"

As of this writing I do not know what the last word will be in this case. Perhaps the backlash will force the mayor to rehire his aide, who had never had the slightest blemish of racism or prejudice on his record. The gay community is not pleased, and even leaders in the black community are divided, with some embarrassed at this obvious overreaction.

There have been previous cases where misspoken slurs have taken a toll. Recall the fallout from Jesse Jackson's use of the term "Hymietown" for New York. The difference here is that this was no misunderstanding, but a deliberate slur. Still Jackson was quickly rehabilitated.

In similar fashion, Pat Buchanan directed slurs against American Jews, and while taken to task, he was also rehabilitated in short order. Both Jackson and Buchanan now host U.S. TV talk shows.

Language conditions our thoughts in subtle ways. I once read how militant feminists rejected use of the word "seminal" as in the phrase "a seminal idea," arguing it reinforced male domination. Why not use "ovular" instead? The first reaction of many is to laugh. But in fact, it is precisely through such subconscious manipulations that language reinforces stereotypes.

English is full of uses of words like "black" or "dark" to denote evil, danger or harm. On the other hand, "white" is often associated with purity. Brides wear virginal white; we say "pure as snow;" and in older westerns, invariably the outlaw was dressed in black, while the Lone Ranger was dressed in white. Even his horse was white. And the use of masculine pronouns also has demeaned the status of women. While I don't use the word "herstory," I will try to mix "him and her" when referring to non-specific nouns (e.g. every medical researcher should value her independence).

So there is no harm in being aware of the subliminal effects of language and trying to cut down on the use of words that can promote inequality or reinforce negative stereotypes. But this sensitivity should not make us so thinskinned that our conversation and debate become emasculated – oops. Indeed, the purveyors of hate speech want nothing more than to obfuscate the distinctions between their explicit, harmful messages and the more benign phrases to which some people might take offence.

The Kirshner File

Tulchinsky plows furrows of Canadian Jewish history

Montreal's late 19th-century garment industry opened Gerald Tulchinsky's eyes to the riches of a relatively unfurrowed but fascinating field – Canadian Jewish history.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Twenty years ago, Tulchinsky, a Queen's University historian, specialized in urban and economic issues. He was an authority on the Canadian business elite and the timber trade in the Ottawa Valley. His first book was *The River Barons: Montreal Businessmen and the Growth of Industry and Transportation, 1837-53.*

But after contributing a number of essays on the mercantile class to the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Tulchinsky realized that he had found his true calling.

While gathering material for these articles, he discovered that Jews, both as owners and workers, had played a crucial role in an industry which catered to an emerging mass market in Canada, the so-called rag trade.

"It was my launching pad into Canadian Jewish history," explained Tulchinsky, the son of a Ukrainian immigrant storekeeper who settled in Canada in 1924. "I began from a business perspective, but as I delved deeper into the rthythm, language and culture of Montreal Jewry, I developed a broader interest in Canadian Jewry."

After producing a series of monographs on Jews for such periodicals as *Canadian Ethnic Studies* and *Journal of Canadian Studies*, Tulchinsky wrote *Taking Root: The Origins of the Canadian Jewish Community*. The book, published in 1992 to critical acclaim, spanned the period from 1760 to 1920.

Late last year, the sequel appeared. *Branching Out: The Transformation of the Canadian Jewish Community* (Stoddart) brings the story right up to date. Tulchinsky describes it as an overview rather than an encyclopedia because each chapter has the makings of a book.

Hewing closely to its title, he concludes: "Canada's Jews...have entered the Canadian mainstream to a degree undreamed of in 1921... and (today) constitute a much different community..."

Tulchinsky, 65, claims that Canadian Jewish historiography is still in its formative stages, but is showing some of the sophistication that characterizes works on Jews in the United States and Britain.

"They're a generation or so ahead of us there," he said, referring to American and British historians like Henry Feingold, Naomi Cohen, Cecil Roth and Basil Williams. "In Canada, we're getting started."

Tulchinsky claims that two distinguished pioneers – Louis Rosenberg (*Canada's Jews: A Social and Economic Study of the Jews in Canada*, 1939) and Benjamin Sack (*History of the Jews in Canada*, 1948) – laid the groundwork for Jewish historiography in this country.

But since they lacked the resources, time and research funds, their books were neither comprehensive or definitive.

In his view, the field has grown significantly in the past two decades, having attracted writers of the calibre of Rabbi Stuart Rosenberg (*The Jewish Community in Canada*), Erna Paris (*Jews: An Account of Their Experience in Canada*) and Irving Abella (*A Coat of Many Colors*).

Tulchinsky believes that the Canadian Jewish Historical Society, of which he is a member, has helped foster interest by encouraging and publishing research in its journal, *Canadian Jewish Studies*. "It provides a forum for young and upcoming scholars," he said.

Scoffing at the hackneyed notion that Canadian history is intrinsically monotonous, Tulchinsky thinks it is every bit as dramatic and exciting as, say, American history. "It may be presented in schools in a boring fashion, but I don't blame the teachers. It's the fault of the people who design the curriculum."

A graduate of the University of Toronto and McGill, Tulchinsky is currently working on two books. The first explores the Canadian clothing industry from 1850 to 1980. The second, with co-author Adam Fuerstenberg, a retired academic from Toronto, is a biography of J.D. Salsberg, the left-wing politician, labor unionist, Yiddishist and *Canadian Jewish News* columnist who died in 1998.

"You can't understand the social, economic and political life of Jews in Canada in the 20th century without looking closely at the experiences of thousands of Jewish men and women who, at one point in their lives, labored in garment factories and belonged to unions," he said by way of explaining his fascination with this subject.

According to Tulchinsky, Salsberg was clearly a man for all seasons. "He was a beloved and revered figure, a defender of the Jewish people." The biography, he said, will be based on Salsberg's papers and interview tapes.

Further in the future,Tulchinsky plans to crank out profiles of influential Canadian rabbis. In his pantheon will be, among others, Nathan Gordon and Harry Stern of Montreal, and Maurice Eisendrath and Abraham Feinberg of Toronto. "They're among the most interesting and important figures in Canadian Jewish life in the early 20th century."

Born and raised in Brantford, Ont., Tulchinsky, the father of three children, proffers the unorthodox belief that the current preoccupation with Holocaust memorials, the pursuit of alleged war criminals, the excessive concern over anti-Semitism and the mounting worries about mixed marriages offer little support for future growth in the Canadian Jewish community.

In fact, he warns, they may be "dangerous and irrelevant distractions." What, he asks, do these topics tell the younger generation about today and the future?

Jewish schools, however, do "offer hope and can activate the real possibility that Jewish culture, in its many forms, will continue."

***

The beauty of *Branching Out: The Transformation of the Canadian Jewish Community* is that you can sample and nibble on its wares in separate sittings.

Tulchinsky appears to miss nothing of importance - from population shifts and federal immigration policy to anti-Semitism and the spectre of Quebec separatism.

His discussion of farm colonies out West is instructive. Due to the fact that such farms were seriously undercapitalized, the number of Jewish farmers fell drastically in the 1930s. Nowadays they are an endangered species.

Gerald Tulchinsky

He discusses the explosive Jewish school question in Quebec, which exposed the veins of intolerance in that province. And his survey of the garment industry, which employed three-quarters of Montreal's gainfully employed Jews in 1931, is enlightening.

Tulchinsky's epilogue, in which he analyzes the differences between the community in 1920 and today, is revealing.

There are now an estimated 360,000 Jews, up from 121,000 in 1921, and the vast majority are Canadian-born. Immigrants come from far-flung lands, not just eastern Europe. Toronto, rather than Montreal, is at the centre of the Jewish universe in Canada. And Winnipeg has given way to Vancouver. Meanwhile, small-town communities are heading toward oblivion.

As a collectivity, Jews are far better off than their grandparents, with the highest average incomes, the best levels of education and the highest rates of participation in the professions.

Serious anti-Semitism has almost disappeared, and Canadian Jewry has become an assertive, well-off, confident group.

What a difference a few generations make.

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Rabbinic Reflections

By RABBI DANIEL KOMITO GOTTLIEB

The meaning of camp

Having celebrated Tu b'Shvat, and in the process having looked beyond the snow and imagined the warmth of spring and the blossoming of the almond trees, I have continued my acceleration of the seasons.

At this moment, I am enjoying an imaginary summer. The sun is shining. Each morning I watch it come up over the lake, its brilliance scattered across the surface of the water.

I am at a Jewish summer camp. And there is no place I'd rather be.

For the past 28 years, I have spent all or part of every summer at one of the Jewish educational summer camps of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Reform movement with which my congregation is affiliated.

And this year, for the first time, I will be able to spend such a summer here in Ontario, at the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism's (CCRJ) Camp for Living Judaism, near Parry Sound.

There are several reasons why you should send your children to join me, or to attend any one of the Jewish educational summer camps run by our community's religious and/or Zionist movements.

If your children are below the age of bar/bat mitzvah, a Jewish educational summer camp will reinforce their Jewish learning and strengthen their Jewish identity.

The camp will provide a communal setting in which to live the Judaism that has been learned in the classroom, and role models for Jewish life and leadership.

And after bar/bat mitzvah, the key to Jewish life is meaning, and when you are a teenager, meaning is directly related to friends. One of the keys to developing a circle of Jewish friends is Jewish camping.

My friend Joel Lurie Grishaver, a Jewish educator whom I met at a Jewish camp, once wrote, "The over-simple concept is this: Kids date people they hang out with. Therefore, to increase the odds that your kids will date Jews, and therefore more probably marry a Jew, you want them to hang out with other Jewish kids.

"When they were little you could arrange play dates and influence their friendship patterns. Now, the more you push, the less likely you are to achieve results. The more you criticize their friends (and their dates), the more likely it is that you will be completely ignored.

"So the over-simple logic is this: If you can manage to get them to spend a whole or part of a summer at a Jewish camp, you have the greatest single chance at allowing them to make friends on their own."

Now let's be less simple. Jewish friends are not anywhere near enough. Jewish friends won't keep your children from interdating. (Just look at the statistics.)

To increase the odds, your children need Jewish friends with whom they do Jewish things. Therefore a camp full of Jews is not the same as a Jewish camp. You want a setting in which Judaism is made meaningful and important (but still very playful and a lot of fun).

When that happens, there are positive social and intellectual forces pulling your child to date someone with whom they can share those experiences.

So if this summer's plans are still up in the air, send your child to a Jewish educational camp. That's where my children will be. And me. And my wife. (We met at a Jewish camp...)

Rabbi Daniel Komito Gottlieb is the rabbi of Temple Kol Ami in Thornhill, Ontario.

Ideas through the ages

***The Seekers, The Story of Man's Continuing Quest to Understand His World*, by Daniel J. Boorstin (Random House, $34.95).**

Daniel Boorstin is a polymath – he knows many things and is able to write about them in a popular and engaging manner. For 12 years he served as the librarian of Congress and was also director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

Books
Bernard Baskin

The Seekers is the third and final volume in a monumental trilogy. The previous two books, *The Discoverers* and *The Creators*, were highly praised for their grand style, fertile imagination and clear and authoritative presentation of a mass of material.

This book, about half the length of the others and less detailed, presents the thoughts of about 50 individuals from the time of Socrates to our own age.

The author divides the history into three sections: antiquity's foundations in the biblical, classical and medieval traditions; the evolution of political science from Thucydides and Machiavelli to Rousseau; and modern thinkers' quests for truth, whether Emerson's transcendentalism, William James' pragmatism, or Bergson's élan vital.

The text is studded with deftly drawn portraits of the groundbreaking "seekers," replete with anecdotes about them along with evaluations by the author of their importance in intellectual history.

In discussing the idea of the Covenant between God and the children of Israel, the author writes that this peculiar covenant relationship proclaimed God's preference for a freely given obedience. This signalled the divine intention that man's life should be ruled by his choices and was the historic Hebrew affirmation of free will. As the ancient Hebrews were His chosen people, so He was their chosen God.

In his brief analysis of the biblical story of Job, Boorstin writes, "Why would a good God allow evil in the world He had created?

In discussing Kierkegaard, (1813-1853), the earliest of the existentialists, Boorstin indicates that "the classic parable of the terrifying responsibilities of existence is the story of God's command to Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac to prove his faith. For God's demand violated all the accepted rules of morals and of religious, civil, and family law."

Did God have a right to demand such an immoral act of Abraham? And if so, did Abraham have a right to obey the command? Abraham faced a dreadful choice, a personal responsibility. Was there a "higher law" that overrules the moral law?

Abraham seemed ready to act as if he believed so. But God rescued him from the awful choice by providing a ram in the thicket to replace the sacrifice of Isaac. This parable became embodied in the Hebrew conscience as a divine command against human sacrifice.

Henri Bergson (1859-1941) the Jewish-French philosopher and man of letters was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1928.

A few weeks before his death at the age of 81, despite the exemption offered him, Bergson left his sickbed, in order to register as a Jew and to shame the German-inspired Vichy government that had barred Jews from holding educational posts in France.

The author asserts that Albert Einstein never stopped seeking. In 1955, the doctors had given up efforts to save him and he must have known he was at the point of death.

He asked to see his equations and his unfinished statement declining the presidency of Israel. He reportedly picked up his equations first and complained to his son at his bedside, "If only I had more mathematics."

This readable, sweeping history has some obvious shortcomings. The author's choices are all white and male and there is little indication of contributions from other parts of the globe.

Moreover, there are gaping omissions. Where are Da Vinci, Hobbes, Hume, Russell, Darwin, Mendel, Malthus? But Boorstin has written the book he intended, a splendid conclusion to a major literary and historical set of books. Numerous readers will be grateful.

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

What Jews hold sacred

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

As Socrates discovered long ago, education is the attempt to formulate the right questions, not produce "correct" answers. In the morass of opinions that currently weigh down the debate over conversion to Judaism, it is this search for the right question that must set the tempo of discussion with students.

The problem has been variously formulated in a number of standard and often melodramatic queries: Who is a Jew? Who is a Rabbi? (Amos Oz's reference to the Orthodox delegitimization of Reform and Conservative clergy performing conversions) Who has the authority to judge other people's sincerity?

But five minutes in a classroom with kids who have active curiosity and a drive for the truth places the elusive central question right at the teacher's doorstep: What is Judaism?

This thinly veiled version of the old desert-island game – if you were stuck on a forsaken stretch of land, what books/ CDs/ food items would you bring if you could only bring a few? – challenges our community to decide what we feel a Jew must know and want to put into practice.

Should someone becoming Jewish be made to profess belief in God? Keep Shabbat? Eat only kosher food? Give 10 percent of their earnings to charity? Pray every day? Join a synagogue? Have a bar/bat mitzvah? All or none of the above? And if all, then who among us can aspire to such a standard? If none, then Judaism dies, in the words of Anthony Flew, the "death of a thousand qualifications."

The presumed answer lies in the murky middle. But if, as we often hear, God lies in the details, then the God of conversion has become more elusive than ever.

Judaism, as Rabbi Marc Gellman has remarked, has the odd distinction of being an "open tribe." Certain religions can be joined simply by virtue of expressing allegiance to their central tenets of faith; such is the case with Christianity.

Tribal by nature

Other systems, such as that of native North Americans, are tribal by nature; birth is truly the defining characteristic for belonging. Judaism is both a birthright and yet a permanent open house, available to be examined in the marketplace of ideas and embraced through a gradual process of education and practical commitments.

Yet conversion calls the bluff on Jewish self-definition. Viewed through the eyes of the gentile consumer, Judaism is compelled to take inventory, present its finest goods and lay out a clear price list for their acquisition.

But what is the real price for joining a people, a tradition, a set of collective memories, a way of thinking, giving, being?

Recently my students were perturbed and appalled to learn that the traditional response to intermarriage in Jewish law was for the parents to sit shivah for their "lost" child, now dead to the ancestral legacy of Judaism. Did this really happen, they asked me, as though discussing the ancient ritual sacrifices of Mayan women. They could not conceive of any value, any tradition, any belief – all *abstractions* in their world view – standing in the way of parent-child contact and communication.

So, in Platonic fashion, I did not answer them, but left them with a question. What do you live for? And if someone betrayed and shredded the value that you hold more sacred than anything else on earth, what would you do?

More than a few gentiles, these days, are pondering what we Jews hold sacred and what it is they need do to join our ever fractious, always dreaming tribe.

Jewish Humor on the Net

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Be happy it's Adar!

Well, it's *almost* Adar. And that's close enough for my third annual Be-Happy-It's-Adar Jewish Humor-on-the-Internet column.

And once again, my third annual disclaimer. The late, beloved Jewish humorist Leo Rosten said, "Humor is the affectionate communication of insight." Unfortunately, humor on the Internet can be much *less* than affectionate. I have tried to recommend sites which will entertain, but due to the changing nature of the World Wide Web, you never really know what you're going to come across. Which is a long way of saying the humor lane on the Jewish Highway can get quite bumpy. Proceed with caution.

There are now dozens of sites devoted to Jewish humor. One of the best and largest compilations of jokes is Lori's Mishmash Jewish Humor **[http://www.geocities.com/CollegePark/6174/h--jewis.html]**. You'll find everything from Yiddish proverbs (You can't chew with somebody else's teeth) to events of the Jewish Olympics (Bagel Toss and Naches Shlep).

Another favorite is the Narrishkeit Now site that includes Personals Ads Which Have Appeared in Israeli Papers **[http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Oracle/4929/silly6.htm]**. The claim is that these ads are genuine: Yeshiva bochur, Torah scholar, long beard, payes. Seeks same in woman. Shochet, 54, owns successful butcher shop in Midwest; doesn't believe women should be treated like a piece of meat. Jewish businessman, 49, manufactures Sabbath candles, Chanukah candles, havdalah candles, Yahrzeit candles; seeks non-smoker.

Aside from telling jokes, Jews are all too familiar with being the butt of unwanted humor. Bernard Saper starts his fascinating analysis of Jewish Jokes and Anti-Semitism with this story: Sam and Irving are facing the firing squad. The executioner comes forward to place the blindfold on them. Sam disdainfully and proudly refuses, tearing the thing from his face. Irving turns to him and pleads: "Please Sam don't make trouble!" **[http://www.ozcomedy.com/journal/11saper.htm]**

Saper then poses and analyses some thought-provoking questions; "Is that joke funny? Would it be equally as funny if told by either a Jew or a gentile? To either a Jew or a gentile? With Yiddish accent or without? In mixed company? Is that joke antidote or fuel for anti-Semitism?" A highly recommended site.

OK back to the fun stuff. Here are some very large humor sites: Harry Leichter's Collection of Jewish Humor and Jokes **[http://home.earthlink.net/~leichter/jhumorlink.htm]**, Jewish America **[http://www.jewishamerica.org/humor.htm]**, Ahavat Israel **[http://www.ahavat-israel.com/humor]** and Montreal's Congregation Beth Tikvah **[http://www.bethtikvah.qc.ca/humour.html]**.

If Adar is almost here, then Purim is just around the corner. So, thanks to Ohr Somayach, I leave you with some of the Ways to Know You've Drunk Enough on Purim: **[http://www.ohr.org.il/judaism/humor/top10/topten.htm]**. You hold a volume of the Babylonian Talmud upside down, thinking "Hey, they finally decoded the human genome!" You begin speaking Yiddish with a Sephardi accent. You ask people how many candles they lit last night. You argue with hamantashen…and lose.

More humor during Adar.

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a television producer in Toronto with an interest in the Internet. He can be reached at [mdm@inforamp.net].

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"A Closely Guarded Secret: Wife-Beating in Modern Jewish Life"

Sunday Morning Men's Club Breakfast
Service 9:00 a.m. Breakfast 9:30 a.m. (nominal charge)
Lecture 10:00 a.m.
"Daughters of the Bible: The Case of Dinah"

Besides many articles on women and metaphor in the Bible and Midrash, Ms. Graetz has written *S/He Created them: Feminist Retellings of Biblical Stories* and the recently published *Silence is Deadly: Judaism Confronts Wifebeating.*

Public Cordially Invited

Government funding for day schools no panacea

By RABBI MARVIN PACHINO

Guest Voices

Several years ago, the Supreme Court ruled that government funding of Catholic separate schools is, indeed, legal, while religious schools of other faiths, together with other independent schools, have no claim to government funds.

I confess, however, that for more than one reason, I have never been enamored of the idea of seeking or accepting government funds for our day schools.

The hand that giveth is the hand that taketh. If the government decided today to provide funding for our Jewish educational system, our community would seize the offer. The fiscal structure of our schools would then be reorganized based upon the largesse of the government. However, tomorrow, or a few years from now, this government or its successor might have compelling reasons to significantly reduce, or entirely withdraw, its funding. That would create a financial crisis with which our schools and the community would be totally unprepared to grapple, and the whole Jewish educational edifice could fall apart.

Another scenario, one with which Jewish schools in other jurisdictions have been confronted, is the matter of conditions that may be attached to government funding, immediately or in the future, that would impinge upon the quantity and quality of the Judaic component of our curricula. We run the very real risk of losing control of that which is the soul of our enterprise.

The Ministry of Education cannot be expected to be sensitive or sympathetic towards the philosophy and purpose of the Jewish school system. Core subject areas in our Judaic curricula may be squeezed, or pushed out altogether, by the growing tendency of the ministry to denigrate the place of the humanities and culture, especially in the high school curriculum, in favor of preparing young people for the job market.

This process is well underway already. If the Jewish schools become the dependents of government, we will have much less freedom to manoeuvre.

For us, Jewish education is inexorably linked to the transmission of our faith and cultural heritage. All studies have indicated that Jewish education is the key to conveying the knowledge of the spiritual wealth and the inner meaning with which Judaism can endow our lives, and for cultivating lasting commitments to the mission of the Jewish people. We cannot conceive of a Jewish community in the future without a strong Jewish educational system.

Why, then, should we even contemplate relinquishing our control over our own destiny, or entrusting it to a temporal state that is, at best, indifferent towards it?

I am not unaware of the financial desperation that is driving many well-intentioned people in this direction. Unfortunately, our community has not gotten on with the job of creating an appropriate and adequate funding apparatus for day school education. According to an article in *The Canadian Jewish News* (Dec. 10, 1998), the pursuit of government funds for Jewish education continues to preoccupy our leadership and "is *the* top issue on the [Canadian Jewish] Congress agenda." As if that will be our salvation.

There is no question! Parents are seriously burdened by the skyrocketing costs of a Jewish day school education. A large segment of middle-class families, not to speak of those in lower income brackets, has already been precluded from sending its children to Jewish day schools. However, I still contend that pursuing government funds is not the answer.

The answer lies within our own community!

If we can swallow our pride and look south of the border, where no Jewish school receives government funds, we might discover a model that is replicable here in Toronto.

Operation Jewish Education: The Five Percent Answer has been initiated in Chicago, where it is receiving the active support of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago and the community at large. Their objective is to raise $300 million over the next seven to 10 years, with a seven percent annual payout. The annual yield of $21 million would pay the full tuition of every child currently in the Chicago day school system.

To achieve this goal, every Jew is mandated to will five percent of

Continued on page 15

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NATIVE CULTURE STUDIED

Storyteller Joseph R. Paquette recently told stories from the First Nations Peoples at the Toronto Heschel School. The Grade 2 class is studying native culture and learning about the similarities between the First Nations Peoples and the Jewish people.

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We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Les and Minda Feldman Foundation who have made possible this program for the benefit of Jews in their 20's and 30's.

MINYANIM IN THE GTA
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 12-18/'99

Synagogue	Address & Tel.	Fri. Night	Shabbat	Sun. A.M.	Daily A.M.	Daily P.M.
Beth Jacob V'Anshe Drildz (O)	147 Overbrook Pl. (416) 638-5955	5:25 PM	9:00 AM	6:45 & 7:30 AM	Mon. Thurs. 6:40, 7:30 Tues. Wed. Fri. 6:45, 7:30	5:10 PM
Beth Tzedec (C)	1700 Bathurst St. (416) 781-3511	4:45 PM	8:45 AM	9:00 AM	7:45 AM	5:30 PM
B'nai Torah (O)	465 Patricia Ave. (416) 226-3700	5:33 PM	8:45 AM	7:00 & 7:20 AM	Mon. Thurs. 6:45, 7:10 Tues. Wed. Fri. 7:00, 7:20	5:10 PM
Chabad Lubavitch Community Centre (O)	770 Chabad Gate (905) 731-7000	5:25 PM	9:30 AM	8:00 & 9:00 AM	Mon. Thurs. 6:45, 7:10 Tues. Wed. Fri. 7:00, 7:30	5:05 PM
Clanton Park Synagogue (O)	11 Lowesmoor Ave. (416)633-4193	5:28 PM	9:00 AM	7:30 AM & 8:15 AM	Mon. Thurs. 6:50, 7:15 Tues. Wed. Fri. 7:00, 7:25	5:05 PM
Darchei Noam (Rec.)	15 Hove St. (416) 638-4783	----------	10:00 AM	----------	----------	----------
Pride of Israel (C)	50 Lissom Cres. (416) 226-0111	6:00 PM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	7:30 AM	6:00 PM
Shomrei Shaboth Chevra Mishnayoth (O)	583 Glengrove Ave. W. (416) 787-1631	5:28 PM	9:15 AM	7:30 & 8:30 AM	6:45 & 7:30 AM	5:20 PM
Solel Congregation (R)	2399 Folkway Dr. (905) 820-5915	7:30 PM	10:00 AM	----------	Tuesday 7:00 AM	----------
Temple Sinai (R)	210 Wilson Ave. (416) 487-4161	8:15 PM	10:00 AM	9:30 AM	7:30 AM	----------

This is not a comprehensive listing of the synagogues in the Greater Toronto area. The information is provided by the Vaad Harabonim of Toronto and the Toronto Board of Rabbis. The Vaad and the Board will periodically revise the listings. For statutory holidays, please call the Synagogue for any changes in times.

Jewish education's five percent solution

Continued from page 14

his or her estate to a day school endowment fund. In turn, each day school and yeshiva in Chicago has opened an institutional endowment fund in its own name. Furthermore, the Chicago Jewish Federation has agreed to assist and join in a strategic partnership to help raise substantial monies to fund the endowment accounts. The Jewish Federation has also undertaken to match monies raised by individual day school endowment funds with a 10 percent contribution.

Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis, together with prominent industrialists, professors, authors, philanthropists and organizational leaders have joined together in this undertaking.

The full particulars of Operation Jewish Education: The Five Percent Answer are too vast to mention here, but they are in the hands of the Toronto Board of Jewish Education.

If we believe in the paramount importance of Jewish education and the need to make it accessible to every Jewish child, then we too must firmly grasp the reins of our own destiny. We have the people and we have the resources. Do we have the will?

Rabbi Pachino is the former headmaster of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.

Swiss funds proposal

By **BEN ROSE**
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A Holocaust survivor has proposed that the $2.5-million (US) Swiss fund allocated for needy Canadian survivors be used to provide a home for orphans in Israel.

Only a nominal sum of $130 will be given to each survivor if the 16,000 to 18,000 who are eligible all apply, and the money should go to Israel, said Henry Neugebauer of Richmond Hill.

Neugebauer said if the orphanage home cost only half a million, the balance could be invested to look after maintenance costs.

The Richmond Hill resident said he would be interested in some quick way of getting all the Holocaust survivors to agree to his suggestion.

In this way, survivors would be doing something for the future of Jewry. Their contribution could be acknowledged in a book of names honoring the survivors, he said.

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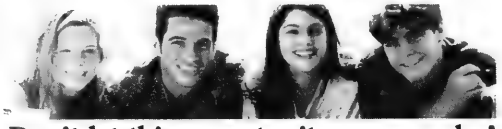

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Deadline for receipt of resumes is: **February 23, 1999**. Only candidates who will receive interviews will be notified.

UWO marks Tu b'Shvat by recycling

LONDON, ONT. — This generation of students is sometimes viewed as apolitical, in contrast to the '60s and '70s when marches, demonstrations and sit-ins were a staple of campus life. But today's students have not stopped caring.

To coincide with Tu b'Shvat, Nadia Sapiro, an executive member of the Jewish Students' Union (JSU) at the University of Western Ontario, organized a recycling bin drive at the university. Sapiro "thought this would be a good way to celebrate the holiday. Instead of just planting new trees, it is preventing further deforestation."

Recycling is something many students do not think about, said Sapiro. Because provincial funding for waste management has been cut dramatically, the city of London no longer gives out free blue boxes.

Students who live off campus – as do almost 25 percent of JSU members – "lead highly transient lifestyles and therefore tend to make fewer investments in their homes," according to a JSU news release.

Few of them know where to get a recycling bin, what they can put in it, and even fewer of them realize that it is their responsibility, said Sapiro.

The project, through which the JSU provided 150 blue boxes at a cost of $3 – as opposed to the usual $6.49 plus tax – was funded through the Green Plan Commission at the university, Hillel International and the JSU.

The city of London supported the endeavor by printing flyers explaining how and when to recycle.

Sapiro hopes the program will have a ripple effect. "It is our goal that not only will students recycle more, but they will also take more responsibility for the [about] 1.7 kg of waste that we as Canadians, produce each day."

For Tu b'Shvat, the JSU also provided about 30 parsley plants to students. Everyone can use parsley, said Sapiro. The popular herb served as a good educational tool, providing the JSU with an opportunity to explain about the role of parsley at Passover, she said.

STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES

Michelle Bornstein and Jason Ezer of the University of Waterloo answer the questions of a high school student at the Jewish Life on Campus fair held at the Lipa Green building late last year. The event – sponsored by Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region; UJA Federation, York Region; and Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto – was an information session for parents, students and teens.

Harris mum on school funding

[Continued from page 1]

schools. Jewish children with the same special needs are not able to avail themselves of these health services," Landy told the premier.

He commended the premier for his new announcement on the health support services.

The CJC Ontario region also announced that Minister of Education Dave Johnson will make a first-ever visit Feb. 16 to the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) and to She'arim, a school for Jewish students with special needs.

In his major address to a standing room only crowd at the executive meeting of the CJC Ontario region and at media scrum following his speech, Harris spoke of his call for a code of non-violence in Ontario schools, but said nothing about aid for faith schools.

The premier departed from his prepared text on behavior in the schools to say, "Perhaps your own Jewish schools, among others, have something to contribute."

It was only when he returned from the scrum to mingle with executive members, that *The CJN* had a chance to ask him directly about the issue of funding.

He then said that aid to Jewish schools is not on the agenda. "Our first priority is to establish respect for our public school system," he said. "Our second priority is to give equal opportunity to all children and perhaps under this we can give consideration to new funding."

After listening in the post-meeting time to Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl of Beth Tzedec Synagogue, the premier agreed to continue dialogue with him on what the Jewish schools could do to help develop a code of behavior for schools in Ontario.

Beside Harris' speech, the other major agenda item at the meeting was the presentation of a plaque to congratulate Ted Chudleigh, the Conservative backbencher who piloted the Holocaust Memorial Yom Hashoah bill through the Ontario legislature, making it one of the few jurisdictions outside Israel to officially mark the Holocaust.

The crowd burst into applause when Chudleigh was honored with the plaque presented by Nate Leipciger on behalf of the Ontario region and the Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre of Toronto.

Later Harris said he agreed with the Congress position and a request from Leipciger that the next step is to follow the Holocaust legislation with a curriculum that extends such education into the schools.

On Chudleigh's bill, the premier said he presented an autographed copy of it to the director of Yad Vashem in Israel even before it was officially passed. "I told him it had my support and I was sure it would become law."

His voice breaking with emotion, Chudleigh said there is a simple concept behind the bill – "never again."

"I've had an amazing response since," he said. "People have told me they have a new sense of purpose and dignity since this bill passed."

On Campus

Traves leads Dalhousie U.

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

At the age of 50, Thomas Donald Traves seems to have reached the apex of Canadian academia nirvana.

He is not only one of Canada's youngest college presidents, but the first Jewish president of Dalhousie University in Halifax.

Traves – a historian who was a senior administrator at York University by 33 – seems nonchalant about the fact that Dalhousie, Nova Scotia's largest university, saw fit to appoint a Jewish president after nearly two centuries of existence.

"Over the past 30 years, a number of Jewish academics have become university presidents in Canada, so it is no longer the rare event that it would have been prior to that," he said.

Traves is right. In the waning year of the millennium, national universities such as McGill, Concordia and Guelph are also headed by Jewish presidents.

Yet, in an earlier era, the groves of Canadian academe, like Canadian society itself, were rigidly exclusionary and racist, riddled by an overt brand of anti-Semitism which would have precluded Traves from consideration as a university lecturer, let alone a president.

Those days, thankfully, appear to be long gone, and consequently, scholars cum-administrators like Traves can flourish to their fullest potential.

Traves, whose grandparents on both sides hail from small towns near Minsk, was born and raised in Winnipeg, the son of Samuel and Marjorie, a couple whose parents immigrated to the prairies around 1900.

His late father, a chemical engineer with Canada Cement Lafarge, and his mother, an office worker, both valued education. Being typical Jewish parents, they brilliantly succeeded in imparting these values to their two children.

The intellectually precocious Traves excelled at West Kildonan Collegiate. And at the University of Manitoba, he studied history.

"I took history as a student because I have always been interested in the inter-relationship of social, economic, cultural and political phenomena, how change in one sphere flows from or impacts in other spheres."

After graduating, he and his bride, Karen Posner, went east to Toronto. There, at York University, he completed MA and PhD degrees. Since then, he has specialized in business and labor issues. "My research has focused on relations between business and government in Canada, as well as industrial relations in the 19th and 20th centuries."

Traves, whose writings touch upon railway workers, the automobile and sugar refining industries, and price controls, taught economic and political history at York until 1991.

After having been chair of the social science division for two years, he was named dean of the faculty of arts, a position he held for eight years.

Drawn to administration by his interest in "creative organizational development," Traves was, by all accounts, an able dean, a superb "person-person" and a fine judge of character, according to those who know him.

He participated in the introduction of a series of new academic programs. He expanded enrolment. And he was instrumental in hiring a new generation of scholars who, he believes, "will define the shape of (York) over the next two decades."

As dean, Traves drew heavily on his experience as a teacher.

"My duties as dean differed from my role as as professor insofar as I needed to achieve consensus among my colleagues on new project ideas, motivate change and ensure follow through."

Thomas Donald Traves

But as an administrator, Traves discovered that he required skills normally associated with teaching, namely clear analysis of challenges and effective communication.

Good administrators, he observed, utilize the skills of teachers to present ideas and motivate colleagues.

During this period, he worked as a part-time labor arbitrator for the Ontario government. "This exposed me to a wide range of work-place issues and proved to be excellent training for academic administration and policy making," he explained.

From 1991 until 1995, Traves was vice-president (academic) of the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, where he was also a professor in the department of history.

There, he noted, he strived to develop closer relations with the local community, to promote the importance of the university and to ensure accessibility to higher education.

"I also introduced a strategic planning process to ensure academic program renewal."

Traves has been president and vice-chancellor of Dalhousie, with 13,500 students on a 79-acre campus in the heart of Halifax, since July 1995.

He has been busy, to say the least.

Under his presidency, Dalhousie's merger with the Technical University of Nova Scotia has been brought to fruition; new academic programs and research institutes have been established; a $75 million fundraising campaign has been completed; the construction of three new academic buildings, the first in 20 years, has begun; and a fresh strategic plan has been unveiled.

These developments, he claimed, have endowed Dalhousie with "a renewed sense of confidence."

Looking ahead, Traves plans a major expansion of Dalhousie's information technology activities and a new emphasis on programs and research related to the province's offshore oil and gas industry.

"I also anticipate additional campus development and increased government support for research, particularly in medicine and technology transfer."

Asked to elucidate his philosophy of education, Traves said that the modern university should serve a variety of goals.

"At its core, however, stands a commitment to provide a liberal education that develops an inquiring mind and the critical intellectual skills needed to pursue continuous learning and informed action."

To succeed, a university president must possess certain qualities.

"A president needs to be patient and persistent, take a broad view of social and cultural developments, be active in championing new ideas and forging internal and external partnerships to achieve results, and effectively communicate the traditional and emerging objectives of a university in a fast changing knowledge economy."

Traves, whose outside interests run the gamut from jazz and art to movies and golf, invariably begins his day at 8 a.m. It often ends with evening functions which last until 10 or 11 p.m.

"I'm usually out three or four nights a week," he said. "Most of my day is spent in meetings or conversations. I also attend a great many events so as to develop the network of relationships that are necessary to promote the university's interests."

He and his wife, a psychotherapist with a private practice, have two children. Will is a math instructor at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. Julie works in marketing and advertising for Penguin Books in Toronto.

A member of a Halifax synagogue, Traves partakes in the Jewish life of the city.

Amost four years into his term, it seems clear that Traves' Jewish sensibilities have had and will have an impact on Dalhousie.

Two examples will suffice.

He has enlarged the scope of Hebrew language education at the university.

And he hopes to forge closer relations between Dalhousie and Israeli universities.

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Coast to Coast

World can't prevent genocide, conference told

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL— Fifty years after the end of the Nuremberg Nazi war crimes trials, the world has not learned how to deal effectively with those who commit genocide or other crimes against humanity, and more disturbingly, it seems incapable of preventing such atrocities, said Ontario Court of Appeal judge Rosalie Abella.

"We have no international mechanism to prevent the ongoing slaughter of children and other innocent civilians, and no overriding sense of moral responsibility that informs us and helps develop a consensus for when responsive military action is required to protect human rights," said Abella, a keynote speaker at an international conference on human rights at McGill University.

"We have, in fact, no consensus on what our international moral responsibilities are – period – and that is why we are so desperately lacking in enforcement mechanisms, legal and otherwise."

The gap between the values the international community espouses and the values it is prepared to enforce is so wide, Abella said, that almost any country can carry out abuses with impunity.

"No national abuser seems to worry whether there will be a 'Nuremberg' trial later, because usually there isn't, and in any event, by the time there is, all the damage that was sought to be done, has been done, with or without the backdrop of war."

Trials are a response, not a solution, Abella believes. Prevention of the acts that necessitate them is what the world should be aiming for.

"We cannot simply sit back and watch the horrors occur, knowing our indignation will be mollified by subsequent judicial reckoning. Where injustice is preventable, it should be prevented when first identified, not permitted first to create its human devastation before being held to account."

Nuremberg represents for her "the failure of decent, well-meaning Western democratic nations to respond when they should have and could have" to the virulent anti-Semitism in Germany in the 1930s.

Moreover, the commitment to justice that the trials represented was "all too fleeting." With the Cold War preoccupying the West, there would be no more Nazi war crimes prosecutions after 1949 for over two decades, and then it was because Jews did not stop pressing for justice.

Abella said her views have been shaped by her personal history and being Jewish. The child of Holocaust survivors, she was born in Stuttgart, Germany, in 1946.

"Why hasn't the Holocaust, the single most outrageous crime in civilized history, created a desperate, unquenchable thirst for enforceable international norms that make human rights abuses intolerable anytime and anywhere they occur?" she asked.

Abella said that laws and courts are not the answer alone. After all, the Holocaust was not illegal under German law.

"What we need is a collaborative public consensus, nationally and internationally, that we will not tolerate a world order which tolerates injustice. We need to find a way to immunize ourselves from complacency, moral lethargy, self-serving rationalization, and stubborn self-denial."

Abella was speaking at a conference entitled Hate, Genocide and Human Rights: Fifty Years Later, co-sponsored by the law faculty and InterAmicus, a human rights advocacy centre headed by Prof. Irwin Cotler. The occasion was the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of the Genocide Convention.

Rosalie Abella

"The judgment on Nuremberg, 50 years later is a lament. We have forgotten too many of its lessons too quickly, and we must try to remember them before the next 50 years renders the memories meaningless," Abella concluded.

The conference brought together lawyers, government officials, non-governmental organization representatives, human rights activists and students interested in the theme of What Have We Learned? What Must We Do? in the wake of continuing gross human rights violations around the world, and in particular the role of international legal remedies.

The McGill/InterAmicus Robert S. Litvack Human Rights Memorial Award was presented at the end of the conference to Benjamin Ferencz, U.S. prosecutor at Nuremberg and an early proponent of an international criminal court; and to Philippe Kirsch, a Canadian who played a key role in the negotiations toward the establishment of such a court.

Ferencz was the chief U.S. prosecutor in the trial against the SS extermination squads convicted of killing over a million people and played a leading role in negotiating German restitution to victims of Nazi persecution.

For over 50 years, he has been an outspoken advocate for the establishment of an international criminal court, and was the sole remaining Nuremberg judge to address the conference in Rome last year where a treaty on the creation of such a court was drawn up.

Kirsch, a career diplomat, chaired the committee at the Rome conference that established the international criminal court. He now chairs the United Nations committee drafting a new international strategy against nuclear terrorism.

Previously, he served as ambassador and deputy permanent representative of Canada to the UN and to its Security Council. He was cited for this contribution to the development of international human rights law.

The award is named after the McGill law graduate who was a tireless advocate for aboriginal rights. It was established by his family after Litvack died of cancer in 1987.

Rabbis denounce colleague

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Winnipeg's rabbis are giving the thumbs-down to Reform Rabbi Michael Levenson's stated intention to perform gay and interfaith marriages.

The Winnipeg Council of Rabbis has officially condemned Rabbi Levenson's stand, while Rabbi Moshe Stern, an ordained Orthodox rabbi who teaches at the University of Manitoba, describes Temple Shalom, Rabbi Levenson's synagogue, as "an interfaith centre" rather than a synagogue.

"Aside from a violation of my best judgment about what Judaism is, I think that this has to do with the survival of the community," says Rabbi Stern. "It violates the boundaries of what we can still define as Judaism."

Rabbi Stern has written a letter to the Winnipeg Jewish Community Council (WJCC) asking the council to debate the issue and take a stand. The WJCC has declined to get involved.

Meantime, five of the eight rabbis who comprise the Winnipeg Council of Rabbis (WCOR) have signed a public statement, issued at their Jan. 14 meeting, which expresses "disappointment that a new member of our community has decided to announce that he will officiate at both interfaith and same-sex marriages.

"While we acknowledge his right to act within the parameters of the movement of which he is a part," the statement continues, "at the same time, we fear that this step is fraught with danger to the Jewish community. Interfaith marriages in particular present a clear and present danger to the future of the Jewish world. Approval of interfaith marriages, which is implicit in a rabbi's willingness to officiate at them, will lead to communal suicide."

Two members of the WCOR declined to endorse the statement. (Rabbi Levenson is also a WCOR member but was unable to attend the Jan. 14 meeting.) While rabbis Neal Rose and Allan Green are opposed to rabbis officiating at interfaith marriages, they are sympathetic to marriages between gay individuals where both partners are Jewish.

"I feel uncomfortable excluding gay couples from the realm of sanctity," says Rabbi Green of the Beth Israel Synagogue, "although I am in no position to conduct such ceremonies. I feel that gay Jews have a tremendous contribution to make to the life of our community."

Rabbi Levenson came to Winnipeg in the fall to lead Temple Shalom, Winnipeg's only Reform congregation. He stated his intentions to the board before he was hired and has the full support of his congregation, 30 percent of whom are in interfaith marriages already.

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Coast to Coast

Katriuk's evidence 'difficult to accept': judge

Continued from page 3

ing to the Canadian Citizenship Act, although one of Katriuk's lawyers, Nestor Woychyshyn, stated that there is, "presumably...some room for appeal."

In his 98-page judgment, Judge Marc Nadon found that Katriuk, who was born in the Ukrainian village of Luzhany and had been a voluntary member of Ukrainian battalion 118 in Byelorussia (now Belarus) under the control of the Waffen SS, gained illegal entry by using a false birth date and name – Nicholas Schpirka – and by concealing his membership in the battalion, when he applied in Paris to come to Canada in 1951.

The unit was implicated in numerous atrocities in the Ukraine, including the deaths of thousands of Jews in Belarus between 1941 and 1944.

"I find it difficult, if not impossible, to accept the respondent's [Katriuk's] evidence that he did not participate in any important military operation while his battalion was in Byelorussia," Nadon wrote.

"This is simply not plausible. I find the respondent must have participated in at least some operations in which his battalion was involved between 1942 and 1944."

While Nadon had no proof that Katriuk was directly involved in atrocities against civilians, he said that Katriuk, "clearly was not prepared to answer fully the questions put to him regarding his participation in Battalion 118..."

Nadon also ruled that at the time Katriuk applied to come to Canada, he, "must...have been asked to answer the two questions that appear on...[immigration form] O.S. 8..., namely details regarding the longest job he had in the last 10 years and the number of jobs he had during those 10 years.

"On the evidence before me, I can only find that the respondent did not truthfully answer those questions," Nadon wrote. "The respondent's evidence was simply that the visa officer did not ask him anything. I do not find his version of events plausible."

Nadon found that even though in 1957 when he applied for citizenship, Katriuk notified the federal government that he had come to Canada in 1951 under a false name, the citizenship was granted [in 1958] based on Katriuk's false statement that "he took refuge in France in 1944."

In late 1944, Katriuk left the German camp to join the French underground. "However, in my view, it cannot be said by any stretch of the imagination that the respondent 'took refuge in France in 1944.' That is simply not the case," Nadon said.

For all the above reasons, Katriuk "was not lawfully admitted to Canada for permanent residence [and is] deemed to have obtained his Canadian citzenship by false representation or fraud, or by concealing material circumstances contrary to the Citizenship Act."

Katriuk's case took almost 2½ years for the Federal Court to rule on, from the time the minister of citizenship and immigration notified Katriuk in Aug. 1996, of its intention to seek to have his citizenship revoked.

Court proceedings against him began in Dec. 1997, with final arguments presented before Nadon last July.

The seven months it took Nadon to rule on the case may have been delayed by the efforts of a local legal researcher, Kenneth Narvey, to have Nadon recuse himself for what Narvey perceived to be a "reasonable apprehension of bias," based on transribed remarks Nadon made during the course of his hearing last June and July.

Although Silverstone had backed Narvey to the extent of sharing "concerns" over certain of Nadon's remarks, he said that, "a long time ago, I gave up trying to predict outcomes or judging motivations."

Narvey, for his part, said that, "it appears that I was mistaken, and I am glad to learn that I was mistaken."

The government, through the preliminary work of the Justice Department's War Crimes Unit, has launched 15 deportation cases over the last 3½ years, with "three or four" more expected to be announced this year, Silverstone said.

The accelerated pace has heartened Jewish officials, who for years complained about the federal government dragging its heels in rooting out alleged Nazi collaborators who found safe haven in Canada following World War II.

Of the 15 (besides Vitols and Dueck), three individuals have died, three are awaiting trial, and two are currently before the courts.

Two others left Canada voluntarily, while one facing imminent deportation — Wasily Bogutin — has claimed refugee status.

Collins loses human rights case

Continued from page 3

Holocaust denial and allegations of a Jewish conspiracy.

Abrams, who runs his own advertising business, testified before the tribunal that he raised the complaint "because of a...security concern, because of what happened in history against my people [and because of] my own experience that I've had with anti-Semitism...I wanted to do something, perhaps, that could stem the matter and [to show] these are distortions...Nobody should have to endure this."

Patch ordered Collins and the *North Shore News* to pay $2,000 to compensate Abrams "for injury to dignity and feelings of self-respect.",

Patch found Collins' columns "contribute to the hatred of the Jews because his writings echo the themes and anti-Semitic canards found in the history of anti-Semitism. He promotes mistrust and contempt by suggesting Jews are deceitful and conspire to swindle the non-Jewish world for their own gains.

"Collins poses as a dauntless civil libertarian and a champion of free speech. The pose has made it possible for him to continue publishing his anti-Semitic diatribes in newspapers such as the *North Shore News*. Access to publication makes him credible to some of those who are already inclined to be anti-Semitic, and to those who tend be believe anything that appears in print."

The B.C. Human Rights Commission, the Attorney General of British Columbia and the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada joined in the case as interveners.

Marvin Kurz, national legal counsel for the League, said the Abrams decision does not reverse the finding in the earlier Congress case.

"It appears you need to have a pattern. You've got to be bad more than once," Kurz said.

The tribunal also appeared to reject his contention that an anti-Semitic column in itself is hateful. That part of the decision puzzled him because "if it isn't [hateful], I don't know what is," Kurz said.

That part of the judgment "panders to hatemongers who say they're providing justifiable comment on Jewish 'misdeeds'," he added.

Abrams called the tribunal's decision "a defeat for [Collins'] version of free speech, which includes outright lies and distortions."

When he first read Collins' columns almost five years ago, he was outraged at the content, Abrams said. "I felt they were not going to make a mockery of murder and genocide. We have to challenge it, fight it. We can't let it pass and forsake the memories of those who were murdered," he said.

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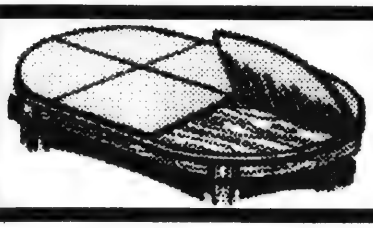
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שוין מיט איבער אַ פֿערטל יאָרהונדערט צוריק האָט דער באַקאַנטער שרייבער, משה שטאַרקמאַן, געשריבן: „איטלעך לשון האָט אַן אייגענעם ניגון, אָבער אונדזער מאַמע־לשון איז ממש אַ שפּראַך־אָפּערע". יעדער איינער, וואָס איז נאָר אַ ביסל באַקאַנט מיט ייִדישער מוזיק, וועט איינזען דעם אמת פֿון די ווערטער. ייִדישע מוזיק האָט אַ געשיכטע, וואָס ציט זיך אַזש פֿון תּורת משה. אַלס באַווייז דאַרף מען בלויז דערמאָנען די תּפֿילה פֿון שחרית, וואָס ייִדן חזרן איבער יעדן טאָג: „אָז יָשיר משה ובני ישראל", (דעמאָלט האָבן געזונגען משה און די קינדער פֿון ישראל).

ס'איז אַ באַוואוסטער פֿאַקט, אַז אין די אור־אור־אַלטע צייטן איז מוזיק און געזאַנג געווען אַן אינטעגראַלער טייל פֿון די רעליגיעזע צערעמאָניעס. און נישט בלויז ביים ייִדישן פֿאָלק. אַנדערע נאַציאָנאַליטעטן אָדער רעליגיעס האָבן אויך אויפֿן זעלבן אופֿן געדינט זייערע געטער. דער איינציקער אונטערשייד איז בלויז, וואָס פֿון די אַנדערע אור־אַלטע קולטורן און רעליגיעזע צערעמאָניעס איז, אין מוזיקאַלישן זין, קיין זכר נישט געבליבן.

פֿאַר יעדן, וואָס האָט אַמאָל געלערנט חומש אין חדר, האָט אַמאָל געלייענט עטלעכע קאַפּיטלעך תּהילים, אין אָריגינאַל אָדער איבערזעצונג, דאַרף זיין קלאָר, אַז די געשיכטע פֿון ייִדישן געזאַנג ציט זיך פֿון יענע צייטן, פֿון די צייטן פֿון דוד המלך, פֿון שלמה המלך, פֿון די לְוִיִם, פֿון זייערע געזאַנגען און מוזיק־אינסטרומענטן. די 150 קאַפּיטלעך תּהילים, וואָס דוד המלך האָט פֿאַרפֿאַסט, פֿון וועלכע אַ טייל ווערן געזאָגט טעגלעך אין די „פּסוקי דזמרה" ביים דאַווענען, זיינען מייסטערווערק פֿון לויב־ליד. דער „שיר השירים" פֿון שלמה המלך איז אַ ליבעס־ליד פֿון העכסטער קוואַליטעט. און אויב דער זכּרון דינט אייך נאָך, וועט איר אוודאי געדענקען דעם ניגון פֿון מדרש־דיקן אַריינפֿיר צום „שיר השירים", וואָס דער רבי האָט מיט אונדז געלערנט אין חדר, און וואָס הייבט זיך אָן מיט „צען געזאַנגען זיינען געזונגען געוואָרן אויף דער וועלט".

אין גאַנג פֿון דער ייִדישער געשיכטע זיינען צוגעגעבן געוואָרן אַ צאָל ספּעציעלע תּפֿילות מיט מעלאָדיעס, וואָס ווערן כּמעט איינהייטלעך אויסגעזונגען איבער דער ייִדישער וועלט. אַזעלכע תּפֿילות ווי „כָּל נדרי" יום כּפּור אָוונט; דער „אַקדמות"־געזאַנג אין שבֿועות; די „הושענות" אין הושענא רבה; דער „הנני", וואָס דער חזן זינגט ראש השנה פֿאַר מוסף; די ספּעציעל פֿאַרפֿאַסטע געזאַנגען ביים סדר אין פּסח; די ניגונים פֿון „מגילת אסתר" אין פּורים, אָדער „איכה" אין תּשעה באָב; דער „טראָפּ", וואָס ווערט גענוצט ביים לייענען די תּורה אין שבת, און נאָך אַ צאָל אַנדערע אָנגענומענע ריטואַלע געזאַנגען, זיינען מיטגעגאַנגען מיטן ייִדישן פֿאָלק אין זיין גלות־וועג.

אויף דעם לאַנגן גלות־וועג האָט דאָס ייִדישע פֿאָלק אַרויסגעגעבן אַ גרעסערע צאָל דיכטערס, גאונים פֿון געזאַנג, וועלכע האָבן געשאַפֿן נייע לידער, נייע מעלאָדיעס, צוגעפּאַסט צו דער צייט, צו דעם אָרט, צו דעם געמיט פֿון פֿאָלק אין אַ געוויסער תּקופֿה, אָנהייבנדיק מיט „על נַהֲרות בָּבל" (ביי די טייכן פֿון בָּבל) ביז צום „זאָג נישט קיינמאָל, אַז דו גייסט דעם לעצטן וועג". שוין גאַנץ פֿרי אין דער גלות־געשיכטע האָבן די ייִדישע פֿאָלקס־מאַסן, די עַמְךְ־מענטשן אין פֿאַרשיידענע לענדער, באַשטראַלט זייער שווער לעבן מיט געזאַנג, מיט דעם פֿאָלקס־ליד. מיט דער צייט איז דאָס ליד ביים פֿאָלק געוואָרן אַ נייטווענדיקייט, אַ לעבנס־באַדערפֿעניש. דורך דעם ליד האָט דער ייִד אויסגעשריגן זיין טאָג־טעגלעכן פּיין, זיין פּראָטעסט קעגן אומרעכט, עקספּלואַטאַציע, דערנידערונג, וואָס די וועלט ווייזט אַרויס צום ייִד בפּרט און צום מענטש בכלל. גלייכצייטיק האָט דאָס ליד באַזונגען אַ גוטן טאָט פֿון אַנדערע פֿעלקער, די מעשים טובֿים פֿון געוויסע פּערזענלעכקייטן אָדער מלוכה־פֿירערס.

אויך האָט דער ייִד אויסגעזונגען אין דעם ליד זיין חלום און וויזיע וועגן אַ בעסערן מאָרגן, וואָס ווערט דערוואַרט; וועגן דער בענקשאַפֿט צום אייגענעם היימלאַנד, ווערנדיק דערביי אַ רוף צו קאַמף און אויסדויער. דאָס ליד, וואָס איז געזונגען געוואָרן ביי דער שווערער אַרבעט, האָט דערמאָנט דעם אומעט פֿון לעבן, דעם געיעג נאָך אַ ביסל פּרנסה. דאָס געזאַנג איז געוואָרן אַ שטרעבונג צו אַ וועלט פֿון יושר און גערעכטיקייט. און איבער אַלעם האָט דאָס ליד געשטאַרקט דעם בטחון און דעם גלויבן פֿון פֿאָלק, אַז בעסערע צייטן קומען אָן. איז טאַקע נישט איינמאָל אַ ליד געוואָרן אַ הימן פֿון אַ געוויסער פּאַרטיי אָדער באַוועגונג אָנהייבנדיק פֿון שיבֿת־ציון, לינקע פּועלי־ציון, בונד, קאָמוניזם ביז צום אויפֿשטאַנד אין וואַרשעווער געטאָ; געוואָרן אַ שבֿועה צו קעמפֿן, צו ברענגען און זיך נישט אונטערגעבן.

(פֿאָרזעצונג קומט)

McGill Jewish department moves

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Bidding shalom to the old greystone on Peel Street that had been its home since 1971, the Jewish studies department of McGill University packed up and moved to its new digs at 3438 McTavish St.

The department was forced out of its long-time headquarters because McGill is expanding its student-services building on McTavish Street, which is behind the former Jewish studies building.

The faculty, however, is shedding no tears over the loss of its old home. The new place is bigger, in better condition and closer to the main campus, said Jewish studies chair Gershon Hundert.

The new place is an old home, known as Lindsay House, and most recently was used by McGill for general offices. Its next-door neighbor is the East Asia studies program.

"The place has been completely renovated," Hundert said. "We had been begging McGill for years to renovate our old place without success. It was very, very rundown. The ceiling was falling in...There's zero nostalgia for it."

There's plenty of space for offices for the department's 8½-member faculty, which is made up of one part-time and four full-time professors, he said.

The classrooms are larger and better equipped, however, they only hold 25 students, he said, noting that those classes with larger enrolment, like the one on the Holocaust, are held elsewhere.

The Jewish teacher training program, which is part of the department, is now, for the first time, held in a different venue . It has relocated to the education department, which Hundert said is more appropriate.

"In this new location, Jewish studies is more integrated into the campus, more visible, less marginal," he concluded.

Raising the profile of Jewish studies has become a priority for the department, which celebrated its 30th anniversary last year, he said.

The department received a significant boost that year when the Cummings and Segal families gave it a $2-million gift, which has helped offset university cutbacks, he said. This move, however, has been funded totally by McGill, he added.

Although several Canadian universities have Jewish studies programs, McGill lays claim to have the only department in that discipline. "And there are only about five Jewish studies departments in the United States," Hundert said.

About 600 students take Jewish studies courses, which include Jewish history, literature and thought; rabbinics and Bible; and Hebrew, Yiddish and Aramaic. About 20 students are majoring in Jewish studies and at least a dozen others have minors in the subject.

In addition, close to 20 others are in the teacher training program.

The department grants bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. Hundert noted that this year, for the first time, two students are completing PhDs.

Last fall, to mark its 30th year, the department launched a lecture series entitled, The Academy Reports to the Community, which is geared to the public . The project is an attempt to bring the latest developments in the Jewish studies field to the layperson.

Hundert admitted that the first three lectures in the series were poorly attended. He said he hopes attendance will improve when the two remaining lectures in the series take place in the spring.

On March 11, Robert Goldenberg of the State University of New York at Stony Brook will speak on ancient Judaism at McGill's Leacock building, room 232; and on April 15, Derek Penslar of Indiana University will give a talk on modern Jewish thought, at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Shalom. Both lectures will be held at 7:30 p.m.

"The people we are bringing in really are at the top of their field, and they can speak in a way that anyone will appreciate," Hundert said.

The series will culminate with a two-day conference called At the Cutting Edge of Jewish Studies: The Most Recent Developments in the Field, which will take place at McGill May 9 to 10. Participants will include scholars from Harvard, Brandeis, Cornell, Yale, McGill and Concordia universities.

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Chai, Rusalka team up

By MYRON LOVE
CJN Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The Chai Folk Ensemble is breaking new ground.

At its annual winter concert, to be held March 2 and 3, the troupe will be performing, for the first time ever, with Winnipeg's leading Ukrainian dance group, the Rusalka Ukrainian Dance Ensemble.

Rusalka, formed in 1962, two years before Chai, has toured the world performing for royalty and the Pope.

Chai did its first tour of Israel in November, and has performed throughout North America.

In the joint concert, Rusalka will perform three of its own pieces. The grand finale, choreographed by Alberto Zirlinger, will see the two groups fuse their styles in a synthesis of cultures.

"The rehearsals have been very positive," says Chai artistic director Tamar Barr. "The groups have come together very quickly under Zirlinger's direction."

She says that Zirlinger, the former artistic director of Festival Aviv Carlos Halpert, Mexico City's annual celebration of Israeli dance, is the best choreographer to weld the two dance groups together because of his experience with ethnic dance groups.

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Mohammed's descendant born to be king

By DANIEL SOBELMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Looking back, it seems clear that King Hussein bin Talal of Jordan, who died Sunday at a hospital in Amman, knew that his days were numbered seven months ago when he was told that cancer had returned to his body. The king was first diagnosed with cancer in 1992.

On July 14, 1998, at the end of a meeting with members of the Labor party, the king said, "We do not have much time." He called on both the Israeli and Palestinian sides to resolve their differences, to put aside trivialities and to concentrate on completing peace.

Hussein's words took on an even greater significance four months later, when, haggard and exhausted, he left his hospital bed and infused the Wye Plantation signing ceremony with his personal charm, his many years of experience, his regal stature and his authority. The inescapable conclusion then was that the ceremony was a farewell gathering for the king of Jordan.

For six months during his cancer treatment in the United States, the people of Jordan had been waiting for the return of their king – a monarch who, for them, was not just a leader, but a father. Hussein enjoyed not only great respect from his subjects, but an unusual love, as well. "Our master" is how the Jordanians addressed their monarch.

He was a 42nd-generation direct descendant of the Prophet Mohammed. The Hashemite family, or Bani Hashem, is today the most respected royal family in the Muslim world.

King Hussein, who after 47 years on the Jordanian throne was the longest-serving head of state in the world, was born on Nov. 14, 1935, to Talal bin Abdullah and Zein al-Sharaf bin Jamil.

In 1916, at the time of the great Arab revolt, Hussein's great-grandfather, Hussein ben Ali, led the struggle to liberate Arab lands from the Ottoman Empire. In the years following, Hussein ben Ali's sons, Abdullah and Faisal, ruled Jordan, Syria and Iraq.

King Abdullah, Hussein's grandfather, gained Jordanian independence from the British in 1946. His contact with leading Jewish and Zionist figures, including Chaim Weizmann and Golda Meir, was well known, and at home, he was considered to be too moderate, a Zionist collaborator.

In July 1951, he was murdered by a lone Palestinian assassin on the steps of the al-Aksa Mosque compound in Jerusalem. His grandson Hussein was at his side when he was killed, but was spared, according to legend, thanks to a medallion his grandfather had given him shortly before the assassination.

Hussein's father, Talal, was crowned shortly after Abdullah's death, in accordance with Jordanian law (amended in 1965), which then stated that the king must pass the crown to his oldest son. Because of his poor mental condition, Talal's reign ended after just one year and the crown was passed to Hussein, who had not yet turned 18.

While the legal authority to rule was granted him on May 2, 1953, Hussein always celebrated the anniversary of his coronation on the date he was formally crowned king – Aug. 11. Last year, Hussein failed to celebrate this date on Jordanian soil for the first time in his life, while undergoing intensive chemotherapy at the Mayo Clinic.

Royal Hashemite family

Having completed his elementary education in Amman, Hussein attended Victoria College in Alexandria, Egypt, and Harrow in England, where he later sent his sons. He received his military education at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, England, now attended by Prince Hamza, the first of the king's sons from his marriage to Queen Noor.

In the last letter he sent to his brother Prince Hassan, Hussein wrote of his great love for Hamza.

King Hussein will be remembered, among other things, as the leader who changed the face of Jordan and who dedicated his entire life to improving the lot of his subjects. The royal Hashemite family is proud of Hussein's achievements over his long reign, including raising the literacy rate from about 33 percent to almost 90 percent, and making running water and electricity – which at the time of Hussein's ascension to the throne were only available to some 10 percent of the population – available to all Jordanian citizens.

It will take some time before the world gets used to the phrase "Abdullah, king of Jordan."

Abdullah celebrated his 37th birthday recently; his father was almost two decades younger when he assumed power in one of the Middle East's most delicate countries, one of the few whose continued existence is uncertain.

Jordan is surrounded by wily old-timers, who in the not-so-distant past have looked longingly at the neighboring kingdom. During the last 12 months, especially during Hussein's absence, there have been reports in Jordan that Syria and Iraq have sent hundreds of their agents into the country with the aim of undermining the stability of the new regime.

Two weeks ago, in the last interview he gave, Hussein expressed regret that he was not always able to prevent disasters and crises, despite the warnings he had received. From the time he assumed power, Hussein sought to avert war in the region, knowing that Jordan was ill-equipped to absorb the costs of the pan-Arab attacks initiated by Egypt and Syria against Israel. He also knew, however, that he was likely to pay a heavy price for any apparent weakness.

The peace accord signed on Oct. 26, 1994 between Jordan and Israel was a pivotal milestone of Hussein's long reign, one for which he had been longing and toward which he had been working for 31 years, since his first meeting with an Israeli representative, Dr. Yaakov Herzog. Herzog, who met with Hussein in London, was the special envoy of the then-prime minister Levi Eshkol. Herzog coined the code name "Charles" for secret meetings with King Hussein and those closest to him.

During the three decades after that first London meeting, Hussein and his emissaries met with dozens of high-ranking Israeli officials, including prime ministers. Even the Six Day War, in which Jordan lost the West Bank and east Jerusalem, did not end the Israeli-Jordanian dialogue.

Before the outbreak of that war, the king, as usual, tried to manoeuvre between Israel and the Arab world. He asked Israel not to attack his kingdom in the event of an Arab attack, a request that was denied.

Yet there has always been agreement among successive Israeli governments that a strong and stable Hashemite neighbor is clearly in Israel's interest. It was in defence of this interest that in September 1970, Israel warned Syria against invading Jordan.

An official Jordanian source was later to say; "I will never forget what Israel did in September 1970, since it was that which made me understand that Israel and Jordan have a connection and that Israel will never allow the security of the kingdom to be compromised."

It was during the same period that Hussein used brutal force to put down a Palestinian revolt that threatened his regime.

Israeli interests were put to the test again three years later, during the Yom Kippur War. Israel, which was in the throes of a deep crisis, knew that it could reduce its forces along the banks of the Jordan, safe in the knowledge of Hussein's peaceful intentions.

In 1991, Israel respected Jordanian air space when addressing the question of destroying incoming Iraqi Scud missiles.

Throughout his reign, King Hussein knew that the close relationship he enjoyed with Israel could not be made official until a solution was found to the Palestinian issue; over 60 percent of his subjects are of Palestinian origin.

Hussein's support of Saddam Hussein during the Gulf War led to the monarch's international isolation. The king extracted himself from this position by signing a peace accord with Israel, almost overnight becoming a universally popular figure, not least with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

It is almost impossible to envisage Jordan without King Hussein.

Continued on page 22

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Israel & the Jewish World

Hussein known for dedication to his people

[Continued from page 1]

hurting a lot about what happened. "I don't want to talk about the good or bad things he did. If you asked me who's better, Syrian President Hafez Assad or King Hussein, I'd say 100 times more, Hussein."

But Muktasib's neighboring shop owners don't all agree with his sentiments. At a spice shop four stores up from Muktasib, a Palestinian man in his 60's, said he is "upset about the death of a human being. About the king, I'm not upset. He's done very bad for Palestinians. There were secret talks between Israel and Jordan about the fate of the Palestinian people, without them consulting the Palestinian people."

"I'm not upset about the king's death," he reiterated.

Meanwhile, Jewish Israeli Corrine Kadouch, 29, has a feeling of uncertainty.

"I think the future is dark," said Kadouch. "There could be a coup d'etat...or Abdullah can by killed."

Jerusalem-based journalist Lisa Talesnick is also worried about the future of Jordan, but remains optimistic. "I love the man [Hussein]," she said. "He was a king in the true sense of the word. He did his terrible things like black September, but he's human."

"My hope and fantasy is that Abdullah's true kingly nature will emerge, but I'm nervous. It's not something you show overnight," she said. "Jordan had its king, and the king had His people."

In Canada, Moshe Ronen, president, Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), in a letter to H.E. Samir M. Khalifeh, ambassador to Canada for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, said, "The king has left behind a rich legacy as an international statesman, a beloved national leader and a man of peace whose reconciliation with Israel will help shape the destiny of the Middle East for generations to come.

"The king's efforts toward peace had far-reaching effects. In Canada, Jordan's rapprochement with its Israeli neighbors served to elevate efforts aimed at enhancing relations between the Jewish and Arab communities. We look forward to building on that foundation and working harmoniously together on issues of common concern to the future of Canadian society."

Ronen wished the new king of Jordan prosperity, good health and wise counsel, as he makes his mark toward a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The achievement of this goal will be a most fitting tribute to the memory of the late King Hussein."

Bill Clinton looks on as King Hussein (left) and Yitzhak Rabin sign the 1994 Jordan-Israel peace treaty. [Israel Sun photo]

The Canada-Israel Committee also conveyed its condolences to the ambassador of Jordan to Canada. "Much like his grandfather, King Abdullah, whom he succeeded more than 40 years ago, King Hussein consistently sought ways to move towards peace with Israel, and contribute towards greater stability in the Middle East.

"Despite tensions over the years, successive Israeli governments, as well as Israelis in general, regarded the king as a partner in bridging the gulf between the Jewish state and the Arab world. The formal peace treaty signed between Jordan and Israel in 1994 cemented that relationship.

"King Hussein will be remembered for his dedication to his people and the moderating leadership role he assumed on many fronts. To Israelis and Jews the world over, he will also be remembered as a friend."

Born to be king

Continued from page 21

During the past few months, Jordan has become hysterical after each new announcement of the king's failing health. These announcements, also published in Israel, predicted the king's imminent death. One of the last such announcements was in October 1998, following the publication of the king's picture after a meeting with Ariel Sharon. The reaction in Jordan reflected concern and uncertainty over the unavoidable future – a future without "the father of the Jordanian people."

To encapsulate the life work of Hussein is a near-impossible task. Until his last day, Hussein was active in promoting peace, and said he wanted to die the hero's death of his friend Yitzhak Rabin.

Before he left his kingdom for his last effort at life-saving treatment in the United States, Hussein sent an open letter to his son Abdullah that was actually more of a message to his subjects; in it, he asked them to treat his son as they had treated him.

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The Week in Israel

Feb. 1

• The founder of Hamas, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, began a hunger strike to protest the detention of what he called "political prisoners" in Palestinian jails.

Feb. 2

• Palestinian Authority (PA) security officials got into a shootout with three Hamas fugitives in the Gaza Strip. One PA official was killed; a Palestinian boy and girl were run over during an ensuing car chase. The three were later arrested along with 20 other Hamas activists.

• More than 140 Israeli academics, artists and public figures signed a petition calling for the establishment of a Palestinian state with eastern Jerusalem as its capital. The signatories included A.B. Yehoshua and Prof. Matanya Ben Artzi, the brother of Sara Netanyahu.

Feb. 3

• Israel reduced the sentence of five Jewish extremists serving prison terms for murder of Arab civilians. Israel's release of Palestinian prisoners in recent years justified the move, said Justice Minister Tzachi Hanegbi. Palestinian officials called the move a provocation.

Feb. 4

• Israeli jets struck targets in south Lebanon after Hezbollah fired rockets at Israel. None of the rockets landed in Israel, according to an army spokesperson.

• Religious pluralism is not a leading concern in Israel, Knesset member Alex Lubotsky told a delegation of 30 American Reform rabbis. "You need to take a broader look at Israeli society and not just look at your one issue," he said. Lubotsky, of the Third Way, was part of the Ne'eman Committee that was established to find moderate responses to pluralism issues in Israel.

Feb. 5

• "Don't say this is his final journey," was one of the headlines in Israeli newspapers, referring to the dying King Hussein, whose royal plane flew across Israeli skies to take him home to Amman.

Files from JTA and CJN sources

Israel Election Notebook

May 17

• Opinion polls published last Friday by Gallup in *Ma'ariv* revealed the following levels of public support in the race for premiership:
– Benjamin Netanyahu, 36 percent
– Ehud Barak, 31 percent
– Yitzhak Mordechai, 21 percent
– Benny Begin, six percent

In a runoff vote, however, Barak would defeat Netanyahu 49 percent to 43 percent with eight percent undecided. Yitzhak Mordechai would defeat the prime minister 53 percent to 39 percent, with eight percent undecided.

• Gallup also published results of the public's views on the election campaign itself: 65 percent of the respondents believed the election campaign was more violent than previous campaigns. Six percent felt the campaign was less violent; 25 percent believed the campaign was much the same as previous ones.

• In a separate poll on the subject of campaign violence published the by Dahaf Institute in *Yediot Aharonot*, 55 percent of respondents believed the campaign was violent and that it endangered society; 13 percent felt the campaign was violent but did not endanger society; 20 percent found the campaign was not violent; nine percent offered no opinion.

Little opposition to trade deal with PA

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

OTTAWA — Canada will sign a free trade deal with the Palestinian Authority (PA) this month.

The inking of the deal is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 27. It will be signed by Canada's minister of international trade, Sergio Marchi, and his Palestinian counterpart, during Marchi's whirlwind Middle East trade mission from Feb. 22 to the 28th.

Earlier concerns that a free trade deal would be tantamount to support for Palestinian statehood have largely dissipated.

For one, this will not be a treaty, said Claude Demers, a spokesman for Canada's Foreign Affairs and International Trade ministry.

"It's a trade arrangement...a framework for cooperation," said Demers. "It's not a deal with a sovereign nation. Canada does not recognize Palestine. It's not a treaty, because a treaty implies a sovereign country."

Marchi's trade mission will take him to the West Bank, where the deal will be signed by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Israel.

The minister will also "review" the two-year-old Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement, according to a statement.

That doesn't mean Canada is seeking changes to its free trade pact with Israel, Demers stressed.

"We want to see what progress has been made and to see if more can be done."

Two-way trade between Canada and Israel totalled $750 million in 1997, the first full year of the dropping of virtually all tariffs between the two countries. The figures represented a 40 percent jump in trade from the previous year.

Canada's deal with Israel included trade with the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Ottawa, however, pursued a separate agreement with the Palestinians.

Media reports last month said an Israeli outcry was expected should a free trade deal with the Palestinians go ahead.

Reports said the deal is a touchy subject for Israel and Jewish leaders in Canada because it would be seen as conferring the status of an independent Palestinian state.

However, Israel's embassy in Ottawa is at ease with the deal.

"We have no problem with the extension of benefits from the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement to the Palestinians," said David Sultan, Israel's ambassador to Canada. "On the contrary, if any agreement can help improve the Palestinian economy, we support it."

Sultan said the pact conforms to all international norms.

Rob Ritter, executive director of the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC), said he's "not especially concerned" with the signing of the deal.

"It was done in full consultation with Israel and to the satisfaction of Israel," Ritter said.

A statement from the CIC says the deal "should in no way be construed or misused as a statement on the part of Canada regarding the political status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

Harold Brief, who heads the Israel affairs committee of Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), also said his organization stands behind the trade deal with the Palestinians. "We very much support it."

However, a recent statement by CJC's Michael Elterman, who sits on the Israel affairs committee, sounded an opposite view.

Elterman was quoted as telling Vancouver's *Western Jewish Bulletin* that a Canadian trade deal with the PA is tantamount to support for Palestinian sovereignty.

"...By doing this, I think Canadian officials are de facto recognizing the Palestinian National Council (PNC) as the government of a future Palestinian state," Elterman was quoted as saying, adding he thought Ottawa should have waited for more progress in the peace process before signing a free trade deal with Palestinians.

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Orthodox, Reform Jews clash in Jerusalem

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — The gap separating the various streams of Judaism has again become all too apparent.

In a scene reminiscent of similar incidents at the Western Wall during the past few years, Israeli police restrained haredi demonstrators last week, as a delegation of American Reform rabbis held a mixed prayer service there.

Dozens of the demonstrators scuffled with police and heckled the worshippers as the service took place in a cordoned-off area of the Western Wall Plaza.

One member of the delegation, Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch, executive director of the Association of Reform Zionists of America, said religious intolerance had made it necessary for his group to pray under police protection.

"This is a disgrace, that a group of Reform rabbis is penned up in this cage. This area does not belong to the protesters," he said.

A day before the prayer service was held, a coalition of American Orthodox Jews known as Am Echad, or One Nation, issued a statement decrying what it described as the "confrontation" created by the Reform delegation.

And in an ad appearing in the *New York Times*, Am Echad charged that U.S. Reform and Conservative leaders "want you to believe that Israel's Orthodox parties don't want to recognize American Jews as Jews.

"Far from undermining Jewish unity, Israel's Orthodox parties are trying to maintain it," the ad continued. "Let's cool the rhetoric and present our points of view with honesty and respect."

The Reform delegation's visit came a week after the Knesset passed legislation aimed at blocking the appointment of Reform and Conservative representatives to local religious councils.

During their visit, the delegation planned to meet with Israeli political leaders, including the centrist party's candidate for prime minister, Yitzhak Mordechai, who was criticized by liberal politicians after voting in favor of the religious councils legislation.

In a related development, haredi leaders are raising money to cover penalties that the High Court of Justice is imposing on the heads of some local religious councils.

The court is imposing the fines on those council leaders who ignore a recent court ruling ordering them to allow Conservative and Reform representatives to attend council meetings.

Recently, the court fined the head of the Jerusalem council some $7,300 (US) for failing to abide by the ruling.

The reaction of local Toronto rabbis to the fracas at the Wall mirrored denominational differences in Israel.

Rabbi Paul Golomb, director, Canadian Council for Reform Judaism placed the blame for the confrontation on the shoulders of the Israeli government.

"The thundering silence of the government speaks volumes," said Rabbi Golomb. The response of "hooligans" at the Western Wall, the opposition to women at the wall and to mixed services at the wall are "all of a piece."

To Rabbi Moshe Stern, head of the Vaad Haroboním, the council of Orthodox rabbis, the events at the Western Wall are "very, very sad."

He said the U.S. Reform rabbis have turned an ancient religious symbol into a political arena to further their personal agenda. Rabbi Stern criticized them for deliberately creating a spectacle at the wall.

"How would the media know about it if they were not attracted in advance by the Reform rabbis?"

Rabbi Barry Schneider of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue said: "The current atmosphere of intolerance is unfortunate.

"It would be very beneficial to get these matters out of religious spheres."

He also described the Knesset's bill barring Conservative and Reform rabbis from local religious councils as "unfortunate," but added, "I'm not sure that the means by the non-Orthodox movements to oppose it were right."

Passage of the legislation by the Knesset was "Orthodox blackmail" said Rabbi Dow Marmur of Holy Blossom Temple. The "hooliganism" at the wall during the confrontation is not unconnected to the Knesset's bill, Rabbi Marmur said. "Those in power tolerate the ultra-Orthodox for their votes."

With files from Ben Rose.

Israelis mark 'passing of a noble friend'

By GIDEON ALON
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — As flags were lowered to half-mast last Sunday, Israeli officials and Knesset members expressed their grief over the death of Jordan's King Hussein and sent condolences to the Jordanian people. Many recalled meetings with the king and told stories of his humanity and kindness as they had experienced it.

"The Israeli people bow their heads at the passing of a noble friend," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. Weizman described the late monarch as "perhaps Israel's best friend in the Middle East."

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon said the Middle East and the whole world lost a great leader and Israel lost a true friend. Sharon expressed his condolences to Queen Noor; to the new king, Hussein's eldest son, Abdullah; to the king's family and to the Jordanian people.

Sharon emphasized that "we must continue to strengthen the friendly ties between Israel and the Jordanian kingdom."

Labor leader Ehud Barak said Israel laments the death of King Hussein, who "beat his swords into plowshares and his spears into pruning hooks. He who took part in bitter wars against us, turned into a warrior for peace. Together with the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, he pursued peace and achieved it, and laid the grounds for a new life of calm in the Middle East."

Barak said Israel owed Hussein a great debt. "I was lucky to meet him personally over the years, in trying times and in moments of success...I saw a courageous leader and a courageous man who was not deterred by difficult situations or decisions. I was lucky to be able to enjoy his wisdom, his pleasant manners and his blessings."

Industry and trade minister Natan Sharansky said, "I bow my head in memory of King Hussein – a great leader, a maker of peace and a pursuer of peace. He was the first leader in the Muslim world who understood the importance of strong and durable peace in our region... "I remember the king during the Wye summit," Sharansky added. "In spite of his terrible pain he came to invest his utmost to reach a peace agreement and to diminish the gaps between the sides. And despite his physical weakness, his spiritual strength radiated."

Defence minister Moshe Arens expressed his sorrow and the sorrow of the entire security establishment and the IDF over the death of "the great leader, neighbor, peace-warrior, King Hussein."

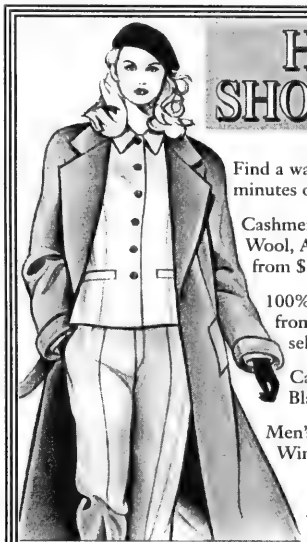
Former defence minister and chair of the centrist party, MK Yitzhak Mordechai said, "With tearful eyes, the people of Israel will accompany a true friend on his final journey." Mordechai said he was deeply impressed by the king's determination to anchor and deepen the peace between the Jordanian and Israeli peoples. He said that in his meetings with Hussein's heir, he learned that Abdullah was a great believer in peace and that he understood the mutual security and other interests shared by the two countries.

Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein recalled that when the government approved his appointment, King Hussein phoned him at home to congratulate him. Rubinstein said that in the 12 years that he knew the Jordanian monarch, he met with him several times and was especially impressed by his humanity. "I once spent Shabbat in London with Ephraim Halevy, of the Mossad, and we had to wait until the Sabbath ended before we could meet him. But King Hussein did not wait until the Sabbath was over. Instead he came to our hotel himself to keep us company," Rubinstein recalled.

The attorney general said the last time he spoke with the king was two weeks ago. "Then he sounded stronger and optimistic and expressed hope that he would be able to overcome his illness," Rubinstein said.

He said he does not know Abdullah, adding that he only shook his hand once during a meeting with the king.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon said the Israeli Knesset mourned the death of Hussein. "This courageous man is no longer with us, and that is very sad."



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Health

Doctor tackles male sexuality with advice, humor

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Most people squirm when they have to discuss sexual problems, yet many of them feel at ease telling jokes about the subject.

In a recently published book titled, *Sex For Life: The Lover's Guide to Male Sexuality*, (Apple Publishing, Vancouver), author Dr. David Saul tackles the subject from the medical/psychological perspective, and adds jokes and humorous quotations at the end of each chapter.

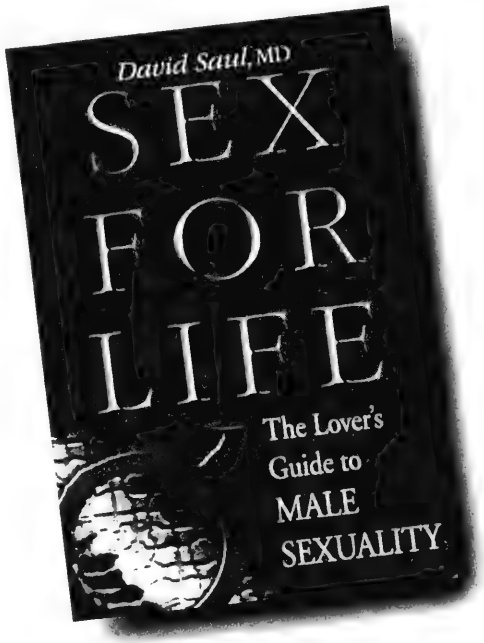
Saul is a family doctor in Scarborough who has led support groups for cancer patients, and has worked on breast cancer prevention projects. He has turned his focus to a comprehensive approach to men's sexual dysfunctions.

Saul combines alternative/complementary therapies with traditional medical treatments. He is a contributor to medical journals and newspapers, and he is a frequent guest on radio and television programs.

Two years ago, he joined the Midlife Health Centre as director of men's health programs. He is the only family doctor asked to join the Canadian Male Sexual Health Council among 12 Canadian urologists, and he is a member of the International Society for the Study of the Aging Male.

Saul has consulted for the pharmaceutical industry for products including, Viagra, Caverject, MUSE, Andriol, Flomax and Quest Vitamins.

Dr. David Saul



"From Viagra to vitamins to various techniques, my holistic health program will guide men to a lifetime of great sex," says Saul.

"And for women, they can learn how they can help their man overcome or prevent erectile dysfunction (ED), improve his health and develop a better relationship at the same time."

The vast majority of men, he says, are embarrassed to discuss any failing sexual performance, and are therefore reluctant to seek advice from their family doctor.

His research indicates that three things are happening: family doctors are not asking their male patients enough direct questions on sexual dysfunctioning; patients are not aware that effective medical treatments are available; and many doctors are not up to date with recent medical improvements in the treatment of these problems.

"My book, *Sex For Life*, may initiate that first call to the doctor."

He notes that medical conditions such as diabetes, angina, high blood pressure, and prostate cancer, are common causes of men's sexual dysfunction.

"The good news is that there are effective, rapid and easy-to-use treatments now available for males of all ages, not just older men."

Sex For Life contains techniques to deal with a number of problems such as work stress, marital problems, alcohol, and medication side effects.

There are chapters on depression, gender conflicts, male infertility, trauma and andropause (male menopause), why sexual dysfunction occurs, how to treat it, and most important, how to prevent it.

Saul says that "old medical dogma" states that some 75 percent of sexual problems are due to psychological problems, and 25 percent to medical problems.

"In the past 15 years, medical literature consistently and conclusively has been showing the reverse to be true; 75 to 85 percent of ED is due to medical concerns, and only 15 percent to psycho-social concerns."

The book has case studies, medical research, and step-by-step programs to improve (via natural means) diabetes, cholesterol, high blood pressure and lowered testosterone.

On the lighter side, an example of a closing quote is from comedian Jerry Seinfeld. "Men are like firemen. To us, sex is an emergency, and no matter what we're doing, we can be ready in two minutes."

Mount Sinai to benefit from research project

TORONTO — A multi-million dollar research partnership unveiled recently at Mount Sinai Hospital's Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute will support medical research and ensure jobs for young researchers.

The Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund, the Lunenfeld Institute, MDS Inc., Bristol-Myers Squibb and GlycoDesign are contributing almost $60 million in funds and equipment to the initiative.

The partnership will support projects in proteomics and bioinformatics, functional genomics and animal models of human disease, an industrial chair in glycobiology, and a research training program.

The government, through its Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund is committing $11.9 million to the program, said Jim Wilson, Ontario minister of energy, science and technology.

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Authors & Poets

The CJN is pleased to announce the third annual Passover Literary Supplement. We therefore invite the authors and poets among our readers to submit their works to us. We are looking only for works of fiction or poetry that explore Jewish themes.

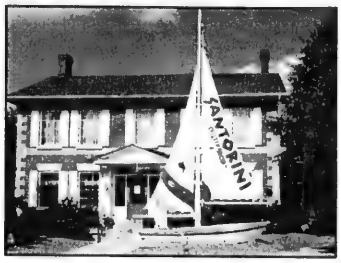
The works must be original and previously unpublished. The fiction cannot be longer than 1,500 words. We must receive your works ***no later than February 26, 1999*** at *The CJN*, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, Ontario M3B 3K4. If you want us to return the submissions, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Otherwise, we will be unable to do so.

—The editor

THE DINING GUIDE

ADVERTISING FEATURE

SANTORINI GRILL



Santorini is a Mediterranean restaurant with a Greek flavor, featuring grilled steaks, souvlaki, mezes, pasta, seafood and fresh fish. Enjoy a fresh salmon, swordfish or sea bass fillet, or a whole red snapper or sea bass. Every dinner includes taramosalata, pickles and salad appetizers, and a homemade loaf you slice to your taste; birthday or anniversary parties of more than four receive a free cake. In this fine house built in 1855, the private rooms with their inviting decor and electric fireplaces can seat 15 or 45 dinner guests; why not celebrate your special occasion here?

288 John St., Markham
Phone 905-731-4400

Open Mon.–Sat. 11:30–3:00 for lunch, after 3 for dinner.
Sun. 12–5 for private parties, after 5 for dinner.
Reservations recomended, required Fri. & Sat.
Parking Thornhill Sq. in front of restaurant

ROSEWATER SUPPER CLUB

Rosewater Supper Club is situated minutes from the heart of Toronto's financial and theatre district. Renowned for the beauty and elegance of its historical landmark building, it's perfect for enjoying cocktails, an exquisite meal or a special event. The diversity and décor of the restaurant will amaze you, whether you're in the main dining room, private Boardroom, the Mezzanine, the Supper Club or the Ember Lounge. Executive Chef Vaughan Chittock's modern French menu achieves harmony with the elegance of the heritage structure. The highest standards of quality and meticulous attention to detail are ahered to by all staff.

19 Toronto Street
Phone 416-214-5888

Rosewater is reserved for private functions. Reservations recommended
Hours: Lunch Mon.-Fri. 11:30-2:30
Dinner Mon.-Sat. 5:30-10:30

LOBSTER ROYALE

Seafood and lobster lovers, come and enjoy. Dine at The Lobster Royale where lobsters range from one to three pounds, live from the tank, prepared for you either broiled or steamed. Start your meal with a superb Lobster Bisque or a divine Clam Chowder. Other fine fish delicacies are Alaska King Crab Legs, Orange Roughy and Fresh Atlantic Salmon and the meat menu includes Filet Mignon and New York Striploin. There is a certain tone here, not too formal; smart-casual dress goes well with fine table linen.

7323 Yonge Street
Phone 905-707-0546

Hours:Mon.&Tues. 5 p.m-.9 p.m.
Wed.-Sun. 5 p.m.-10 p.m.
Reservations advised for groups of 4 and up
Wheelchair access

ABBONDANTE RESTAURANT

Enjoy the warmth of Abbondante and our new winter menu created by Chef Jim Farr (formerly of St. Thomas Street Restaurant in Richmond Hill). Whether it's lunch, dinner or perhaps just coffee and dessert, you'll have a great time and great food.

Coming soon to Abbondante, watch for our new home and office catering services to enhance your party or meeting.

10620 Yonge Street, Unit 16
South of Elgin Mills
Phone 905-780-0183

Hours: Mon.–Fri. 11:30-11;
Sat. 5–11; Sun. 5–10
Ample free parking. Wheelchair access. Reservations recommended.

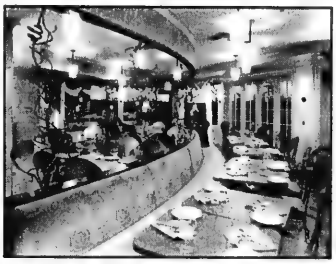
STEELES DELI

Steeles Deli helps you keep life simple. You'll feel at home in this clean, friendly family restaurant; it specializes in traditional heimishe cooking, with a full kids' menu. Its liver & onions and old-fashioned Montreal smoked meats are famous; the gefilte fish, potato latkes, knishes and matzah balls are prepared in-house. There are eight kinds of soup to go, including matzah ball, chicken noodle and cabbage borscht, as well as meat by the pound, including corned beef and pastrami pickled in-house. There are tasty salads too; and don't forget that Steeles Deli caters.

180 Steeles Avenue West
905-881-8366

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.,
Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
Wheelchair access

SPEZZO RISTORANTE

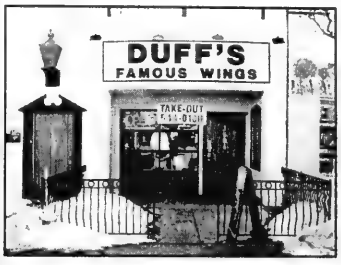


Spezzo Ristorante offers the very best in Northern Italian cuisine with a Mediterranean flair. Surrounded in opulence, and meticulously cared for, you may enjoy an incredible antipasti selection, innovative pastas, thin crust, stone baked gourmet pizzas, fresh fish, rack of lamb, a succulent 10 oz. Angus steak and desserts to die for – all masterfully prepared using only the finest and freshest market ingredients. Compliment your dining experience with fine wines and complete your night out in the lounge, featuring select live music Friday & Saturday nights. If you are planning a private affair, Spezzo Ristorante is available Sundays for exclusive use.

140 York Blvd., Richmond Hill
Phone 905-886-9703

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 11am-11pm; Fri. 11a.m.–midnight
Sat. 4:30p.m.–midnight;
Sun. available for private functions
Reservations recommended, Buon appetito!

DUFF'S FAMOUS WINGS



Specializing in authentic Buffalo-style chicken wings, Duff's has earned its claim to fame; patrons say these wings are the best in town. Based in Buffalo, New York, this is Canada's first Duff's franchise. There are honey garlic and BBQ-style wings too, as well as burgers, grilled chicken and steak sandwiches, assorted salads, appetizers, and 11 kinds of beer on tap. Bring the family to this relaxed, friendly place, to enjoy the full kids' menu, or take out to eat at home. And remember Tuesday is super-special wing night.

Bring in this ad for 10 free wings when 10 or more are purchased. Not applicable with any other offer. Eat-in only. Valid until March 11.

1604 Bayview Avenue
Phone 416-544-0100

Hours:Mon.-Wed. 11a.m.-11p.m.,
Thurs.-Sat. 11a.m.-1a.m.,
Sun. noon-11p.m.

BISTRO 1206

This friendly bistro, a place everybody can enjoy, is ideal for a family with diverse tastes. Everything is fresh daily and cooked to order. Bistro 1206 is known for its fine steaks, BBQ ribs and chicken; there are pizzas and pastas too, and tasty vegetarian dishes like artichoke salad, Caesar salad with red balsamic vinegar dressing, and the scrumptious veggie steak. The atmosphere is romantic with California motif decor: black lacquer chairs, yellow faux finish walls, candles and terracotta ceramics. Bistro 1206 does take-out too; and their biggest business is banquets, through Big Al's Marvelous Meals Catering.

1206 Eglinton Ave. West
416-256-7399

Reservations recommended.
For Big Al's Marvelous Meals, call 665-8181
Hours: Tues - Thu 5-10, Fri & Sat 5-11,
Sun 5-9:30; closed Mondays

THE DINING GUIDE

ADVERTISING FEATURE

The Lobster Trap Restaurant

Still serving satisfied patrons after 35 years. The Lobster Trap is Toronto's original lobster house. Unique in Canada, The Lobster Trap offers live lobster in the tank from one pound up to four pounds, prepared the way you like it; and the lobster bisque sets the standard for all others. Besides our delicious lobster, scampies, Alaska king crab legs, shrimps and mussels, there is also a selection of other fine fish dishes. Casual dress goes with the cozy atmosphere; and there is a special kids' menu. Lunches start at $4.95, dinners at $16.95. The Lobster Trap accepts all major credit cards.

1962 Avenue Road
Phone 416-787-3211

Hours: Lunch Mon.-Fri. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Dinner 5:00-10:00 p.m., 7 days a week

Lick's

Licks is excited to be in Thornhill, preparing gourmet burgers with fresh ingredients that put "food", i.e. nutrition and taste, back into "fast food". Try the six-ounce ground steak Homeburger; the Chick'n Lick'n; the ground turkey Gobbler; or the vegetarian Nature Burger with its special spice blend. There are kids' meals, a Value Menu with combos, many ice cream flavors, and desserts like hot fudge or fresh fruit sundae. This upbeat restaurant, with music recalling the '50s and '60s and staff that chant your order, also hosts kids' birthdays. Want to cook for yourself? Order Licks' barbecue six-pack.

8187 Yonge Street, Thornhill
Phone 416-362-5425

Open 11a.m.– 11p.m. every day
Wheelchair access
Reservations for large parties only

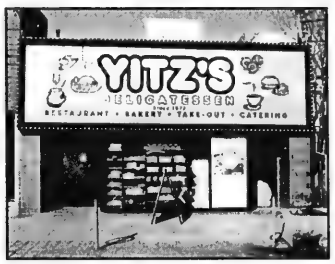
Garlic Pepper, Szechuan Cuisine

In a casual, family atmosphere, Garlic Pepper offers you spicy Szechuan cuisine with plenty of garlic, good for body and soul all year round. The one-price All You Can Enjoy special, with over 60 soup, appetizer and entree selections, is served a la carte , so you can relax over your meal; Mon.-Fri. $12.99, Sat., Sun. and holidays $13.99. Try General Tsao's chicken, or chicken chunks in honey garlic sauce; and there's dim sum all day long. There's home pickup and delivery, and a private dining room for up to 80. Fully licensed; smoking area.

Thornhill
7335 Yonge Street, (at Glen Cameron)
Phone 905-882-7836
Midtown
3330 Yonge Street, (at Fairlawn)
Phone 416-481-6363

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 11:30 a.m.-midnight
Sat.-Sun. 10:00 a.m.-midnight
Wheelchair access
Reservations welcome

Yitz's Delicatessen



A Jewish Deli serving hearty foods prepared fresh daily with many favourites like homemade soups, corned beef, knishes, big salads and bagels. Voted #1 for Chicken Matzoh Ball Soup, Baby Beef, Lemon Meringue Pie and Chunky Chocolate Cookies. Boasts a 'lighten up' low fat menu. Baking on premises all day long. Unique Feature: A well stocked Humidor with the finest Cuban cigars at the city's best prices.

346 Eglinton Avenue West
Phone 416-487-4506

Sat.&Sun. Brunch until 2:30 p.m.
Hours: 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
Take Out: 9:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
7 days a week
Wheelchair access to main floor

Furama House

Looking for ambience, fine dining and a varied selection of Cantonese and Szechuan cuisine? Look no further than Bobby Peng's Furama House, which boasts all of the above plus the city's most spectacular Dim Sum, available from 10 to 4 seven days a week for your dining pleasure. Ongoing specials include Live Lobster (buy 1 get 1 free, $18.95 eat in or $20.95 take out), and Live Lobster & Whole King Crab, $25.50. Mon. to Fri. except holidays, enjoy 20% off the Dim Sum if paying cash, and 15% off the dinner menu, not including specials.

100 Steeles Avenue West
Phone 905-731-3288

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., 7 days a week. Dim Sum 10-4 daily.
Eat-in or take out.
Fully licensed. Wheelchair Access.
Reservations recommended.

Octavia Restaurant

There's only one thing better than great **Memories** — namely, great experiences today! In the world of fine cuisine, that means **Octavia** – Tom Konis' new and totally unique dining lounge on the Danforth. From 5 to 10 p.m. you'll enjoy fresh seafood, pasta, lamb, and BBQ back ribs as only Tom can make them, along with his new, vibrant Mediterranean menu featuring the best dips this side of Greece! After 10 p.m., you can relax with a cigar and a martini, and soak in the atmosphere while enjoying the most comfortable, intimate seating arrangements you can imagine.

With his partners, son John Konis and close friend Tom Athanasopoulos, Tom Konis offers affordable fine dining in a truly friendly, down-to-earth, comfortable environment. Heartily recommended.

414 Danforth Avenue
Phone 416-461-3562

Hours: Dining 5 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Lounge 10 p.m. — closing.
Fully licensed.

Centre Street Deli

The Centre Street Deli has just moved to a brand new location a half a block west of their previous store. Known for wonderful hand-cut smoked meat sandwiches and fresh-cut French fries, it has many other items to satisfy your appetite and palate – and your children, with a kids' menu to match the family atmosphere. All items are available for take-out. The Centre Street Deli also has an extensive catering menu of meat or dairy dishes on trays or by the pound, hors d'oeuvres, and party sandwiches. Call Sam or Cheryl for your catering needs.

1136 Centre Street
Phone 905-731-8037

Hours: 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
7 days a week

Bumpkin's

Bumpkin's, under the same owner since 1971, is situated in a Victorian house with an inviting atmosphere and warm fireplace. The huge menu includes duck a l'orange, quails and breast of chicken; for seafood, try the best-selling Shrimps Bumpkin's, fresh Atlantic salmon, stuffed rainbow trout, or fresh catch of the day. The choice of tender, juicy meat items includes roast beef, sirloin, filet mignon and sirloin butt steak; there are also fine vegetarian dishes, like pasta primavera. Daily specials include tiger shrimp, pasta aux fruits de mer, and surf 'n turf. Appetizers are from $2.95, entrees from $8.95; lunches include soup or salad. Best escargots & mussels in town! Newly renovated with wall to wall famous paintings.

21 Gloucester Street
Phone 416-922-8655

Hours: Lunch Mon.-Fri. 12:00-2:30 p.m., Dinner Mon.-Sat. 5:00-11:00 p.m.
Reservations requested for 5 or more

DINING PLEASURES

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E-mail: www.academyartisans.com
or doncolvin@sympatico.ca
The Academy of Artisans is enjoying its 3rd year of providing professional artists to teach arts, crafts and cooking to the community whether a preschooler, after school teen, adult or senior, the Academy is for you! Fully equipped studios, warm friendly environment. Explore your artistic passions! For information and free brochure contact the Academy of Artisans, 490 Eglinton Ave. W., Toronto, Ont. M5N 1A5.

ACE EXPERIENCES
137 Colborne St. W.,
Orillia, Ont. L3V 2Z1
Director: Penny Rosen
Tel: 416-785-4367
Toll free: 877-ACE-TRIP
Fax: 416-785-6462
E-mail: rosenp@hotmail.com
An ACE Experience is a 10 day wilderness trip that includes rock climbing, hiking, sea kayaking and camping. As ACE teens challenge themselves outdoors and make new friends, in a space of non-judgment, they have the opportunity to explore their potential and feel good about who they are!

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Guelph Airpark, R.R. #2, Skyway Dr.,
Guelph, Ont. N1H 6H8
Director: Adelle Fogle
Tel: 519-824-2660 / 1-800-599-7539
Fax: 519-824-0190
E-mail: aviation@sympatico.ca
Located just east of the city of Guelph and a short drive from Toronto, the exciting atmosphere of the airpark introduces young people aged 14-17 to the world of aviation. The camp incorporates ground school theory and flight training. Enrich your child's life by offering them an introduction to flying.

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Lennoxville, QC J1M 1Z8,
Director: David Turner
Tel: 819-566-0227, ext. 219
Fax: 819-922-8917
E-mail: summer@bcschool.qc.ca
Bishop's College School summer program offers ESL or FSL to students from around the world. Your child will spend 4 stimulating weeks (July 4-31) learning a second language while participating in a full range of sports and activities. Situated in the beautiful Eastern Townships of Quebec. Student/ teacher ratio - 12/1.

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Toll free: 1-800-560-8242
The first of its kind in Canada, this unique camp right on Maple Lake just 2 hours from Toronto, offers youngsters 8-16 superb water, sports and games facilities in a multi-program environment dedicated to building Jewish values and identity and heightened self-esteem.

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Ottawa, Ont. K2A 4E2
Director: Steve Forman
Tel: 1-800-488-6431 Fax: 1-514-488-0748
Toronto contact: Camper Care Dir: Cathy Indig
Tel: 905-764-5517 Fax: 905-707-9834
A fantastic facility with gorgeous on-site waterfront, spectacular scenery, strong emphasis on sports, arts, drama and Judaica. Landsports program with individualized instruction. Mature, experienced staff, kosher kitchen under COR. On-site medical staff and infirmary. Registered charitable institution so a portion of fee is tax-deductible.

CAMP EITAN
475 Patricia Ave.,
Willowdale, Ont. M2R 2N1
Director: M. Levine
Tel: 416-225-1187 / 416-781-2333
For boys and girls, ages 3-12. Provides door-to-door transportation, hot kosher lunches (COR) and basic swimming instruction. Prices are the same as last year: $495 per 4-week session or $855 for both sessions. A recent innovation in the boys' division is a special baseball camp at our same low cost, and basketball clinics. Our campers are sure to enjoy this popular feature.

CAMP GESHER
272 Codsell Ave.,
Downsview, Ont. M3H 3X2
Toronto area contact: Yonatan Kassel
Tel: 416-633-2511 Fax: 416-636-5248
Ottawa area contact: Hagit Goldfarb
Tel: 613-789-7241 Fax: 613-789-3494
E-mail: campgesher@aol.com
Website:
http://members.aol.com/campgesher
Camp Gesher is part of the Habonim Dror Youth Movement. CCA member. A camping adventure inspired by kibbutz life. Waterfront, sports, hobbies; Judaic program; Hebrew. Ages 9-17. Full session 7½ wks; 2 half sessions 3½ and 3 wks. Special 13-day Junior Camping program for Grades 2 & 3.

CAMP MOSHAVA
159 Almore Ave.,
Downsview, Ont. M3H 2H9
Director: Lawrence Weinberg
Tel: 416-630-7578 Fax: 416-630-8301
E-mail: moshava@interlog.com
Website: www.campmoshava.org
An Orthodox, Zionist camp embracing the Bnai Akiva ideals of Torah, Avodah and Aliyah, situated in the Kawartha Lakes. Heated swimming pool, waterskiing, banana boats, canoes, rock climbing wall, high and low ropes course, mountain biking, sports field, Beit Knesset and Beit Midrash. Shomer Shabbat camp under COR supervision, with medical staff.

CAMP N'VEI ASHDOD
Director: Rabbi Meyer Fendel
N.Y. Tel. and Fax: 718-261-4322
Girls (10-17) touring camp - Israel. Join lively religious English-speakers from around the world for 6 memorable weeks of touring Israel the Torah way. Supervision: Rabbi Meyer Fendel. Special learning program. Olympic pool on premises - central Israel. Call for special discount.

CAMP NCSY
7000 Bathurst St.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 7L1
Contact: Guila Benchimol
Tel: 905-761-6279, ext. 25
Fax: 905-761-9115
Open to girls in grades 9-12, Aug. 3-30. Overnight girls camp near Kingston, Ont. On a 900-acre site, with 2 lakefronts, private island, horseback riding, outdoor and indoor recreational facilities. Integrates a fun summer with a unique program to broaden Jewish awareness in an exciting atmosphere.

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Downsview, Ont. M3H 5V3
Executive Director: Ellen Nash
Tel: 416-630-1180 Fax: 416-630-8561
A residential camp for boys and girls 7-15, on 750 acres in the picturesque Haliburton Highlands. Programs are designed to meet the needs of each age group. Campers are offered waterskiing, windsurfing, canoeing, kayaking, sailing, tennis, drama, arts & crafts, nature, sports, and Judaic cultural programs. Food services supervised by COR.

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491 Lawrence Ave. W., Suite 400,
Toronto, Ont. M5M 1C7
Contact: Rabbi Mitchell Cohen
Tel: 416-789-2193 Fax: 416-789-3970
Camp Ramah is located in Muskoka and is appropriate for children ages 9-16. At Ramah we believe that the summer is an important time for growth. We offer a full range of exciting activities while fostering Jewish commitment and values.

CAMP ROBIN HOOD
158 Limestone Cres.,
Downsview, Ont. M3J 2S4
Contact: Registrar
Tel: 416-736-4443 Fax: 416-736-9971
Summer fun. Family style. Over 50 years of providing fun and safe children's day camp programs designed by experienced staff. Renowned swim program. For children 4-15 years. Door to door transportation. Ask about express busing!

CAMP SHALOM
788 Marlee Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 3K1
Tel: 416-783-6744 Fax: 416-783-9363
Camp Shalom (founded 1948), non-profit Zionist overnight camp, in Graven-hurst, Ont. on Lake Muskoka. 240 campers, ages 8-13 for each 4 wk session. Kosher (COR). Activities include Jewish programs, ropes course, waterski, canoe, sail, kayaks, instructional swim, tripping, baseball, tennis, landsports, arts & crafts, jazz, drama, cooking, newspaper, Israeli singing & dance, camp band. Our 51st year!

CAMP SHOMRIA
1111 Finch Ave. W., Ste. 456,
Downsview, Ont. M3J 2E5
Camp Director: Noam Massad
Tel: 416-736-1339 Fax: 416-736-1405
Co-ed, 115 campers, ages 8-16. Located on scenic Otty Lake. Programs focus on Jewish identity, progressive Zionism, kibbutz, building lasting friendships, group cooperation, social and community awareness. Waterskiing, tubing, kayaking, canoeing, instructional swim, Israeli singing, dancing, drama, crafts, photography, theme days and much more! Run by Hashomer Hatzair Youth Movement (affiliated with the Kibbutz Artzi Federa-tion in Israel) for over 60 years.

CAMP TAPUZ - ISRAEL
74 Tchernichovsky St.,
Jerusalem, 92585 Israel
Director: Eli Gordon
Tel: 02-678-4451 or 02-678-0617
Fax: 02-679-0008
Camp Tapuz is a unique, exciting, educational, fun-filled summer-camp experience in Israel. We have participants from all over North America, England, Europe and Israel. Camp activities include arts & crafts, sports, trips throughout Israel and lots more. Kosher food, creative Shabbat services.

CENTRE CAMP
4588 Bathurst St.,
North York, Ont. M2R 1W6
Director: Patricia Trojman
Tel: 416-636-1880, ext. 378
Fax: 416-636-5813
Centre Camp offers exciting activities for children ages 2½-14 years through 1/2, 3/4 and full day programs. All full day participants will receive daily instructional and recreational swim, sports, drama, nature, music, arts & crafts, dance and Judaica. Specialty camps are available in the arts, sports and computers. All only minutes from your front door.

CRESTWOOD VALLEY DAY CAMP
411 Lawrence Ave. E.,
Toronto, Ont. M3C 1N9
Tel: 416-444-9595 Fax: 416-444-2127
Offers a dynamic summer experience for children 2½-10 ys., 4 heated pools provide for the best in Red Cross instructional swim. A full sports program includes archery, soccer. The baseball & basketball training options offer intensive daily instruction. Drama, dance, ceramics, nature and a petting farm are highlighted.

GREEN ACRES DAY CAMP
11123 Kennedy Rd.,
Markham, Ont. L6C 1P2
Directors: Leon Hochglaube,
Eddy Bogomolny
Tel: 905-887-1400
Features a fabulous country site in Markham which includes 3 heated outdoor pools and an on-site waterslide park. Varied camp program includes sports, camp shows, overnight, riding, "hands-on" farm animal program, recording studio, baseball clinics, karate, ropes course. Door-to-door transportation provided by the camp.

HILLCREST DAY CAMP
59 Plymbridge Rd.,
Willowdale, Ont. M2P 1A2
Tel: 416-489-8355
Centrally located in the beautiful green Hogg's Hollow Valley at Yonge & York Mills. Our unique camp caters solely to the preschool set, ages 2½-5 ys., with a low camper-counsellor ratio. Rhythm and sound are all around with music by Kayla. Theme days, arts & crafts, pottery, drama, computers and swim program add to a well-rounded and fun-loving camp experience.

HOWARD COOPER'S JEWISH DISCOVERY CAMP
P.O. Box #177,
Haddonfield, NJ 08033
Director: Howard Cooper
Tel: 609-427-9756 Fax: 609-429-7322
An outstanding opportunity for Jewish teens from around the world to sample the excitement of college life in a friendly, safe and Jewish environment. Located on the campus of Beaver College in suburban Philadephia, the program combines academic learning, performing and creative arts, sports, extracurricular activities, trips and special programs.

KIDSWORLD DAY CAMP (ages 3-5½)
FUNWORLD DAY CAMP
(entering grades 1 & 2)
117 Bannockburn Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M5M 2N2
Tel: 416-785-0900 Fax: 416-785-4685
Our 19th yr. under the direction of Mrs. Weinberg, M.Ed., ECE. Instructional swimming. Door-to-door transportation, hot lunches and snacks, daily special events, personalized trained staff. Kindergym, arts & crafts, sports, theme days, professional entertainers, music.

LUBAVITCH DAY CAMP
770 Chabad Gate,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 3V9
Director: Rabbi Mendel Bernstein
Tel: 905-731-7000 Fax: 905-731-7005
We cater to children from ages 2½-12. Our camp features trips, hot lunches, crafts, sports, door to door transportation, instructional swimming, a Torah atmosphere and a creative playground. We offer a large discount for registering before March 15th and a further discount for each additional child.

MARKY'S WAREHOUSE OUTLET
7171 Yonge St., (just north of Steeles)
Thornhill, Ont. L3T 2A9
Contact: Howard or Noel Esakov
Tel: 905-731-4433 Fax: 905-731-1356
Your one stop camp shop. Everything you need from Lugger bags to name tags, rainwear to flashlights, underwear, socks, camp pyjamas, sleeping bags, sweats. Plus: Jockey, Eita, GymMaster, Russell Athletic, Fruit of the Loom, Hanes, Champion. Tons of free parking.

MENORAH NURSERY INC.
4300 Bathurst St.,
Downsview, Ont. M3H 3R4
Administrator: Helen Dodick
Tel: 416-638-6910
Menorah Nursery is a place where each child has an opportunity to learn through play with other children, with appropriate toys and materials, and where their mental, emotional, and physical growth is fostered. Choosing Menorah Nursery, assures you that we will provide a warm, stimulating and secure place for your child.

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Toronto, Ont. M5N 1E6
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Canada's largest golf camp for both adults and juniors. Day camp and overnight lodge programs available throughout the summer for boys and girls ages 7-18. We offer fabulous facilities, outstanding programming and a method of instruction with a proven track record.

RAMAH PROGRAMS IN ISRAEL
P.O.B. 31709,
Jerusalem 91316
Contact: Mrs. Nancy Lewitt
Tel: 011-972-2-6790243
Fax: 011-972-2-6792069
In North America: National Ramah Commission
Tel: 212-678-8881 Fax: 212-749-8251
E-mail: ramahisrael@jtsa.edu
The Ramah Jerusalem Day Camp offers a unique "Israel experience" for English-speaking children ages 5-13. Dates: July 4-23 and July 25-Aug. 13. Hrs: Sun.-Thurs. 8 a.m -2 p.m., Fri. to 1 p.m. Price: $480 per 3 week session, or $190 per week.

ROBIN HOOD SPORTS ACADEMY
158 Limestone Cres.,
Downsview, Ont. M3J 2S4
Contact: Registrar
Tel: 416-736-4657 Fax: 416-736-9971
Get in the game. Stay on target. Four 2 week clinics. Specialize in 1 of 5 sports each clinic: tennis, baseball, basketball, soccer and golf, then dabble in the rest. Certified coaches with camp experience. Top line equipment and facilities. Door to door transportation.

SHENDY'S SWIM SCHOOL
143 Glenmanor Way,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 3A3
Director: Eric Shendelman
Tel: 905-763-7915
If you are looking for experienced and well trained instructors, small classes and a friendly atmosphere, then Shendy's Swim School is for you. We provide programs in all Red Cross and Lifesaving levels. Shendy's Swim School is a commercial member of the Ontario Camping Association, and provides many leadership and recertification classes for all camp staff.

STUDIO M/MAX THE HUTT ANIMATION INC.
96 Spadina Ave., Ste. 902,
Toronto, Ont. M5V 2J6
Director: Maxine Schacker
Tel: 416-703-6877 Fax: 416-703-3930
Studio M is a school teaching all aspects of classical animation. We have over 200 students and a faculty of 20 committed professionals. We provide small classes and individual instruction. The Toronto Star has called Studio M "an open, creative environment where the goals are quality, originality and marketability."

UPPER CANADA DAY CAMPS
Head Office: 2900 John St.,
Markham, Ont. L3R 5G3
Tel: 905-946-1113
Camps in North York, Thornhill and Markham for children ages 6-12 years. Bus trips to places like Wild Water Kingdom, Ontario Place, etc. Swimming, sports, arts, science, computer. Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

WESTCOAST CONNECTION TRAVEL CAMP INC.
1865 Leslie St., #218,
Toronto, Ont. M3B 2M3
Director: Fran Grundman
Tel: 416-447-3303 Fax: 416-447-3675
If you are looking for something exciting, adventurous, educational and unique for your teen to do this summer, Westcoast Connection has the program for you! We offer a wide variety of summer tours for teens ages 13-17, as well as a separate program for college students 17-19 years of age.

ZODIAC SWIM & SPECIALTY CAMP
2788 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 3A3
Directors: Rick, Ellen & Andrew Howard
Tel: 416-789-1989 Fax: 416-789-5525
Website: www.zodiaccamp.on.ca
Amazing indoor/outdoor Forest Hill C.I. (Bathurst & Eglinton) campsite. 6.5-15 yr. old Specialty Program (1 of tennis, basketball, golf, gymnastics, "creatures and creativity", rollerblading, science & technology, performing arts). 3.5-6.5 yr. old "Kid-vantage" program. Daily Zodiac swim instruction. Fun and professional activities, superb camp experience. Four 2-week sessions.

Directory of Camp Advertisers

Advertising Feature

Camps

OCA accredited member camp

GREEN ACRES DAY CAMP

- **Fabulous** country site in Markham. Door-to-Door transportation provided
- Ages 4 to 13 yrs; CIT's 14 & 15 yrs
- 3 **heated** outdoor pools
- On site **waterslide park**
- Swim school calibre aquatics program in association with Zodiac Swim School
- Sports, camp shows, overnights, riding, 'hands on' farm animal program and **lots of camp activities you won't find anywhere else.**

Call **(905) 887-1400** For a Colourful Brochure

OUR STAFF MAKES THE DIFFERENCE!
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VISIT US ON THE WEB: **www.CampGreenAcres.com**

Top camping at low costs

Camp Eitan has been directed by Rabbis Michoel Levine and Moshe Weinberg for the past 20 years.

Both teachers at Eitz Chaim Schools, they offer the most in camping for the lowest price. The prices are the same as last year and include door-to-door bus transportation within a designated area, hot kosher lunches (under COR supervision) and basic instructional swimming.

Also included are gymnastics, overnights, computers, arts & crafts, weekly trips and a varied sports program. The camp is located in Eitz Chaim Schools and offers modern air-conditioned indoor facilities for rainy day activities.

A recent innovation in our boy's division is our baseball camp, offered at our same low price. Coaching, video instruction, practice and game situations are aimed at helping campers at the lower skill levels, as well.

Our girls' division has been divided into two levels to better meet the needs of each age group.

In our preschool division, special daily events, preschool classrooms, playground equipment, a weekly theme and a caring staff provide the younger child with a safe and happy summer experience.

For more information, or a brochure please call (416) 781-2333.

בס"ד

Camp Eitan

Quality camping for tots to teens

JULY or AUGUST: $495
BOTH: $855

Same price as last year!

Includes: •Door-to-door transportation
•Hot kosher* lunches •Computers •Sports •Gymnastics
•Overnights •Basic instructional swimming •Trips
•Basketball clinics
•BASEBALL CAMP

**Under the supervision of the Kashruth Council of Toronto*

Call for brochure: **(416) 781-2333**

A *NEW* SUMMER DAY CAMP AT TEMPLE EMANU-EL
FOR CHILDREN *3 - 7
(Starting July 1999)
and
A NEW PRE-SCHOOL AT TEMPLE EMANU-EL
FOR CHILDREN *2 ½ - 5
(Starting September 1999)

TEMPLE EMANU-EL DAY CAMP
TEMPLE EMANU-EL PRE-SCHOOL

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE CAMP, SCHOOL OR TEMPLE MEMBERSHIP PLEASE CALL HELENE RUDOLPH AT 416-449-3880
120 Old Colony Rd., Willowdale

**toilet trained*

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Exciting Field Trips • Swimming
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Music • Drama • Cooking • Science
Themes & Special Events • FUN !

Extended Hours
7:00 am to 6:00 pm
Family Discounts for 2 or more children

We also offer a great **March Break Program**
Come join the fun!

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- **Ashton Meadows Day Camp** — 16th Ave & Woodbine, Markham — 905-887-2539
- **Buttonville Day Camp** — 16th Ave. & Woodbine, Markham — 905-946-1216
- **Fenside Day Camp** — York Mills & Victoria Park, North York — 416-444-2441
- **Shaughnessy Camp** — Don Mills & Sheppard, Don Mills — 416-499-6500
- **Stornoway Day Camp** — Bayview & Hwy. 407, Thornhill — 905-707-6805
- **Rockford Day Camp** — Bathurst & Steeles, North York — 416-663-6286
- **Rosedale North Day Camp** — Bathurst & Hwy. 407, Thornhill — 905-771-6820
- **Three Valleys Day Camp** — York Mills & Don Mills, North York — 416-443-9414
- **William Armstrong Day Camp** — Markham Rd. & Hwy. 7, Markham — 905-471-4099
- **Whipper's Kids Day Camp** — Carrick Avenue, Keswick — 905-476-5437
- **Wilshire Day Camp** — Dufferin & Hwy. 407, Thornhill — 905-709-2273

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SUNDAY 11-5

MARKY'S Warehouse Outlet

7171 YONGE STREET
(1 Light North of Steeles)
(905) 731-4433

Camps

Advertising Feature

Camp Shalom - starting on our Second Jubilee

Camp Shalom is getting ready to celebrate its 51st year in the upcoming 1999 camping season. Located on beautiful Lake Muskoka, the camp has established itself as an exceptional Zionist Jewish camp for boys and girls aged 8-13 in the Gravenhurst area of Ontario.

Shalom campers experience the joys of a terrific summer vacation, under the care of a well-trained staff, with a better-than-3:1 camper-to-staff ratio. The up-to-date facilities feature a newly-renovated and enlarged kitchen and bakery with everything baked fresh on site, and an infirmary on the premises staffed full-time by qualified doctors and nurses.

As a not-for-profit camp affiliated with Canadian Young Judaea and accredited by the OCA, Camp Shalom imbues its campers with a sense of Jewish history, cultural values and the centrality of Israel in Jewish life. The Camp Shalom ethic promotes the ideals of mutual respect, sharing and fair play in interpersonal relationships.

Camp Shalom features an individualized program wherein each child is free to choose from over 25 daily activities including canoe, sailing, ropes, baseball, basketball, tennis, inter-camp sports, archery, self-defense, gymnastics, dance, fitness, beach volleyball, instructional swim, waterskiing, kayaking, drama, arts & crafts, media, video production, photography, expanded tripping program, nature, scouting, Israeli singing, music, camp band and more.

The Camp Shalom staff is looking forward to the upcoming summer and the privilege of sharing another wonderful season with so many fortunate campers. Come join our family!

- **A premier residential camp on beautiful Lake Muskoka for 8-13 year old boys and girls**
- **Jewish history/culture/Zionism**
- **Highest standards of programming and staffing**
- **Full land sports, tennis, waterskiing, sailing, canoeing, fitness, ropes course, arts & crafts, drama, media, archery, photography, self-defence, guitar, music, camp band, tripping and much more!**
- **Glatt Kosher kitchen**
- **Peanut-free camp**

For further information call
(416) 783-6744

SOME STAFF POSITIONS ARE STILL AVAILABLE!

An international camp experience in Israel

Camp Tapuz, established in 1981, brings campers together from as far afield as Los Angeles, Toronto, London, Sweden, Belgium, France and of course, Tel Aviv and Haifa.

Campers join us on our supervised flights, or directly at camp in Israel, where they spend from 1-5 weeks enjoying a unique combination of camp activities and touring Israel. They also enjoy meaningful Jewish and Zionist experiences, visiting the sites of Israel and understanding them through the eyes of their Israeli counterparts.

Accommodation is on kibbutz with all regular kibbutz facilities (clinic, dining-hall, shop etc.) close at hand. Rooms are air-conditioned and sports facilities include swimming pool, basketball and tennis courts, soccer field and a camping ground. Staff are all army graduates with experience in counselling.

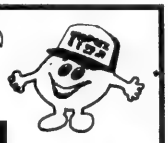
There are 4 separate programs for different age gorups, as well as activities for the entire camp like "colour war" and "Tapuz Israel day."

Food is kosher and creative, non-denominational Shabbat services are held.

For the past 18 years, Tapur campers have forged life-long international friendships, maintained by e-mail, letters and returning to Tapuz year after year. We welcome you to join the world-wide Tapuz family.

Please phone our toll-free number for more information and our colourful camp brochure: **1-877-to TAPUZ (1-877-86-82-789) or 1-215-923-5443.**

CAMP TAPUZ מחנה תפוז



THE international Summer Camp of Israel

Four progams for ages 8-18

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Main office, USA: 1-215-923-5443 Main office, Israel: 011-972-2-678-4451

Hashomer Hatzair / Camp Shomria

Camp Shomria offers a dynamic and exciting summer camp experience for youth aged 8-16 from Canada and the United States. A variety of challenging sports, theme days, educational and cultural activities, create an atmosphere designed to build life-long friendships. It is located on Otty Lake on a beautiful waterfront ideal for a wide selection of fun-filled water activities.

Camp Shomria promotes deep love for Israel and the North American Jewish community. It is run by the Hashomer Hatzair Youth Movement, established over 80 years ago, and is active within the Jewish community. There are weekly activities available throughout the school year in Toronto and a 6-day residential winter camp during December.

Camp Shomria activities include dance, arts & crafts, drama, hikes, trips (please see directory). Grade 10 graduates participate in a leadership training program called Yedid Plus, which includes an intensive five-week itinerary in Israel.

The staff are dedicated and committed, and most were Shomria campers themselves. Camp Shomria has its own full-time registered nurse, and many staff members are trained in first aid. An excellent hospital with modern facilities is located just minutes away. To learn more about Camp Shomria, please call Noam or Miriam at 416-736-1339.

SUMMER - 5 weeks WINTER - 1 week

Camp Shomria (416) 736-1339

Advertising Feature

Camps

Lubavitch Day Camp

It is our belief that a camp should do a lot more than just provide fun and games. A Jewish camp should be a place where children can also experience the richness, excitement and warmth of Judaism in a truly enjoyable and unforgettable atmosphere!

We provide hot lunches, door to door transportation, instructional and recreational swimming, a warm Jewish atmosphere, creative playground, arts & crafts, dance, martial arts, sports and much more, for children 2 1/2—12.

The daily schedule runs from 9 a.m.—4 p.m. Monday—Friday, for children ages 5 1/2—12, for 3—5 1/2 year olds the camp day is from 10 a.m.—3 p.m. and our morning program for 2 1/2—3 1/2 year olds runs from 10 a.m.—1 p.m.

We offer large discounts for registration before March 15th and a discount for each additional child.

To receive more information or to register please contact our camp director Rabbi Mendel Bernstein at **(905) 731-7000** or 770 Chabad Gate, Thornhill, Ont. L4J 3V9.

Israeli camp offers variety and fun

The Ramah Jerusalem Day Camp offers an outstanding Israel-Jewish experience for English-speaking children from abroad, entering kindergarten through grade 8. The camp is located at the Israel Goldstein Youth Village, in the San Simon neighbourhood of Jerusalem, a beautiful, rural site located only 10 minutes from downtown. Campers are taken on 3 outings a week which allow them to explore and discover the magic of Jerusalem and its surroundings. The other 3 days the campers are involved in a rich assortment of fun-filled activities (sports, arts & crafts, nature, music, drama and swimming), many contributing to the Israel oriented theme of the camp. Hebrew language is introduced through songs and games. All this is within an environment of Jewish tradition.

The camp offers 2 special programs for the older campers. Entering 5th and 6th graders will participate in a special ongoing program together with their Israeli peers in a framework called "One Jewish World". Entering 7th and 8th graders will participate in a special counselor-aide training program.

Date and fees of sessions: 1st session, Sunday, July 4-Friday, July 23, $480 per child; 2nd session, Sunday, July 25-Friday, Aug. 13, $480 per child; 1 wk. session/s, Sunday-Friday, $195 per child.

Ramah Programs in Israel

Jerusalem Day Camp

For English-speaking children from abroad entering kindergarten - grade 8

summer fun, an Israel experience, Jewish tradition

For 5th & 6th graders
"One Jewish World"
Joine Camp with Israelis
For 7th & 8th graders
Counselor-Aide
Training Program
ramah@ramah.org.il

July 4-23 and July 25-August 13
(weekly sessions also available)

For details:
P.O.B. 31709, Jerusalem 91316 Israel
Fax: 011-972-2-6792069;
Email: ramah@ramah.org.il

NBB - continuing the tradition

Since 1954, Camp Northland-B'nai Brith in Haliburton, Ontario has been a unique place for children and young adults to make lasting friendships and spend summers of discovery.

Camp Northland-B'nai Brith is proud to offer a wide variety of activities. Whether a child is artistic, athletic, or a bit of both, we fill the day with an exciting program. Water activities include canoeing, kayaking, waterskiing, sailing and windsurfing. Land activities include arts & crafts, drama, tennis, a challenge ropes course, a climbing wall, and sports of all descriptions.

Our activities are taught by experienced and certified instructors, so that campers can learn and progress within defined skill levels. The swim instruction program is mandated by the Red Cross and Royal Lifesaving Society, and campers can complete all badges, including their Bronze Medallion.

The Judaica program explores the wonder and meaning of our Jewish heritage. At appropriate ages, campers are introduced to themes such as traditional observance, the Holocaust, and Israel.

We believe that the development of self-esteem and self-confidence in children and young adults is our purpose for being. Therefore, Camp Northland-B'nai Brith's program encourages campers to live, work, and play cooperatively and to value each other's strengths and differences. With lots of opportunities, and the encouragement of caring and supportive staff, our campers challenge themselves, and experience success.

THE JEWISH CAMP COUNCIL OF TORONTO
3995 Bathurst St., Suite 200
Downsview, ON M3H 5V3
Tel: (416) 630-1180
Fax : (416) 630-8561

• CAMP NORTHLAND - B'NAI BRITH

-country camp for boys & girls 7-15 located in the beautiful Highlands of Haliburton
-a creative Jewish environment offering a wide range of activities: swimming, waterskiing, sailing, windsurfing, kayaking, canoeing, tripping, nature study, tennis, basketball, baseball, soccer, floor hockey, tether ball, arts and crafts, theatre
-introductory program for first time campers
-excellent camper/staff ratio

• FRIENDS OF NBB

-alumni and others provide fundraising support for Camp Northland-B'nai Brith
-"mini-camp" August weekend exclusively for "Friends" and their families

• REUNION 2000

-join other alumni for a day of fun and nostalgia on Sunday, November 5th, 2000.
-put your name on our mailing list now.

REGISTRATION NOW UNDER WAY
STAFF POSITIONS AVAILABLE

All programs provide tasty and nutritious meals and snacks under the supervision of Kashruth Council, Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto

Medical staff on premises

Camps

Advertising Feature

WESTCOAST CONNECTION
CANADA · USA · EUROPE · ISRAEL

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For Ages 13-17 / 17-19

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- WESTCOAST USA
- EUROPE
- ISRAEL

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The Summer of a Lifetime!

Our 17th Anniversary!!

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416-447-3303

Shendy's promotes aquatic total fitness & safety

Swimming is a total fitness exercise for the whole body, using every muscle including the heart. Swimming improves strength and motor co-ordination in children and adults; and it is an ideal exercise for many people with physical challenges, because buoyancy in water eliminates the strain of weight.

Swimming is also part of fun at camp; and all water sports are more fun for a kid who is fit, safe, and comfortable in the water. At Shendy's Swim School, there is an emphasis on both fitness and safety. Eric Shendelman and his staff have helped many students develop their swimming skills, including children and adults with long-standing phobias.

Shendelman, who teaches for the York Region Board of Education, has been actively teaching swimming for 15 years and has been involved in the camping field for over 20 years. He will once again be bringing this experience to his position as Director of Camp Arrowhead this coming summer.

Shendy's instructors keep a 1:3 ratio to students. The teachers are well trained and utilize creative methods to keep the classes fun and students motivated. The staff are always approachable and keep parents up to date on their child's progress throughout each session.

Shendy's offers a wide range of Red Cross and Life Saving programs for all ages. Students gain safety and fitness through these programs.

Once again, Shendy's Swim School, as a commercial member of the Ontario Camping Association, will be offering various leadership and recertification courses throughout the winter and spring sessions. Many camp staff from all over Ontario have accessed these programs to update their skills and qualifications.

For a great learning experience in a friendly and professional aquatic environment, call Eric Shendelman at **(905) 763-7915**.

menorah nursery

MENORAH NURSERY
4300 Bathurst St.
(at Reiner Rd. across from Earl Bales Pk.)
CARING FOR YOUR CHILDREN SINCE 1982

1/2 Day (3 Hour) • Full Day Programs
for Ages 18 Months to 5 Years

*Computers *Crafts *Music
**Hot Nutritious Lunches & Snacks
*Low Child to Teacher Ratio *Qualified Staff
*Theme Days *Cooking *Baking

NOW ACCEPTING SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATIONS
ON A 1ST COME, 1ST SERVED BASIS
Register early to avoid disappointment

call: HELEN at **638-6910** (Main Location)

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THE ART OF AQUATICS
presents

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LEARNER/INSTRUCTOR RATIO 3:1

* Red Cross/Life Saving levels (*ages 3 and over*)
* Bronze courses
* Red Cross Aqua-Leaders Program
* Red Cross/Life Saving Instructors Course
* N.L.S. Course
* Aquatic Emergency Care
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Eric Shendelman B.Ed. Swim Director 905-763-7915

NCSY

A unique and exciting **OVERNIGHT SUMMER CAMP**
that successfully integrates Judaic Studies
with an array of fun and camping experiences

August 3rd to August 30th, 1999

Open to girls in Grades 9-12
Cost - $1,950 - limited scholarship available

CAMP FEATURES INCLUDE:

Kayaks/Canoes	Motorboats
Arts & Crafts Program	Horseback Riding
Overnight Trips	Archery
Water Skiing	**PRIVATE** - Remote island

To register and receive more information
please call in Toronto (905) 761-6279 ext. 25
in Montreal (514) 489-6279
or call toll free **1-888-TOUR 4 YOU**

Zodiac ... your camp for Summer '99!!

Don't get caught ... without a spot for Summer '99 at Zodiac Swim & Specialty Camp! The feedback from Summer '98 and excitement about Summer '99 has been tremendous ... registration is filling up quickly.

At our super indoor (air-conditioned)/outdoor Forest Hill Collegiate (Bathurst/Eglinton) campsite, 6.5 to 15 year old campers choose a half-day specialty focus (one of science [Mad Science] & technology [Robert Gordon Computers], basketball [with Eric Morgan], performing arts [with Sandy Foster], "creatures and creativity" [WHIMZ], tennis [Mayfair], gymnastics [Gyros], rollerblading [Rollergard] and golf [The Golf Dome]) for each 2-week session (4 sessions available). "Specialty" campers also experience a full range of the other fun, professionally run camp programs. 3.5-6.5 year old "Kid-vantage" campers have a similarly enriching experience, participating in an age-appropriate variety of camp activities. Every camper enjoys a daily high-quality, low-ratio Zodiac Swim School swim lesson.

ZODIAC SWIM & SPECIALTY CAMP

CHOICE OF AMAZING SPECIALTY...PLUS MORE!
6.5 to 15.5 year olds

KID-VANTAGE...full range of exciting programs!
3.5 to 6.5 year olds

Daily high-quality, low-ratio
ZODIAC SWIM SCHOOL lesson!

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
GOLF
GYMNASTICS
IN-LINE SKATING
TENNIS
PERFORMING ARTS
CREATURES & CREATIVITY
BASKETBALL
...PLUS MUCH MORE!

- Fantastic indoor/outdoor facilities at convenient Forest Hill C. I. location!
- Four 2-week sessions
- Leadership option for 14-15 year olds
- Free extended day

SUMMER '99 OPEN HOUSE/FUN DAY!
Sunday February 21, 1999 1:30-4:30pm
Forest Hill Collegiate
730 Eglinton Ave. West (Bathurst/Eglinton)

Summer '99 at ZODIAC
FOR INFO CALL (416) 789-1989

Advertising Feature

Camps

Finally, An Overnight Golf Experience

Until recently, people who have wanted to attend an overnight golf camp have had to go to the United States. Not anymore! Par Golf Camps and Camp Tamarack are now offering 1 and 2 weeks sessions at their new location, Sparrow Lake Sports Lodge, on the Orillia/Muskoka border. The program is open to both boys and girls ages 7-18.

The new lodge will feaure its own private 9 hole golf course, driving range, over 2,000 feet of waterfront, watersports and landsports. The program will have a strong golf focus while participation in basketball, baseball, swimming, sailing, canoeing, fishing, hiking and more will also be offered.

Three meals will be provided daily along with round trip busing from Toronto. A day camp program is also being offered for people with cottages in the area. Registration for 1999 is now open. Lodge packages and adult/family instruction packages are available throughout the season.

Par Golf Day Camps is now in its 7th year at the same Toronto location with door-to-door busing from Richmond Hill to the Toronto lakeshore. Four 2 week sessions are available throughout July and August for boys and girls ages 7-18.

All programs will have a golf professional on-site as well as equipment from Taylor Made and Accuform. Space for all programs is strictly limited.

PAR GOLF CAMPS
GET ON COURSE!
JUNIOR GOLF CAMPS

Day Camp
Door to Door Busing
•All levels of play •Co-ed Ages 7-18
•Video Analysis •Qualified staff
•Equipment provided
•Indoor/Outdoor facilities

7th Year!
2 week sessions in July/August
ENROLL NOW
Spaces limited
Sponsored by: Taylor Made

Overnight Camp
Sparrow Lake Sports Lodge
•9 hole golf course and driving range on site •2,000 feet of waterfront
•Orillia/Muskoka region •3 one-week sessions

(416) 960-GOLF (4653)
www.learngolf.com
Adult Camps Available
The only Golf Camp accredited by The Ontario Camping Association

CRESTWOOD VALLEY DAY CAMP

In the fabulous wooded valley at Lawrence and Bayview

- Superior camp experience
- Warm caring qualified staff
- For ages 2½ - 10
- 1/2, 3/4 or full days
- Advanced programming for 7-10 year olds
- Door to door transportation
- Wholesome lunches and snacks provided
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- Land Sports • Archery • Soccer Leagues
- Fine Arts • Nature Farm
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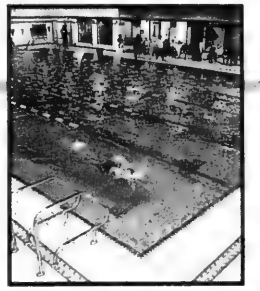
Leadership Training For 14 & 15 Yr. Olds

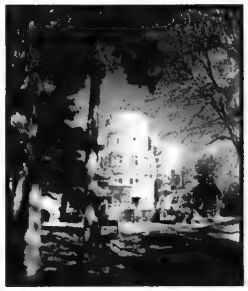
BASEBALL TRAINING CAMP
BASKETBALL CAMP
COMPUTER CLINICS

Rochelle Wise - *Director*
(416) 444-9595

Howard Cooper's Jewish Discovery Camp
at Beaver College
Glenside, PA

co-ed ages 13-18





A new option among summer experiences for Jewish teens, Howard Cooper's Jewish Discovery Camp is set on the lovely campus of Beaver College in the northeast suburbs of Philadelphia. The program consists of elective courses in the morning (both Judaic and secular topics) and a full compliment of camp activities in the afternoon.

While JDC is unaffiliated, our food is kosher and Shabbat is observed with respect for all traditions and backgrounds. Resident campers live in dormitories and enjoy a taste of university life.

1999 Session Dates
First Session (four weeks)
June 20 - July 18, 1999
Second Session (four weeks)
July 18 - August 15, 1999

Shabbat Guests-In Residence

Merle Feld	Margot Stein
Myriam Klotz	Craig Taubman
Lawrence Kushner	Moshe Waldoks

P.O. Box 177 • Haddonfield, NJ 08033
Tel: 609/427-9756 • Fax: 609/429-7322 • Toll Free: 1-877-GO-HCJDC (464-2532)
www.hc-jdc.com • Email: info@hc-jdc.com

Camps

Advertising Feature

Summer Fun Plus a Jewish Environment – for Canadian funds

TORONTO - Until now, parents who wanted a camp that could combine summer fun activities with a Jewish environment that could instill spiritual values in their children on a day by day basis, had to look south of the border — with corresponding penalties in U.S. exchange.

Starting this summer, however, Canadian parents have the option of sending their children to The CCRJ Camp for Living Judaism, less than 2 hours from Toronto on Maple Lake.

Situated on a magnificently wooded lakefront setting, the camp and its programs are designed to help youngsters 8 to 16 years old develop their physical, emotional, social and Jewish skills as well as their self-esteem, all in a supportive non-competitive environment. For many children, it will be their first chance to develop a new day by day awareness of Judaism that they may have previously experienced only at home or synagogue.

New tournament-class tennis, volleyball, basketball and multi-purpose courts, plus state-of-the-art sports and play equipment as well as boating, water skiing, arts and crafts, camp-outs and indoor/outdoor games will deliver everything children have come to expect from a summer camp.

But what makes The CCRJ Camp for Living Judaism the first camp of its kind in Canada is an environment dedicated to building Jewish identities and values. While there are many Canadian camps with a predominantly Jewish enrollment that hold Shabbat services, this particular summer camp adds Torah discussion groups, Havdalah services on Saturday night, Israeli dancing and Judaica arts & crafts programs to enhance campers' Jewishness while offering sports and game activities that are second to none.

Camping programs like this one have been acclaimed as the most transformative Jewish experience of childhood.

According to Rabbi Eric Yoffie, President of Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), "such camps have been the vehicle that has taught tens of thousands of children to see themselves as part of the Jewish people and its memories."

"Camps", Rabbi Yoffie claims, "create a sustainable and transmissable Jewish identity in ways that few other programs can match".

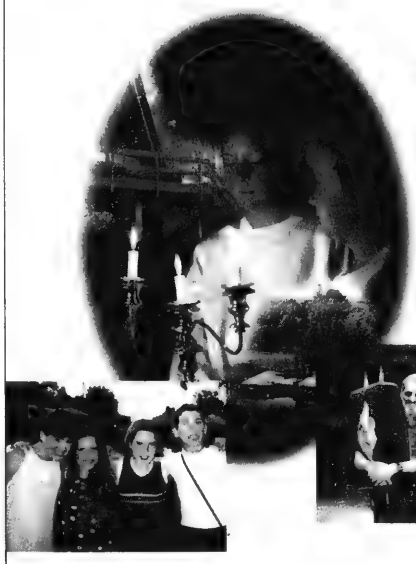
Director of this new camp is Jack Feldman, who — besides a Master's degree in social work and honours B.A. in sociology — brings to The CCRJ Camp for Living Judaism a wealth of camping experience drawn from Camp Lakeland in New York State, Camp B'nai Brith in Canada and White Pine in Northern Ontario.

The Camp is a program of the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism (CCRJ), which itself is a national affiliate of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), the central North American organization for Reform Judaism.

Enrollment applications are now being accepted for the summer of '99, and families who want registration forms can contact The CCRJ at (905) 709-CCRJ (2275) or call the UAHC toll free at 1-800-560-UAHC (8242).

They can also get more information by contacting the Rabbi, Educator or President of any Reform synagogue in Canada.

FIRST CAMP OF ITS KIND IN CANADA!



The CCRJ Camp for Living Judaism

In a magnificently wooded, lakefront setting, everything you expect from a summer camp for 8 to 16 year olds

Plus an environment and programs to build young Jewish identities, memories and values!

- Shabbat Services
- Havdalah Services
- Torah Discussion Groups
- Spectacular Outdoor Chapel
- Israel & Jewish Learning
- Israeli Dancing
- Judaica Arts & Crafts for all ages

Until now... only American camps could bring you all this... with payment in U.S. funds!

Talk to the Rabbi, Educator or President of your Reform Synagogue or call:

1-800-560-UAHC (8242) Toll Free 905-709-CCRJ (2275) from Tor. & Vicinity

The CCRJ Camp is a program of the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism, a national affiliate of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), the central North American organization for Reform Judaism.

UAHC

Advertising Feature

Camps

Bishop's College School - An unforgettable learning experience

Bishop's College School is a residential school situated in Lennoxville, Quebec, approximately 160 km east of Montreal.

The 1999 Bishop's College School summer language program (ESL or FSL) which begins on July 4 and ends on July 31, will be our 38th season.

This is a non-credit program for boys and girls ages 11-15 years. It is designed to provide an opportunity for concentrated instruction to well-motivated students interested in gaining proficiency in French or English at the beginner, intermediate or advanced levels. Courses run Monday through Saturday mornings and Monday through Thursday evenings. Teacher to student ratio, approximately 1 to 12.

The sports and recreation program is also an integral part of the formula with afternoons dedicated to supervised team sports and off-campus activities. Sundays are reserved for planned outings and cultural trips are organized as necessary extensions of the language program.

If you wish to receive a brochure and application form or would simply like further information you may contact the school in the following manner:

DIRECTOR OF SUMMER SCHOOL '99
Bishop's College School
Lennoxville, QC J1M 1Z8
Tel: 819-566-0227 (ext. 219)
Fax: 819-822-8917
Email: summer@bcschool.qc.ca

Bishop's College School · Summer 1999

Join us for a fun learning experience at

BCS Summer Language School

a summer residential programme for boys and girls, ages 11-15.

- Classroom instruction in English or French
- Small classes with students from around the world
- Fully bilingual sports and recreational programmes

July 4 to 31, 1999

For information:
Bishop's College School
Lennoxville, QC
J1M 1Z8 Canada
Tel: 819.566.0227 ext. 219
Fax: 819.822.8917
Email: summer@bcschool.qc.ca

RHSA

ROBIN HOOD SPORTS ACADEMY

A Program of Camp Robin Hood Ltd.

Specialize in 1 of 5 sports each clinic:
Tennis, Baseball, Basketball, Soccer and Golf, then dabble in the rest!
Certified coaches with camp experience. 4 two week clinics.
Top line equipment and facilities.
Door to door transportation.

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www.camprh.com

GET IN THE GAME. STAY ON TARGET.

Day Camp in Markham, Est. 1946

CAMP ROBIN HOOD

- 50+ years of providing fun and safe children's day camp programs.
- Renowned swim program.
- For kids 4 - 15 years.
- Door to door transportation.
- ***Ask about Express Busing!***

(416) 736-4443
www.camprh.com

Summer Fun. Family Style.

Shaliach enhances Israeli content at Centre Camp

For a fun and memorable summer, plenty of choice in one location, and a heightened awareness of one's Jewish roots, try Centre Camp at the Bathurst Jewish Centre. Here, says Director Patricia Trojman, every child expands their horizon and deepens their roots through new experiences and friendships.

Programs are versatile, with something for everyone. Each child's unique physical, mental and social skills are developed, and new skills are encouraged. Children with special needs are fully integrated into Centre Camp's program.

Do you have a youngster who's never been to camp? For 2 1/2- 4 year olds, there's a 1/2-day program. Children 3-5 enjoy a 3/4-day camp which includes a daily recreational swim and morning transportation.

For ages 4-12, full-day all-round programs include instructional and recreational swims, transportation, barbeques, field trips, theme days, drama, dance (including Israeli folk dances), sports, nature, arts and crafts, music, Judaica and Oneg Shabbat.

Centre Camp will be hosting a Shaliach (Israeli representative) to work with the staff to enhance Israeli content.

Specialty programs for ages 8-12 include Young Einsteins computer program, and Habima Arts camps. The "Chaverim" and "Madrichim" leadership training programs, for teens 13-15, include off-site camping at Camp Northland-B'nai Brith.

Centre Camp's 5-acre site includes woodlands, outdoor pool, beach volleyball, basketball courts, and a 250,000-sq. ft. indoor facility. The sports program S.C.O.R.E. (Sports Camp Organized for Recreation and Education) includes soccer, baseball , tennis and in-line skating. Trojman anticipates further growth in sports over the next few years.

Centre Camp continues to offer S.C.O.R.E. which combines sport instruction and fun under the leadership of Jeff Krupski. New to Centre Camp in '99: My Jewish Discovery Place Children's Museum, an Indoor Climbing Wall and Specialty Clinics.

Camp programs throughout the year include Winterlude, Gimme a Break (March break), and Passover camp. Theme days include fun times like Israel Day and Maccabiah Days where kids participate in an all day event.

At Centre Camp, Jewish culture and fun are part of every child's experience. "O Canada!" is sung in the morning, "Hatikvah" in the afternoon; and the Israeli flag flies alongside the Maple Leaf.

With over 10-years experience, Centre Camp is now offering its unique services to a second generation. Let your child be part of it. Centre Camp is minutes away from your front door, at 4588 Bathurst St.; call Patricia Trojman at 416-636-1880, ext. 378.

CENTRE CAMP

An exciting and adventurous camp program located in a beautiful woodland setting only minutes from your front door.

- Daily Instructional and Recreational Swim
- Outdoor Pool
- Nature • Drama • Dance
- Arts & Crafts • Judaica
- Sports • Music
- 1/2 and 3/4 Day Pre-School Programs
- **Depot Bus Transportation**
- Extended Hours available
- Indoor Fun Centre
- "Young Einsteins" Computer Specialty Program
- "Habima" Specialty Arts Camp
- Outdoor Beach Volleyball
- Leadership Training Program for Teens
- Caring & Qualified Staff & Full Time Nurse on premises
- Day Trips
- S.C.O.R.E. Specialty Sports Program with Jeff Krupski - instructional tennis, basketball, soccer, bbq's!!
- In-Line skating
- Overnight Experience at Camp Northland-B'nai Brith
- **NEW THIS YEAR - Jewish Children's Museum**
  - Indoor Climbing Wall
  - Specialty Clinics

Bathurst Jewish Centre

UJA FEDERATION
No one gift changes more lives.

United Way

MARCH BREAK CAMP — MARCH 15-19, 1999

For more information on our **quality** camp programs - please call (416) 636-1880, ext. 378

Camps

Advertising Feature

Think high: think Aviation International

Do you ever dream of flying — soaring above the clouds, as the land spreads out below you in a quilt of fields and city blocks? If the answer is yes, call Adelle Fogle at Aviation International.

Based at Guelph Airpark for over 10 years, Aviation International is licensed by Transport Canada, and has participated in Air Cadet training for the past 4 years, graduating 56 cadets. They also operate a summer camp for 14-17 year olds, to teach them the basics of flying, and encourage them to progress further.

Ground school teaches radio procedures, airframes, engines, flight theory, regulations, aviation medicine, and human factors in aviation.

The 8-10 hours in-flight training, with a licensed instructor in a 2 seat Cessna 150, can be logged as credits towards a Recreational Pilot's Permit or Private Pilot's Licence.

After 2 or 3 flight hours, a student can maneuver in the air, turning, banking, and changing speed and altitude. Take-offs require somewhat more training; and landing, the most exacting skill, takes 12-13 hours. In-flight training also covers emergency procedures, pre-flight inspections and on-board checks.

After about 14 hours of flight, most students can fly solo. For solo flight, however, one summer camp is not enough; and so, through the year, many students return to Aviation International to earn their Recreational Pilot's Permit (minimum age 16).

This permit allows recreational daytime flight in Canada, when visibility is clear, solo or with one passenger. From this level, the student can advance to a Private Pilot's License, at a minimum age of 17; and from here, most pilots progress to their commercial licence.

Flying is both fun and opportunity. The older generation of pilots is retiring, leaving many openings for younger people. There are more opportunities for women now too, because woman students are needed to fill the quotas. Nor do all pilots fly for commercial enterprises.

Aerial photography and remote sensing are used, for example, to measure air pollution.

The physical requirements of flying encourage responsibility and a healthy lifestyle. Training is thorough and challenging; alcohol and drugs are prohibited while flying; and every permit or licence requires a yearly medical.

This unique camp runs from July 5-16, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For details, call 519-824-2660. Call now, though: there's a 12 student limit, and the application deadline is May 21.

AVIATION INTERNATIONAL (CANADA) INC.
Summer Flying Camp

Enrich your child's future with an introduction to aviation. Our summer course will build a sound foundation for pilot training either as a future career or hobby. The program will include ground training which will introduce your child to such topics as Theory of Flight, meteorology, navigation and dual flight training. Our staff are experienced Transport Canada approved instructors. Guelph Airpark is a short drive from Toronto and daily transporation may be arranged, if necessary. Camp runs July 5-16, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (for ages 14-17). Call or write for our brochure

Aviation International (Canada) Inc., R.R.#2 Skyway Drive, Guelph, Ont. N1H 6H8 (519) 824-2660.
Fax: (519) 824-0190, E-mail aviation@sympatico.ca.
Call for information **1-800-599-7539**

ACE
Adventure Challenge Experiences

10 DAY WILDERNESS TRIPS with **sea kayaking, rock climbing, hiking and camping.**

July & August programs for **13-19 year** old youths who are looking for a **safe and fun filled adventure** this summer.

Focus on **leadership, friendship, decision making skills, problem solving skills, recognizing potential and developing sense of self.**

Trips in **British Columbia, Ontario and Newfoundland.** All inclusive: $1200.

contact: Penni Rosen at **416-785-4367**
www.barint.on.ca/~backsafe

For professional artists, call Academy of Artisans

Now in it's 3rd year The Academy of Artisans is going stronger than ever with many new courses such as performance arts as well as the old favourites.

Professional artists at the Academy are continuing to teach their craft to students ranging in age from 4 years old to seniors. With state of the art well equipped studios learning more about arts, crafts or cooking in these "hands on" classes with a maximum of 10 students per class gives the ultimate in personal attention.

The Academy of Artisans located 1 1/2 blocks west of Avenue Road is now a well known and respected institution for all those who love to create. The warm friendly environment just adds to the pleasure of taking courses at the Academy.

For information on courses in cooking, photography, jewellery, stained glass, textiles, pottery, basketry, painting, sculpture and much much more contact us at Academy of Artisans, 490 Eglinton Ave. W., Toronto, ON M5N 1A5. telehone (416) 322-9997, fax (416) 322-9662, e-mail doncolvin@sympatico.ca, website www.academyartisans.com

Summer Camp !!!
Academy of Artisans
Teens & Kids after school classes
School of Arts, Crafts & Cooking
March Break Camp Mar. 15-19
Passover Camp Mar. 30-Apr. 9

Adult Classes In: Painting • Sculpture • Textiles • Photography • Cooking
Jewellery • Sewing • Knitting • Stained Glass • Basketry • and more
Check out our
Preschool / Kids Arts & Crafts Camp / Kids birthday parties
Adult Parties also available. Call us for further details
For our **Schedule** call
Academy of Artisans (416) 322-9997
490 Eglinton Ave. W., 2nd floor, Toronto, M5N 1A5
e-mail: doncolvin@sympatico.ca / www.academyartisans.com

Planning to apply to animation or arts programs?
Interested in computer animation?
A summer at Studio M can make the difference!

Drawing. Painting. Perspective. Color & Composition. Cartooning. In our 5-week Summer Program, you can build the basic art skills, and the portfolio, you'll need.

Studio M
MAX THE MUTT ANIMATION INC.™
(416) 703-6877 www.maxthemutt.com

Advertising Feature

Camps

Another exciting year at Camp B'nai Brith Ottawa

Camp B'nai Brith of Ottawa is a privately owned overnight camp in the foothills of the Gatineaus.

Our goal is to make every camper feel good about themselves and provide them with a stimulating and challenging setting.

Our program emphasizes individual instruction as well as encourages camp spirit. We offer an extensive number of different programs including drama, arts & crafts, hiking and tripping, dance, tennis, miniature golf, baseball, basketball, and much, much more. Our waterfront offers waterskiing, windsurfing, knee-boarding, kayaking, canoeing, sailing and new this year, a Catamaran. Swimming is taught using the new Red Cross aquaquest system of levels all the way from beginners to Bronze Cross.

Our staff are all carefully selected. Our Head Staff are all trained professionals offering constant guidance, support and training to all the counsellors to help provide every camper with the special attention that each child deserves.

Our camp offers a kosher kitchen (under C.O.R.), a Judaica program and Religious services on Fridays and Saturdays.

Our young campers take part in our Big Brother/Big Sister program where each camper up to the age of 10 will be given an older "sibling" prior to camp starting to help them feel more at easel.

Our two week starter camp is for first time C.B.B. campers aged 7 to 10.

For a great summer come to C.B.B. of Ottawa.

Camp Ramah inspires today's youth

Camp Ramah, on Skeleton Lake offers a quality camping program in the framework of traditional Jewish practice. Under the directorship of Rabbi Mitchell Cohen, Ramah offers the total camping experience for children in grades 3-10. Our safe and comprehensive waterfront program staffed by certified instructors is a highlight for our campers. Sports is an integral part of every camper's development, focusing on skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Arts activities allow each camper to realize their creative potential through projects, performances, and individualized instruction. Outdoors programs take full advantage of the camp's beautiful setting while raising our camper's environmental awareness. A new ropes course gives campers and staff a chance to work together towards shared goals.

Judaica, Hebrew, and Israel programming are a regular part of the camp day. Jewish texts are taught by young adults in an informal setting. Hebrew is spoken, heard and often becomes second nature at camp. Shabbat, prayer and ritual observance assume special qualities when experienced and shared with friends.

Ramah continues to offer a unique one month program for campers with special needs. The Tikvah ("Hope") program gives adolescents ages 12 and older an opportunity to enjoy every aspect of camp while defining their own Jewish identity.

Staff is often former campers who return to Ramah because of the deep-rooted commitment to the Ramah environment. Young people develop skills and leadership, enduring friendships and a Jewish consciousness that help them become vibrant members of their family and home community.

CAMP RAMAH IN CANADA

The Max and Beatrice Wolfe Campus

We wish to thank our Jewish Community for once again helping us reach

A FULL ENROLLMENT FOR 1999!

Applications for Summer 2000 will be accepted no earlier than September 10, 1999.

Ramah Family Camp

for parents and children to share a Ramah camping experience together:

Wednesday, August 18 - Sunday, August 22, 1999

Watch for **Ramah Family Institute (RFI)** programs in your community.
Call for more information.

Camp Ramah in Canada
491 Lawrence Ave. W., Suite 400, Toronto, Ont. M5M 1C7
Telephone (416) 789-2193 • Fax (416) 789-3970
E-mail: CampRamah@compuserve.com
RAMAH – The Camping Arm of Conservative Judaism

Camp B'nai Brith of Ottawa

CAMP B'NAI BRITH of OTTAWA

privately owned camp for over 60 years

Featuring:
Olympic-sized Swimming Pool, Indoor Gymnasium, 4 Water Ski Boats along with Sailing, Windsurfing and Wakeboarding.

Carefully coordinated programs, balancing SPORTS, ARTS, JEWISH PROGRAM, OUTDOOR ADVENTURE and FUN to meet the individual needs of every camper

Check this out!

*Nationally Certified Tennis Instructors *Model Rocketry
*Archery *Computers
*Big Brother/Big Sister Program
*Kosher Kitchen under C.O.R.
*Washrooms and Showers in each Bunk
*Drama *Arts & Crafts
*Hiking and Tripping

NEW IN '99

•New Baseball Field
•Complete Mini-Putt Course

In Toronto call: Cathy Indig 905-764-5517

Kidsworld offers youngsters a summer they will never forget

Kidsworld is in its 19th year of quality camping. Parents have been choosing Kidsworld for its creative programming for all these years.

Careful thought and much creativity go into the program. Every day something special is happening at the camp, from theme days to carnivals, olympics, professional entertainers and more. Specialty staff are hired to create unique activities in the areas of music, drama, art, kindergym and sports. Both fine and gross motor skills are developed throughout the summer.

Instructional swimming is one of the most important parts of the day. The campers are carefully supervised and they are taught the various skills for the Red Cross swim program.

Mrs. Rochelle Weinberg has directed the camp since its inception. She holds a Master of Education degree, an early childhood education diploma and has taught for 21 years.

She chooses only the most qualified staff through a careful screening process. This wonderful staff is one of the reasons the camp is so popular among parents. With door-to-door busing, hot lunches and snacks, instructional swimming and trips all included in the low price, parents have known for years that Kidsworld gives the most value for the best price!

For more information, phone **(416) 785-4600**.

Kidsworld Day Camp

(ages 3-5 1/2)

$1,095 Full Season

Our 19th year

Funworld Day Camp

(entering grades 1 & 2)

$695 July
$475 August

(price includes transportation & meals)

•Instructional swimming •Door-to-door busing w/seatbelts
•Hot lunches & snacks •Computers •Sports •Music
•Art •Kindergym •Professional Entertainers
•Daily Special Event •Baseball clinics

For more information, phone: (416) 785-4600

Camps

Advertising Feature

Israel camp for girls fosters individual growth

Overnight camps have long been recognized as an excellent supplement to a year-round Torah education. Camping fosters varied opportunities for individual growth. Group living, independence, formal as well as informal learning, song, dance, drama, swimming, etc. are just some of the benefits offered in this natural surrounding.

But ... a new dimension has been added at N'Vei Ashdod. For the past 15 years N'Vei Ashdod has provided all these things, and more ... in Eretz Yisrael where everything takes on a special flavour.

Lively, *frum* girls from all over the world come to Camp N'Vei Ashdod and forge lifelong friendships. It is indeed rare to find so many girls from so many places, blending so naturally. Perhaps it is the love for Eretz Yisrael which brings them so close together.

Situated in beautiful central Israel, in a tranquil, fully enclosed, modern campus with an enormous pool, beautiful grounds and air-conditioned dining room, N'Vei Ashdod combines learning, sports, fun and excitement with extensive touring throughout Israel.

The girls travel across the country in air-conditioned buses with the finest tour guides available. The whole time, security is top priority.

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Moshava has a 2 week camper-in-training program designed for grade 3 graduates. The camp's regularly scheduled days include instructional swimming in a heated pool, canoeing, waterskiing, a full sports program, thematic arts & crafts and drama. Special days include colour war, sports day, canoe trips, overnights, hiking, nature trips and horseback riding.

What makes Camp Moshava unique goes far beyond facilities, events and personalities. The atmosphere that exists amongst staff and campers is truly a special one. Only those who have actually encountered a Shabbat at Camp Moshava, can truly appreciate what the experience is like! Camp Moshava is not just a summer camp experience, it's the experience of a lifetime!

For more information call Shimmy Wenner - Camp Director, phone: (416) 6730-7578, fax (416) 630-8301, e-mail moshava@interlog.com. Visit our website www.campmoshava.org

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Hillcrest: fun for youngsters

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We provide an enriched, creative and nurturing environment while maintaining the highest safety standards.

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The rolling camp grounds and the adventure type playground provide a setting for exploration and fun. Our trained Red Cross swim staff are sensitive to new and experienced swimmers, providing your child with a feeling of security and confidence in the water.

In our pottery, arts & crafts and drama programs your child's imagination will blossom with our creative and stimulating "hands-on" experience. Our computer program will add an additional element of fun and learning.

Music is one of the highlights at Hillcrest Day Camp. The music program is directed by our music specialist, Kayla.

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Hillcrest Summer Camp provides a safe and secure environment geared to the needs of your preschoolers.

AGES 2½ - 5½

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Queenie Spindel - Camp Director

Hillcrest is located in beautiful Hogg's Hollow Valley (Yonge & York Mills)

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Camp Gesher, on beautiful Pringle Lake, is an accredited member of the Ontario and Canadian Camping Associations.

Gesher provides an unique camping experience where campers explore Jewish life and culture through a multitude of activities.

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Programs include: Certified swim and waterski instruction, canoe trips, basketball, volleyball, floor hockey, baseball, soccer, informal Judaica, Chugim (hobby groups), Tzofiut (scouting) and much, much more.

During the year activities for your children are held in all major cities, including our annual Fall Seminar Reunion, and an annual football game.

A select staff of experienced counsellors provide careful and individual supervision. Counsellors are completing high school, and most are in university. Our staff also includes Shlichim (emissaries) from kibbutzim. They create a living link between the camp and Israel.

Gesher offers campers a chance to meet new Jewish friends from Canada, Israel, the United States and Europe.

So don't let your child be disappointed — **REGISTER NOW!**

For more information about Habonim Dror and Camp Gesher phone: Southern Ontario (416) 633-2511; Ottawa and Montreal regions (613) 725-2654.

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*Special 12-day Junior Camping Program for Grades 2 and 3: only $698

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Feb. 15, is deadline for Feb. 25 issue, and Monday, Feb. 22, is deadline for March 4. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Thursday, Feb. 11

LOVE, DATING, MARRIAGE

Love, Dating and Marriage seminar for for singles, 19-29, finding and fashioning a significant relationship, 8 p.m., Aish HaTorah, 949 Clark Ave. W. Thornhill. $8. RSVP 905-764-1818, ext. 225.

CORRECTION

Interviews for students interested in volunteering for Magen David Adom this summer (as reported Feb. 4) will take place at 6 p.m. at the Israel Aliyah Centre, 3995 Bathurst St. *The CJN* regrets the error.

Saturday, Feb. 13

MELAVEH MALKA

Come and hear about last year's Pesach celebration in India with **Rabbi Michael Skobac** and **Azriel Cohen**, 8 p.m. at Riverdale Jewish Community Centre, 179A Danforth Ave. 465-2395.

CURLING NIGHT

Don Mills Lodge, B'nai Brith Canada invites singles and couples to a curl and socialize evening. **Marv Cohen** 363-8366 days or 493-3017 evenings or **Len Berk** 789-3986.

Sunday, Feb. 14

JEWISH FILM SOCIETY

Tell Me a Riddle 5:15 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. at Art Gallery of Ontario. Details in Bloor JCC section.

MARCH OF THE LIVING

Beth Tzedec Men's Club features a presentation by two Beth Tzedec teenagers of their experiences in Poland and Israel during the March of the Living. Introduced by **Lorraine Sandler**. Service 9 a.m., breakfast (nominal charge) 9:30, program at 10.

Monday, Feb. 15

HEALTH CONCERNS

At Cranbrooke Friendship Club, **Penny Easthope**, community geriatric consultant, discusses Health & Medication Concerns of Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. $5 lunch and program. 789-5502.

NAGILLAH CHAPTER, JWI

Nagillah chapter, Jewish Women International, (40+ singles) election meeting/general meeting, 7:30 p.m., Pride of Israel Synagogue, 59 Lissom Cres. Program follows meeting. $2. Prospective members invited. **Helen.** 638-4326 or **Fran** 638-2716.

HEBREW LETTERING

Expressions of Judaism Through the Arts series sponsored by Adath Israel and Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am congregations, continues with Hebrew Lettering in Jewish Art by artist **Laya Crust**, 8 p.m. at Beth David.

SUPPORT GROUP

Jewish Parents and Families of Gays and Lesbians meets 7:30 p.m. Jewish Family & Child Service, 6th floor, Lipa Green Building. Phone in confidence, **Ruth** 763-9111.

Tuesday, Feb. 16

ROSH CHODESH EVENT

Women's celebration of Rosh Chodesh Adar at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. Ma'ariv 7:45 p.m. followed by shiur. Speaker is **Reena Besser,** chair of Judaic Studies at Queens University. 789-3213.

THE LIFE OF ESTHER

Beth Tikvah Sisterhood program, Princesses, Prostitutes and Pariahs, explores a contemporary portrait of women in the Bible. In this session, **Rabbi Adina Lewittes** of the Jewish Theological Seminary, explores the life of Esther. 8 p.m., at the synagogue. $5 non-members.

BENEFIT PERFORMANCE

Nomads Theatre Group benefit performance, British pantomime

Continued on page 41

POLITICIANS MEET THEIR CONSTITUENTS

One of his constituents is making a serious point with Defence Minister Art Eggleton, right, who appears to be listening intently to her advice. Eggleton organized a Fun Fest last Sunday at B'nai Brith Canada headquarters in North York. Above, Elinor Caplan, Liberal Member of Parliament for Thornhill, sits enraptured, obviously enjoying the performance on stage last Sunday at City Playhouse in Vaughan. The community was raising funds towards the groundbreaking of a Chabad Israeli Community Centre. To Caplan's right are Rutie Kinar and Jehudi Kinar, Israel Consul General for Toronto and Western Canada. To her left is Dan Ronen, recently nominated as the Liberal candidate in the next provincial election for the riding of Thornhill. [Motty Levy photos]

What's New

Continued from page 40

with a twist, audience participation, 7 p.m., Tranzac Club on Brunswick Ave. All proceeds go to Ve'ahavta's (Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee) medical mission to Guyana. For tickets **Rachel** 905-882-9512 or Ve'ahavta 487-5472.

Wednesday, Feb. 17

FOR JEWISH SINGLES

Out of the Kitchen and Into the Boudoir: Sexuality in Yiddish Song, interactive discussion evening for Jewish singles (40s, 50s and 60s) with **Hindy Nosek-Abelson**, 7:45 p.m., Forest Hill Place, 645 Castlefield Rd. $8. 785-7020. Presented by Events by Sharyn.

Thursday, Feb. 18

MEDICATION, DIAGNOSIS

Medication and Dual Diagnosis, seminar offered by Reena in partnership with Mount Sinai and presented by Mount Sinai Pharmacy Department, 1-5 p.m., at Toby & Henry Battle Developmental Centre, 927 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill. $25. To pre-register, **Betty Bozzo** 905-889-2690, ext. 2043.

And What Else Is New

THE LITTLE MINYAN

Join the Little Minyan in a Camp Ramah Shabbat service, Saturday, Feb. 20, at Beth Tzedec Congregation. Lunch and Learn Ramah-style following services. Co-sponsored by Ramah Family Institute and **Mr.** and **Mrs. Steven Friedlich** and extended families in honor of **Mr.** and **Mrs. Lewis Friedlich**. $12/person, $36/family. RSVP. **Marlene** 781-3514, ext. 34.

CELEBRATE SHABBAT

Celebrate Shabbat with an emphasis on Torah discussion from a modern outlook. Under the leadership of **Eli Rubenstein**, Friday, Feb. 19, 8 p.m. at 5 Glen Park Ave. Yediday Shabbat 488-0688.

WOMEN'S HEALTH ISSUES

Holy Blossom Temple Sisterhood lecture series on Women's Health Issues features the film *You Can't Beat a Woman – Another Film About Violence Against Women.* Filmmaker **Gail Singer** will talk about her film, Wednesday, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m. **Olivia** 789-3291, ext. 260.

PURIM COSTUME PARTY

Jewish Latin Association invites you to its Purim Costume Party, Sunday, Feb. 28, 7 p.m., at the Sephardic Kehillah Centre, 7026 Bathurst St. Lots of fun, door prizes. For tickets, **Debbie** 905-889-0020 or **Espi** 905-886-7935.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Elan chapter, Jewish Women International, Trivia Night '99, Saturday, Feb. 20, at Bayview Hills Community Centre, 114 Spadina Rd., Richmond Hill. Game time 7:30 p.m., doors open at 7. Team trivia challenge, door prizes, dessert buffet. $15 in advance, $17 at door. Guest celebrity emcee **Andrea Rooz,** *Easy Rock* 97.3. For tickets, JWI 630-9313. For information, **Pamela Turner Smith** 905-709-3440 or 876-3440.

FIRE AND ICE

Temple Sinai, the Next Generation, Fire and Ice Havdalah, dinner, skating at Lakeside Terrace, York Quay Centre, Harbourfront, Saturday, Feb. 20. Temple members $20, non-members $25. Reserve. 487-4161.

CHAI TEA

Friends of Yiddish Chai Tea, an afternoon of music with composer/ conductor **Bill Berle** and his orchestra and Klezmer Ensemble featuring violinist **Lance Ouellette** and **Paul Mathew** at the piano in a presentation of Jewish and classical music, Sunday, Feb. 21, 2:30 p.m. at Holy Blossom Temple. Non-members $5. RSVP **Sandy Bokser** 736-8073 by Feb. 18.

OHR SOMAYACH EVENTS

Ohr Somayach Toronto, 631 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill. 905-886-5730.

Rabbi Dovid Gottlieb of Ohr Somayach Jerusalem is scholar in residence Feb. 19-20 and will speak several times throughout the Shabbat.

Perceiving the Infinite: **Rabbi Eliezer Breitowitz's** class on the weekly parshah, every Thursday at 10:15 a.m. for women only and at 8 p.m. for men and women.

Strive for Truth: classes of philosophic and mystical writings of **Rabbi Eliyahu Dessler** taught by **Rabbi Ezriel Sitzer** every Monday at 7:30 p.m., starting Feb. 15. Each class is an independent unit.

The Hidden Dimension: Looking Into the Deeper Meaning of the Upcoming Jewish Holidays: Monday and Wednesday classes on Purim and Passover, 8 p.m. through February and March with Rabbi Breitowitz.

Beyond Bagels: Nourishment for the Body and Soul, Sunday morning Torah discussions with Rabbi Breitowitz through February and March. Class begins with a light breakfast.

CRAFT GROUP

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Sisterhood craft group meets the third Tuesday of the month at the synagogue at 8 p.m. for anyone who wants to knit, crochet, needlepoint and learn or share skills. The group is also crafting blankets for Project Linus and need donations of yarn, talent or funds to purchase yarn. **Noreen** 905-881-2164.

YUK YUKS

Beth Tikvah Progressive Singles joins Shaar Shalom Synagogue for Yuk Yuks at Shaar Shalom, 2 Simonston Blvd., Saturday, Feb. 27, 8 p.m. Laughs, door prizes, refreshments. $20. RSVP **Sol** 250-6565 or **Sheldon** 905-771-9826.

THE TIME IS RIGHT

Club Dafna, an expanding chapter of Na'amat dedicated to helping women and children here and in Israel, welcomes women, 35-45, married or single, affiliated or "un" who would like to join a group to socialize, connect and be a do-gooder. Meet at the Pickle Barrel, 5951 Leslie St., Tuesday, Feb. 23, 8 p.m. RSVP **Wendy** 905-886-7187.

SINGLES SCENE

For the 25-35 group, the Glow in the Dark Bowl date is Saturday, Feb. 20, 8-10 p.m. at Global, 545 Wilson Ave. $10. Register, 905-731-9441.

For the 30-55 group, Après Purim Dance, Saturday, March 6, 8 p.m. $10. Order tickets now. No tickets sold at the door. 633-3838.

JF&CS PROGRAMS

Jewish Family & Child Service programs. **Pat Lieberman** 638-7800, ext. 215.

Separation and Divorce Workshops:

Adolescents and Divorce: A Trying Time, for parents of teens to explore how adolescents cope when their family changes. March 10. Facilitator **Penny Appleton**.

Shared Parenting: Making It Work. Learn about the challenges and rewards of shared parenting. Feb. 23. Facilitator **Nancy Kumer**

Groups: Today's Women: Making It Happen, self-esteem, interpersonal skills, stress management, begins Feb. 18; How Teenagers Challenge Us, communication, limits, begins Feb. 25; Looking Ahead for recently separated and divorced individuals, begins Feb. 16; Anger Management for Women, begins March 25.

OUTDOORS CLUB

The Mosaic Jewish Outdoors Club of Southern Ontario. Club offers a variety of activities including skiing, skating, rock climbing, hiking. Join before March 1 and save money on your annual membership. Call hotline 280-6407.

ST. JOHNS COURSES

Infant and Child CPR course , a few spaces available, Sunday, Feb. 21, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. Also, register now for Heartsaver CPR and Babysitting course. **Rhonda** 905-731-9441.

FOR SENIORS

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club: Israel trip Feb. 28. In the planning – cruises, musicals *A Foggy Day* at Shaw Festival July 7; *West Side Story* at Stratford Oct. 12. **Lena** 785-5773. Golden Book donations go to Laniado Hospital in Israel. **Dorothy Bloomfield** 787-1526.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Feb. 25, Thornhill Square; Feb. 26, Casino Rama; March 2, Take Charge of Your Life lecture, 10 a.m.; March 7, dance with live band; March 17, Buffalo. Membership open $12. For information on ongoing programs 395-7881.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

Healthy Cooking with dietician/ nutritionist **Andrea Sturk,** Tuesday, Feb. 16, 1 p.m.

Valentine Luncheon dance with **E. Rubin** and **M. Khinkis** Wednesday, Feb. 17, noon to 3 p.m. Members $10, non-members $12.

Caregiver Education series continues with **Jeffrey Cole,** manager, Client Services, North York Community Care Access Centre, speaking about Long Term Care Placement – What Are the Choices? Thursday, Feb. 18, 1:15 p.m.

Israeli Club Etrog meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays for movies, sing-alongs, lectures, bingo, dances. Feb. 16 is a political lecture. **Anna**.

Movie *Evita* Sunday, Feb. 14, 2:30 p.m.

BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

Toronto Jewish Film Society presents *Tell Me A Riddle*, about rediscovering love, starring **Melvyn Douglas**, directed by **Lee Grant**, Sunday, Feb. 14, 5:15 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. at Jackman Hall, Art Gallery of Ontario.

Seniors Club: Thursday, Feb. 11, 2 p.m., Senior Pedestrian Education and Awareness session with nurse **Joanne Banfield**, Office of Injury Prevention, Sunnybrook Hospital; Thursday, Feb. 18, 2 p.m., a talk by Seniors coordinator **Judy Weinryb** on How Humor Reflects Our History and Personal Struggles.

ABOUT PEOPLE

JIAS APPOINTMENT

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada (JIAS) announces the appointment of **Joanne Brodkin** as Community Projects coordinator, National Office (part-time). Having just arrived from Montreal, Brodkin brings with her a deep connection to JIAS and the Jewish community at large. Most recently she has been elected as vice-president to JIAS Montreal after fulfilling a two-year term as a board member and treasurer. She sat on the national scholarship committee and chaired the Montreal awards committee. Her extensive commitment to the Jewish community includes a two-year term as vice-president of Women's Federation of Federation CJA.

Joanne Brodkin

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20

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Idiot's Guide to Jewish History, Culture a blast

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Those of us who frequent book shops cannot have failed to notice a fairly new line of self-help volumes published by Alpha Books under the generic title of *The Complete Idiot's Guide To...*

This popular series deals with topics ranging from computers and wine to pets and health care.

The latest subject – you guessed it – is about Jews. *The Complete Idiot's Guide To Jewish History and Culture*, written by Rabbi Benjamin Blech, is a blast. It is informative and droll, and certainly worth a place in your library.

Rabbi Blech, an American educator and lecturer, covers all the bases with erudition and humor. He is fluently conversant with what seems like every conceivable subject under the sun. And he possesses a simple, felicitous writing style.

He sets the tone early on in this 406-page primer. His definition of the Knesset, Israel's parliament, is apt. The Knesset, he blithely observes, "consists of 120 politicians who meet together regularly to shout, yell and insult each other while passing laws." To be honest, I have never found a better definition of this rowdy body.

Attuned to the short attention span of most readers, the good rabbi dispenses information succinctly and liberally, barely catching his breath before he is off to the next scintillating topic.

He asks many questions, and answers them with ease. A sampler: Who is a Jew? Who is the greatest Jew who ever lived? Why are there so many Jewish comedians? Is suicide worse than homicide in Jewish law? What did Mohammed borrow from Judaism? What was the Council of Four Lands? Where was the first ghetto? What does Maccabee mean in Hebrew?

Rabbi Blech does not always get it right. He claims, for instance, that the Arabs launched the Yom Kippur War "to destroy Israel." Not exactly. The truth is a little bit more complicated.

But, hey, I'm not complaining. I recommend this book highly. Congratulations, Rabbi!

****

Roman rebellion

Israel: An Illustrated History (Oxford University Press) takes you from the dawn of recorded history to the present day. The author, Daniel Schroeter, holds the Teller Family Chair in Jewish History at the University of California in Irvine.

Schroeter is extremely well versed, and presents the material in a readable fashion.

He discusses the many names Israel has had over the centuries. He assesses David's reign and Solomon's rule.

In addition, he analyzes the Roman occupation of Palestine, the Jewish rebellions against Roman hegemony, the arrival of Muslim, Mamluk and Ottoman conquerors, and the status of Jews during these periods.

Seguing into the 19th century, Schroeter raises the question of Zionism and the Jewish settlement of the land in all its permutations. His pen portraits of Theodor Herzl and other Zionist thinkers are instructive, as is his evaluation of the first violent stirrings of Arab-Jewish tension in the second decade of this century.

Schroeter's tour d'horizon of the Zionist drive for statehood is compelling, and his essay on developments since the Six Day War is a model of its kind.

Curl up with *Israel: An Illustrated History* and *The Complete Idiot's Guide To Jewish History and Culture*. You'll learn a lot from these illuminating books.

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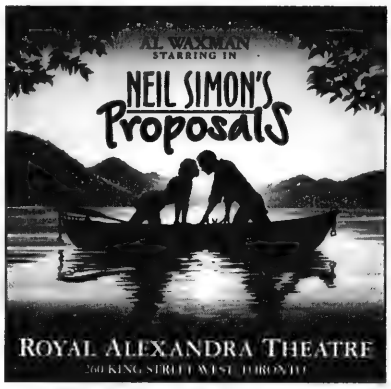

PROPOSALS GIVEAWAY

The CJN is giving away 10 pairs of tickets to Neil Simon's *Proposals* for March 18, 1999 at the Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto.

Rules: Please print your full name, address and daytime telephone number on a piece of paper along with the answer to the following question:

What were the names of the lead roles in Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple?*

All correct answers received by noon on March 9, 1999 are eligible. Ten eligible entries will be randomly selected at *The CJN* offices March 10, 1999 at 10 a.m. Winners must be 18 or over and must be able to pick up the tickets from our office at York Mills and Don Mills in North York. *The CJN will not mail tickets out.* All winners will be notified by phone on March 10. Odds of winning depends on the number of correct entries received. *The CJN* will not enter into any other correspondence with contestants.

Send your response to: Proposals Contest, Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Rd. #205, North York, Ontario. M3B 3K4. Or fax to Proposals Contest 416-391-0829 or Email [TORCJN1@aol.com] under the subject heading Proposals Contest.

Employees and immediate family members of The CJN, *and Mirvish Productions are ineligible to enter.*

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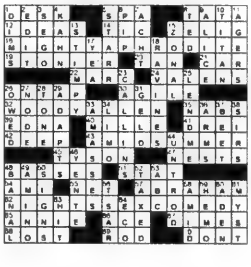
ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



Producer/writer never too good to work in television

By LORI FIREMAN
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — In a world full of people who would love to work in the movies, Charles Lazer is proud to extol the virtues of television.

A writer/producer for the small screen, Lazer has a long career record, having written for such diverse shows as *Max Glick*, *The Odyssey*, and the Harlequin Romance *Loving Evangeline*, among others.

Winner of an Emmy for best writing in a comedy/drama series, Lazer is happy to continue working in a venue like TV, where "a great number of people focus on script and try to make it better," unlike the movies which he feels "have become too focused on special effects."

That's not to say he wouldn't work in film, but as both writer and co-executive producer for the current series, *Nothing Too Good For A Cowboy*, Lazer barely has enough time to breathe, let alone ponder the merits of branching out.

"People who don't know the business, don't know how hard it is," he says.

A typical week has him on the set between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m., and working until well past 10 p.m., dealing with issues of casting, costumes, script changes, props, viewing the dailies and planning for future episodes down the line.

Despite the demands, Lazer says, "Most of the time, I think I'm a really lucky guy," but adds, laughing, "If you have any other choice in life, take that first."

Smart advice, and something Lazer himself tried to do. He left his home in Winnipeg to study at Princeton, and later received his PhD in mathematical sociology from Michigan State. Pushing creative yearnings from high school behind him to pursue a "respectable" career, he became a professor at the University of Victoria.

At this time, Lazer was a huge movie fan, and ventured out one evening to see *Day For Night*. What began as a casual night of entertainment, ended with Lazer's realization that this was what he wanted to do with his life. Six months later, he quit his job and moved to Toronto to pursue his dream.

But it wasn't easy. Success as a TV scriptwriter came instantly, and then, notes Lazer, he "didn't sell anything again for four years."

Eventually, his persistence paid off. Aceording to Lazer, there was no other choice for him, that like most writers, he "acted out of the desperation that comes when you know you cannot do anything else and be happy."

Lazer glows when discussing his latest venture, *Nothing Too Good For A Cowboy*, based on the memoirs of B.C. cattle rancher Rich Hobson, Jr. and his life in the 1940s Canadian west. The series follows the fortunes of dashing Stanford-educated Rich, his best friend and fellow cattle rancher Panhandle (Pan), and Rich's wife, the spirited debutante, Gloria.

Creative/executive producers David Barlow and Charles Lazer (right). [Brian Cyr photo]

While the show may deal with the rather primitive Old West, Lazer is quick to point out, "This is no *Little House on the Prairie*. There is tremendous sexual chemistry between Rich and Gloria...and comedy that is good for 10-year-olds, but a lot of the writing would just go over their heads."

Lazer, and writer and co-producer David Barlow, originally aired the story of how the three came together last year as a TV movie, and based on the high ratings, were able to pitch it as a continuing series.

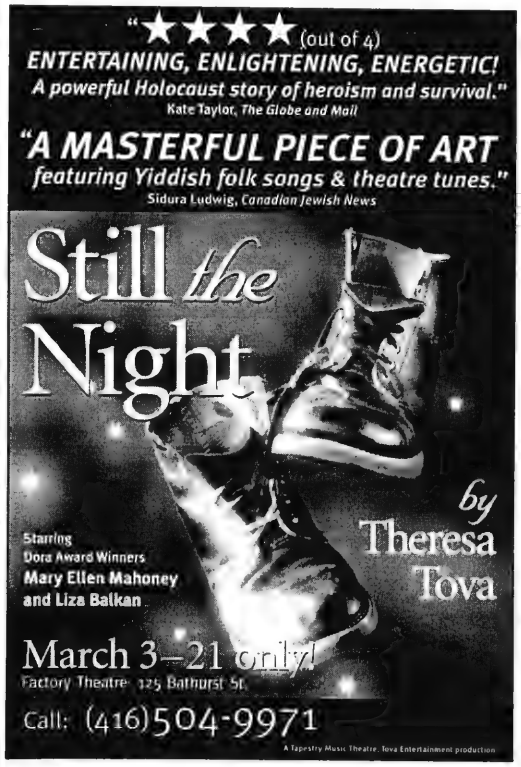
Lazer pictures writing stories about these three for years to come. "I love that these guys – one, a real cowboy, the other, a congressman's son – just decide to go to B.C. and raise cattle...and what happens with two really good friends when one falls in love and gets married to someone, who on the surface, seems so inappropriate."

As well, Lazer was thrilled to be working again with Barlow, who shares his vision for the show, and who is committed to taking casting very seriously.

Lazer couldn't be happier with the three leads. All experienced though relatively young actors – Gloria is played by Sarah Chalke (*Roseanne*), Yannick Bisson is Rich (*High Tide*), Ted Atherton (*Traders*) plays Pan– they possess "a natural chemistry together" that Lazer believes, in addition to the story, is what viewers will keep coming back to see.

Lazer hopes to keep *Cowboy* on the range for a long time, but has other things on his plate for the future, including another project with Barlow, and a happy life in Vancouver with his wife and children.

After all his success, though, Lazer says, "there's always the fear that you'll never work again. The phone will never ring. You'll never have another idea," but, he grins, "you get past all that." Presumably, to get back in the saddle and ride again.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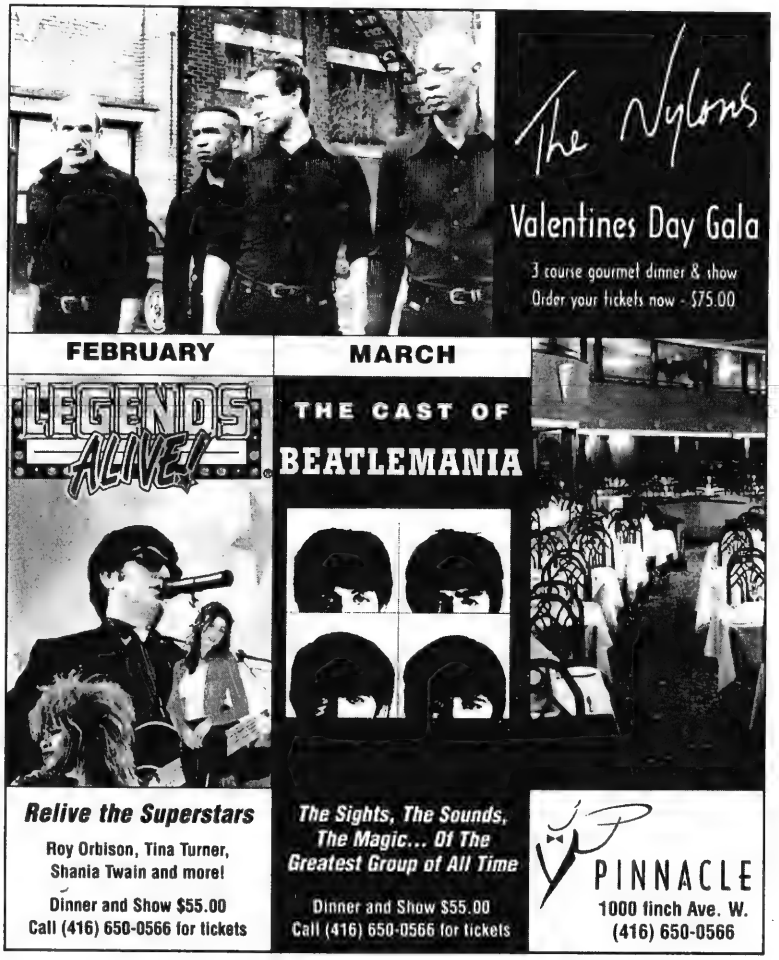

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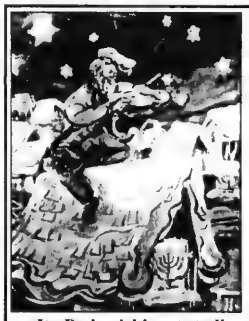

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CJN Purim Art Contest

It's time again for our fifth annual **Purim Art Contest**.

Who can enter: Children in grades 1 to 6 inclusive are eligible. The children of *CJN* employees are not eligible.

Prizes: The judges will choose one drawing from two different students in each grade. These "winning" drawings will be published in *The CJN* on February 25. In addition, each of the 12 children whose drawings have been selected will receive a cheque for $25.

How to enter: You may submit as many drawings as you want. However they should not be too small nor too large. Please paint or draw bright, bold, colorful pictures. You may use markers, crayons, paint or pencils. Please send us your name, address, phone number, age and grade along with your drawings.

You may mail or deliver your drawings to: CJN Community Contests, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ontario M3B 3K4. If you want us to return the pictures to you, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Otherwise, we will be unable to do so.

The contest closes at 5 p.m. on Friday, February 12, 1999. We will undoubtedly receive many wonderful submissions from children all across the country. But only 12 of the drawings will be chosen as the "winners." The judges will base their decisions on a number of factors such as: the use of color, the imaginative quality of the drawing and the way it tells an aspect of the story of Purim. The judges' decisions will be final. The chances of winning depend upon the number and quality of submissions received.

How the Winner will be announced: The children whose pictures are chosen will be notified by telephone before the start of Shabbat on Friday, February 18, 1999.

When the prizes will be awarded: The "winning" pictures will be published in *The CJN* of February 25, 1999. Many of the drawings submitted to us will be put on display at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care in Toronto. Have fun and good luck.

Any litigation respecting the conduct and awarding of a prize in this contest may be submitted to the Régie des Loteries et courses du Québec.

Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

STILL THE NIGHT RETURNS TO TORONTO

Still the Night, **Theresa Tova's** award-winning two-women musical about Jewish partisans evading the Nazis in the forests of Poland, is set to return to Toronto in a production by Tapestry Music Theatre. It is scheduled to open in early March at the Factory Theatre Mainstage.

The new production promises to be an improved version of the play that won four Dora awards after its Theatre Passe Muraille premiere two years ago.

The script has been dramatically rewritten and new songs and music have been added. The production also has a new director, **Tom Diamond**, and a new set design.

Another significant change is that this production features actor **Mary Ellen Mahoney** in place of Tova in the central role. **Liza Balkan**, who won a Dora for outstanding performance reprises her strong supporting role in the new production.

Since opening in Toronto, a version of *Still the Night* toured Western Canada and played at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. Lauded by feminists because it tells a story only women could have told, *Still the Night* is a universal story of the triumph of the human spirit.

Previews March 3, opens March 4, and continues thru March 21. $26-$16. 125 Bathurst (at Adelaide). 504-9971.

* * *

Chai Tea: The Friends of Yiddish Organization is presenting Chai Tea, an afternoon of music with composer-conductor **Bill Berle** and his orchestra and klezmer ensemble, performing Jewish and classical music with violinist **Lance Ouellette** and pianist **Paul Mathew**. Feb. 21, 2:30 p.m. Philip Smith Foyer, Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto. Members free, non-members $5. RSVP to Sandy Bokser by Feb. 18. 736-8073.

* * *

Klezmer Tribute: Toronto klezmer group **Hu-Tsa-Tsa**, featuring **Jonno Lightstone**, **Eric Stein** and **James Thomson** will perform a tribute concert for the legendary clarinetist **Dave Tarras** to mark the 10th anniversary of his death.

Feb. 14 at Free Times Cafe (320 College Str.), noon and 1:30 p.m. 967-1078.

* * *

Tea Dance: Put on your dancing shoes and get ready to foxtrot, tango and swing as the Four Seasons Hotel in Toronto hosts a St. Valentine's Afternoon Tea Dance.

Chanteuse extraordinaire **Aelita** accompanied by the 20-piece **Johnny Hood Orchestra** revives the golden age of swing with the Big Band sounds of **Glenn Miller** and **Benny Goodman**. Feb. 14, from 2-6 p.m. Call 964- 0411.

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Livent Fallout: *Ragtime* author **E.L. Doctorow** has filed a suit in a New York bankruptcy court in a bid to collect about $200,000 he claims is still owing on the rights to his bestselling 1975 novel.

Livent, the troubled theatre production company in the throes of bankruptcy, turned *Ragtime* into a successful musical. It opened at the Ford Centre of the Performing Arts in North York before going on to play on Broadway, in Los Angeles and in other American cities.

To date, the musical has brought in an estimated $8.3 million in box-office receipts.

Two years ago, Doctorow who appeared at numerous press functions to publicize the show, publicly complimented Livent co-founder **Garth Drabinsky** for his excellent reading and understanding of *Ragtime*. It is one more unfortunate side-effect of the financial collapse of Livent that Doctorow must now make court appearances to acquire his overdue royalties.

* * *

In the Spotlight: Married to a non-Jewish wife, **Victor Klemperer** was one of 198 Jews permitted to remain in the German city of Dresden throughout most of World War II. He kept a meticulous diary during the Hitler regime, documenting the changes he saw around him – not the big political events of the times, but the small day-to-day changes and interactions of daily life

Recently translated into English and published as *I Will Bear Witness: A Diary of the Nazi Years, 1933-1941* (Random House, $41.95), Klemperer's diary is a vivid and rivetting eyewitness account of the steep deterioration of public life in Nazi Germany. For Klemperer, keeping the diary became a moral duty. For the reader, the diary is an astonishing window offering remarkable insights.

At first tolerated because of his Aryan wife, Klemperer suffered a series of escalating indignities, losing his professorship, car, phone, house, typewriter and cat (Jews were not permitted to own pets). Ultimately, he was forced to move into a Jews' House, the last stop before a concentration camp.

It became an act of heroism and defiance for him to keep up his diary. "I want to bear witness, precise witness, until the very end," he wrote. Although many observers have chronicled the "big picture" during those years, relatively few have captured the "little picture" so well.

A second volume, covering the years from 1941 to 1945, is planned for publication later this year.

Korea taps into natural resources to promote tourism

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

SEOUL — South Korea's President Kim Dae-jung is singing the praises of his country, literally, on television commercials.

The president, joined by a chorus of Korean celebrities, sings "Welcome to Korea with love."

Korea has a lot to sing about. Rich with 5,000 years of history, many North Americans only know of this far-away land through *M*A*S*H* reruns. It has never been as popular a destination as its Asian neighbors China and Japan.

Now, in much need of foreign currency, Korea is tapping into its natural resources by promoting tourism.

The 99,268 sq. km. Korean peninsula extends southward from the Asian continent. Mountains cover over 70 percent of the landscape. Divided at the 38th parallel, Korea is separated from the communist north by a demilitarized zone.

Korea has experienced a turbulent century. Following 35 years of Japanese rule, it was occupied by the Allies, and divided after World War II. North Korea invaded in 1950, and after three years war, left Korea in shambles.

American Korean War veterans revisiting the peninsula now marvel at the sight of this rebuilt country.

Korea enjoys four distinct seasons. Spring and fall's weather offers perfect touring climate and golfing conditions. The summer is hot and humid, the winters cold and dry with some rain and snow. Skiers should note there are 13 downhill resorts.

The capital, Seoul, was the seat of government as far back as the Paekche Kingdom 1, 500 years ago. The city has a lot to offer, including the Kyongbokkung Palace where many brides have their wedding photos taken. Tourists beware of warriors! Korean television shoots a weekly period saga on location at Kyongbokkung.

Other attractions are the Seoul Tower, Toksuguag Palace, next to City Hall and Ch'angdokkung Palace with its Piwon (a secret garden used by royalty.)

You can literally shop till you drop here. It'aewon District is famous for its 100 tailor shops offering custom-made suits in less than 48 hours.

At the stroke of midnight, Namdaemun Market becomes a wholesaler to retailers from across the county. If you're up for pre-dawn shopping you will find better deals than day shoppers. Items for sale include purses, ginseng teas, beauty products, clothing accessories and food items.

Even with our sagging Canadian dollar (about 865 won for $1), our money goes far.

An hour south of Seoul is the Korean Folk Village east of Suwon, chock full of artisans, entertainers and historical structures. Hundreds of Korean school children, many dressed in traditional uniforms, can be found touring the village.

Picturesque Kyongju is three hours by train southeast of Seoul. A city tour includes stops at Pulguksa (Buddhist) Temple, Tumull Park, with its collection of royal Shilla Dynasty Tombs, the Sokkurum Grotto, a UNESCO World Heritage Sight, and the Pomun Lake Resort.

Not far from Kyongju is the port city of Pusan, Korea's second largest city and home to the Chagalchi Fish Market.

From Pusan a 45-minute flight will take you to Cheju Island, a subtropical resort that natives call Chejudo, a favorite spot for Korean honeymooners. Many visit the Cheju Folk Village, the natural sculpture collection at Tamla Mok Sok Won, the Pun Jae Artpia, a bonsai park or take the Submarine Tour.

Korean Airlines flies to Seoul from Vancouver and Toronto. For more information call the Korea National Tourism Organization in Toronto at 1-800-868-7567 or 416-348-9056.

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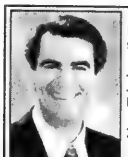

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Single female, early 30's, attractive, fit, enjoy long walks, cycling, dining, movies. Seeking a single Jewish male, non-smoker, 30ish, no children, outgoing, fun, sensitive, caring. AD#1864

FRIENDS FIRST
Divorced female, 49, single mom, professional, warm, attractive, beautiful, blond hair, hazel eyes, non-smoker, university educated, down to earth, enjoy dining and dancing, sports, travelling. Seeking a male, 49-59, handsome, outgoing, honest, romantic, intelligent, who loves kids. AD#1949

FRIENDSHIP & COMPANIONSHIP
Professional Jewish widow, 42, have a 2yr old child, very outgoing, good sense of humour, open, enjoy movies, theater, dining & dancing, long walks. Seeking a single Jewish male, assertive, financially secure, professional, non-smoker, sincere, who does not focus on ones attributes. AD#1963

FULL OF LOVE
Single Jewish female, 18, 5'3", 115lbs, brown hair & eyes, non-smoker, honest, caring, enjoy moves, sports, dining and dancing. Seeking a male, 18-21, honest, romantic, trustworthy with similar interests. AD#1862

NIFTY 50'S
Single lady, hazel eyes, blond hair, with a love for life and a terrific sense of humour, enjoy the arts, movies, the theater, music from classical to jazz, travelling, long walks, and romantic talks. Seeking a male, kind, compassionate, self-sufficient, with a good heart and a great smile. AD#1853

NOURISH MY SOUL
Single Jewish female, 51, attractive, enjoy music, fine art, outdoor activities, nature, fine food, and activities that nourish the soul. Seeking a male who is considerate, open minded, with traditional values, and similar interests. AD#1860

WINTER ROMANCE
Single Jewish female, 30ish, attractive, stylish, dark brown hair, hazel green eyes, enjoy movies, theater, roller blading, comedy clubs, music, bowling, camping. Seeking a single Jewish male, 31-43, with similar qualities and interests. AD#1857

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single female, 35, 5'4", slim, attractive, brunette, enjoy theater, movies, travelling, cottage life. Seeking an attractive male, 34-44, professional, intelligent, and a good communicator. AD#1858

SINGLE MOM
Single mom of 2 children (18yr & 8), very active, enjoy cooking, dining & dancing, reading. Seeking a male, very understanding, with a good heart. AD#1849

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single Jewish female, 42, tall, warm, intelligent, attractive, curious, strong Jewish identity. Seeking a Jewish male, communicative, healthy, counter mench with strength and integrity, accomplished. AD#1850

ROMANTIC LADY
Single Jewish female, 43, 5'10", attractive, sophisticated, non-smoker, very romantic, enjoy sports, dining and dancing, quiet evenings, live shows. Seeking a Jewish male, 5'10"+, non-smoker, handsome, who enjoys working out, for a serious relationship or friendship. AD#1852

LOVING
Divorced Jewish female, 38, kind, caring, loving. Seeking a Jewish male, 32-43, who is attractive. AD#1816

HAPPINESS TOGETHER
Divorced female, 49, 5'6", 173lbs, professional, attractive, non-smoker, down to earth, blond hair, hazel eyes, warm, enjoy movies, dancing, dining out. Seeking a professional male, 49-60, loving, outgoing, honest, romantic, and caring. AD#1835

INDEPENDENT
Single Jewish female, 48, 5'6", professional, dark eyes, dark brown hair, outgoing, with a great sense of humour, enjoy dining out, dancing, outdoor activities, travelling. Seeking a male, professional, down to earth, sincere, who enjoys dining out and having fun in life. AD#1837

LIKES TO LAUGH
Single Jewish female, 24, auburn hair, brown eyes, enjoy travelling, long walks, candle lit dinners. Seeking a Jewish male, professional, 27-32, who is honest and kind. AD#1838

STRONG FAMILY VALUES
Divorced Jewish female, 52, non-smoker, university educated, enjoy theater, movies, quiet times. Seeking a male, 48-65, non-smoker, university educated, with strong family values. AD#1840

GOOD COMMUNICATOR
Single female, 5'5", 125lbs, attractive, slim, dark hair and eyes, enjoy art, outdoors, films, nature and everything life has to offer. Seeking a down to earth male, who is intelligent, successful and a good communicator. AD#1845

WELL GROOMED
Attractive Jewish female, 38, 5'5", brown hair and eyes, down to earth, family oriented. Seeking an educated male, who is well groomed, intelligent, 37-44, sensitive, active, who likes to have fun. AD#1846

STRAWBERRY BLOND
Single male, 39, 6'1", blond hair, hazel eyes, enjoy movies, sports, baseball, hockey and football. Seeking a female, 28-48, is nice, kind, considerate, loving, affectionate and gentle. AD#1841

Men seeking Women

SOULMATE
Divorced Jewish male, 6', 240lbs, easy going, great sense of humour, enjoy sports, movies, and love to laugh. Seeking a female, 26-31, with similar interests. AD#1818

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single male, Goldsmith and an artist, enjoy music, fine arts, sports, writing. Seeking a female, attractive, single moms OK, 28-38, with similar interests. AD#1907

BEST FRIEND AND LOVER
Single Jewish male, 5'7", 30 something, Andy Garcia looks, very attractive, impeccable dresser but a cowboy at heart, fun loving, romantic, stable, resourceful, professional Seeking a Jewish female, late 20's early 30's, attractive, vibrant, classy and slim. AD#1823

ONCE BITTEN, TWICE SHY
Single male, 50's, financially secure, handsome, from the Thornhill area. Seeking a female, good looking, with a good sense of humour, slim, age is not important, financially secure, a picture is a must after contact is made. AD#1810

FUN LOVING
Single Jewish male, 33, easy going, fun loving, enjoy outdoor activities, movies, long walks, camping. Seeking a female, 25-38, with similar interests AD#1777

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single Jewish male, 6', handsome, athletic built, love sports and keeping fit, artistic, with traditional values. Seeking a Jewish female, who is ready to make a commitment and start a family, who enjoys life and has old fashioned values. AD#1809

OLD FASHIONED
Single male, mid 30's, old fashioned, sensitive, stubborn, romantic, enjoy cuddling, outdoor activities, movies, camping. Seeking a female, 30-35, with similar interests. AD#1762

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single Jewish male, 32, professional, 180lbs, self employed, own his own business, fit, enjoy all aspects of life, moves, dining and dancing, travelling, working out, motor cycling. Seeking a Jewish female, very down to earth, non-smoker, strong morals and values, clean and neat. AD#1774

LET'S CONNECT
Single male, 19, seeking a female, tall, slim, loving & caring for a meaningful relationship. AD#1814

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, early 50's, down to earth, tall, slim, caring, easy going, professional, enjoy movies & quiet times. Seeking a Jewish female, 39-49, warm, sensitive, and health conscious. AD#1718

EASY TO LOOK AT
Single white male, young looking, late 50's, blue eyes, brown hair, medium built, financially secure, down to earth, great sense of humour, enjoy the outdoors. Seeking an attractive female, caring down to earth, trim figure, of any age. AD#1720

GOOD CONVERSATIONALIST
Single Jewish male, 6', slim, attractive, brown hair, blue-green eyes, have a B.A., enjoy cooking, travelling, movies, dining out. Seeking a Jewish female, 30-34, who is well read. AD#1730

LIKES LAUGHS & OUTDOORS
Divorced Jewish male, 29, brown hair, blue eyes, professional, enjoy outdoor activities. Seeking a female with good sense of humour, caring, & kind. AD#1787

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COMPANIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 55, professional. Seeking a non-smoking, Jewish female, 50-60, with traditional values, who enjoys the theater, dancing & dining. AD#1710

SEEKING NICE LADY
Single male, 18, enjoy movies, dancing. Seeking a single female with similar interests. AD#1670

MY KIDS TAUGHT ME WELL
Single male, 40, ready to get into life again. Seeking a special lady to share life with. AD#1779

TIME WAITS FOR NO ONE
Single male, 45, conservative looking, enjoy country drives, art auctions, have a business degree, stock market investor and analyzer. Seeking a lady, no need to be slim, for serious relationship. AD#1681

ROMANTIC AND CARING
Single white male, 56, self-employed, businessman, enjoy movies, music, travel, good conversation, quiet times. Seeking a female, compassionate, loving, attractive, sensitive, to be his special lady. AD#1784

ACTIVE JUNIOR SENIOR
Single male, mid 60's, 5'6", non-smoker, Anglo-Jewish background, enjoy music, theater, outdoors, travel, public affairs. Seeking a semi-dependent, warm, educated, outgoing, caring lady, 50+. AD#1690

DON'T MISS OUT
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330 OBITUARIES

MINCER, Sara - on Jan. 18, 1999, late of 4979 Bathurst St.
BLOOM, William - on Jan. 19, 1999, late of 1925 Steeles Ave. E.
SAVLOV, Albert - on Jan. 19, 1999, late of 129 Searle Ave.
ZAKON, Murray - on Jan. 19, 1999, late of 100 Canyon Ave.
PERLMUTTER, Alfred - on Jan. 20, 1999, late of New York City.
HORENFELDT, Rose - on Jan. 21, 1999, late of 550 Cummer Ave.
GRANOFSKY, Evelyn - on Jan. 22, 1999, late of 610 Tangreen Crt.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

330 OBITUARIES

KROHN, Esther Pearl - on Jan. 22, 1999, late of 81 Fairholme Ave.
FARBER, Izak - on Jan. 23, 1999.
MENDELEFSKY, Clara - on Jan. 23, 1999, late of 1925 Steeles Ave. E.
SIMON, Jack - on Jan. 24, 1999, late of 1555 Finch Ave. E.
STARKMAN, Murray - on Jan. 25, 1999, late of 20 Bison Dr.
LOEWENSTAMM, Ilse Rosa Tamara - on Jan. 26, 1999.
PILSMAKER, Hilda - on Jan. 26, 1999, late of 550 Cummer Ave.
PRUPAS, Harold - on Jan. 26, 1999.
TURFRYER, Sarah - on Jan. 26, 1999.
BETTER, Eddia - on Jan. 28, 1999.
SCARCELLA, Annette - on Jan. 28, 1999, late of 20 Bison Dr.
ROSMAN, Jack - on Jan. 29, 1999, late of 205 Hilda Ave.
SHAROV, Denis - on Jan. 29, 1999, late of 775 Steeles Ave. W.
KIDECKEL, Selma Sima - on Jan. 30, 1999, late of 7601 Bathurst St.
ZIGELSTEIN, Abraham (Al) - on Jan. 31, 1999.
FISCHER, Simon - on Feb. 1, 1999, late of 1 Finlayson Crt.
TETELBAUM, Lazar - on Feb. 1, 1999, late of 6030 Bathurst St.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

KIRSH, Gerry - on Jan. 14, 1999, late of 124 Argonne Cres.
LEVE, Alexander - on Jan. 15, 1999, late of 39 Ava Rd.
NATHAN, Agathe - on Jan. 15, 1999, late of Kennedy Lodge.
ROSS, Libby - on Jan. 15, 1999, late of 1565 Dundas St. W.
LEIZEROWICZ, Israel - on Jan. 16, 1999, late of 65 Ellerslie Ave., #662.
BROWN, Harry - on Jan. 17, 1999, late of 10 Kenneth Ave., #405.
HOLTZMAN, Enid - on Jan. 17, 1999, late of 7605 Bayview Ave., #316.
LIBERBAUM, Mary - on Jan. 17, 1999, late of 23 Acton Ave.
WEISS, Sadie - on Jan. 17, 1999, late of 257 Torresdale Ave.
AXTMAYER, Jean Sturges - on Jan. 18, 1999, late of 10424 Keele St.
EASON, Max - on Jan. 18, 1999, late of 65 Spring Garden Ave., #404.
MAGRILL, Cyril - on Jan. 19, 1999, late of 15 Canyon Ave., #1806.
WOLFSTADT, Irving - on Jan. 19, 1999, late of 100 Canyon Ave., #902.
ROTISH, Rose - on Jan. 22, 1999, late of 760 Briar Hill Ave.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

GERSON, Pauline - on Jan. 22, 1999, late of 110 Promenade Circle, #1105.
STROM, Samuel - on Jan. 22, 1999, late of 495 Wilson Ave., #533.
ROTISH, David - on Jan. 24, 1999, late of 47 Ealing Dr.
FRUITMAN, Harriet - on Jan. 24, 1999, late of 21 Mayfair, #808.
WALLETT, Cynthia Small - on Jan. 24, 1999, late of 24 Bickerton Cres.
IZENBERG, Helen - on Jan. 24, 1999, late of 55 Ameer Ave., #1008.
OTIS, Ben - on Jan. 26, 1999, late of 44 Forest Grove Dr.
SISKIND, Jack - on Jan. 28, 1999, late of 5 Old Sheppard Ave., Bld. B, #1407.

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338 SHIVA CATERING

KING SOLOMON'S CATERING
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GOLD, Margaret - on Jan. 21, 1999, late of 282 St. Clair Ave. W.
SWARTZ, Molly - on Jan. 24, 1999, late of 7 Montressor Dr.
KARL, Maria - on Jan. 28, 1999, late of 76 Riverside Blvd.

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Sports

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'Hockey miles' add up when three boys play

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — They didn't grow up on a farm and there aren't six of them, so the hockey-playing Puterman brothers aren't likely to be mistaken for the Sutters. No, more like the Hunter brothers – but with a lot more skill.

Jason, 16, Jared, 14, and Lenny, 11, are smooth-skating brothers from Richmond Hill, each an award-winning player at the highest level of competitive hockey in their respective age groups. Jason is a left-winger with the Toronto Midget Marlies, Jared a defenceman with the peewee Vaughan Kings and Lenny a defenceman for the North York Rangers, an atom level team.

Between the three of them, hardly a day passes when there isn't a game, a practice or a tournament to get to. Lenny, the youngest, has already recorded almost as many games as Gordie Howe – more than 1,000 with 160 added to that total every year.

Loading up the family vehicles and motoring to different venues in Toronto and other parts of Southern Ontario is second nature for the boys and their parents, Allan and Cheryl. Allan has calculated that the family averages 650 hockey dates each year – that's 1.8 per day – and has racked up 130,000 kilometres on their two leased vehicles since the summer of 1997. "That's mostly hockey miles," he said.

Throw in the boys' heavy day school course load (Jason's at CHAT, Jared and Lenny at USDS Richmond Hill), piano lessons, visits to art galleries, fundraising and the regular horsing around with Nintendo and the like, and the family's schedule is one for the record books.

But, to a man (and woman), all five reject suggestions their schedules are too onerous. On the contrary, they say, "we just do it for fun."

"It's fun for everybody and we meet a lot of great people," Allan said. "It doesn't create a hardship."

For the boys, hockey is anything but onerous. It's something they took to naturally at a very young age and something they still love doing. Jason started skating at age six, the other boys at four.

By eight, Jason was playing AA minor novice hockey with the Richmond Hill Jaguars, winning a zone championship. He progressed through the ranks, meeting his current coach with the Marlies, Mike Lende, at a hockey camp when he was 13. As a peewee, he played with Richmond Hills Stars and won an Eastern AAA Alliance title. After playing as a bantam with North York Rangers, he moved up to the Marlies.

At 6 foot 1, 180 pounds, Jason's got the size and strength to play hard-nosed hockey. "I play pretty physical in the offensive end," he said. "I'm the one who digs out the puck in the corner and gets it out front to my centreman."

Stand aside Sutters, move over Mahovliches, here come the next big brother combo, the Putermans. Seen here are (from left) Jared, Jason and Lenny Puterman.

A powerful straight ahead skater, Jason believes "my strength is probably positional play, knowing where to be in the defensive zone and in the offensive end."

His coach agrees. "His best ability is his intelligence to make plays, be in the right place at the right time and to anticipate," said Lende, who is Jewish. "He knows where to be when he doesn't have the puck. That's what scouts look at."

Jason has already been scouted by NCAA schools and will likely be scouted even more extensively next year, when he probably will move up to Tier II Junior A hockey. Lende believes Jason is good enough to play in a major junior league, but the family has let the word get out he's more interested in a college scholarship. Major junior teams won't want to waste a draft pick on a player looking south of the border, Lende said.

Jason's got the marks and the intelligent on-ice play to make him a perfect candidate for NCAA Division I hockey – at an Ivy League school, no less, Lende said. That combination is very attractive to schools like Harvard and Princeton, which offer $200,000 (US) hockey scholarships, he added.

Lende, who is considering coaching in a German elite league next year, has seen all the Puterman boys play. "They're all good," he said. "They're all the best calibre they can be for their age group."

Jared, the peewee with Vaughan Kings, takes after his brother when it comes to positional play. "I like that you have to think about it, read the play and make the right move," he said.

As for the travel, "it's fun actually. You stay with the team, go to restaurants, stay together at nice hotels."

Like Jason, Jared is looking ahead to a U.S. college scholarship. And with his older brother, he's helping coach Lenny at USDS Richmond Hill. Jason serves as head coach, Jared his assistant who works with the defence. USDS Richmond Hill plays in a Jewish day school league that includes teams from USDS Bayview and Bathurst, Associated, Netivot and Leo Baeck.

Last year Jason played for CHAT, but this year the school team is limited to grades 9 and 10. Jared is in the same boat. While he would like nothing better than to play for USDS, there's no team for his age group.

Lenny, an atom with North York Rangers, is no different than his brothers when it comes to love of the game, even if it means playing 160 times a year.

"It's fun. I get to travel a lot. I get to make a lot of friends and meet a lot of people," he said.

On the ice, "I'm a good skater and have a pretty good shot. I play well with the team."

One of his favorite hockey memories comes from a tournament two years ago when he scored the winning goal with 10 seconds left in the playoffs to advance the team to a tournament in Detroit.

Like his brothers, Lenny's room is full of trophies and MVP awards, attesting to his skill on the ice.

Their mother Cheryl acknowledges that hockey has become the central focus of their lives, but it's not the only thing the family does.

"It just became a natural way of life," she said. "Because my husband and I really enjoy sports, it opened up a whole new life for us.

"Every day we're out with somebody. Occasionally we have a Monday night off. Often we have two or three events in one day, but we get to everything.

"I usually joke that our marriage arrangement is that I get practices, Allan gets games."

Cheryl believes hockey has been a tremendous influence on the boys. Not only has it exposed them to many different kinds of people. "I don't have, keneinehora, any of the problems that other parents have. The boys are growing up into wonderful people."

Cheryl and Allan, who both work with kids at the Bathurst Jewish Centre, sometimes plan family trips around hockey events. They'll make a tournament in Boston, in Ottawa or in small town Ontario the centrepiece of a family vacation, she said.

But does she or Allan resemble the stereotypical hockey parent that pushes the boys to do more than they want?

"I personally don't put any pressure on the boys. We do it because they enjoy it," she said.

Their schoolwork hasn't suffered, and all the hockey has helped their self-confidence. Juggling their busy schedules has helped improve their organizational abilities, she said.

Hockey brings the boys together, and during the summer the three of them will head off to the golf course to play a round together, she added.

Allan, who's a low handicap golfer, never played hockey as a boy growing up in Vancouver. Always active in sports, he excelled at baseball and basketball, so he doesn't feel the need for vicarious achievement through his sons, he said.

As he put it, "there's a natural competitiveness between the boys. They see if the oldest does something, there's no reason they can't too."

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The Inside Back

Friday Night Millennium Fever

By JORDAN MAX

Last Laugh

It's only February, but already it seems the entire continent has been gripped by Millennium Fever. So I decided to put my two cents in, in the faint hope of putting some perspective on this whole mishegas.

As I figure it, by December most people will be too crazed to pay attention to other seemingly mundane matters, like real news or its opposite, this column.

Now, fear about the approaching millennium is anything but new. Aside from the guy on the street corner whose signboard proclaims that the world will end tomorrow, most people really don't believe the world will end in the year 2000 CE. Of course, there are a few people who claim to back this up through biblical calculations (let's call them End of the World Types, or EWTs for short).

Funny, do you notice how EWTs never quite get around to telling you exactly how this end is supposed to come about? For that, you have to buy the 14-part book subscription.

What I find truly interesting is the coincidence of the EWT, the Millennium Thing and the Y2K Bug phenomenon. If you haven't heard about this, consider yourself lucky. If we add into the equation the projected chaos emanating from worldwide computer system crashes due to the Y2K bug, the people dependent on such machines may indeed think the world has ended.

EWTs envision the end as coming about with a whole lot more fire and brimstone, or at least the kind of Armageddon that makes for really neat pyrotechnics and Hollywood movies. By comparison, computer systems failure probably seems quite tame if not downright disappointing.

But before I totally dismiss the possibility of the world ending, it's hard to argue with certain recent events. For instance, I recently saw a news piece from Israel on a Hashomer Hatzair kibbutz actually making its kitchen strictly kosher. To ardent secularists, this happening is about as likely as Gehennom freezing over.

Speaking of freezing, up here in the Great White North, we have been blessed for two years in a row with very impressive January winter storms. In 1998, the famous Ice Storm knocked out electrical power in some areas for weeks on end. People discovered that just about everything runs on electricity or computer systems powered by, you guessed it, electricity. And so, the story goes, people had to actually learn to live without.

This lesson has not gone unnoticed; in fact it seems to have brought out the raw survivalist in some people. The possibility of electrical or computer failure on the stroke of midnight 1999 in the depths of a Canadian winter has these people in a tizzy, stockpiling food and supplies, buying generators, hiding cash under the mattress, building underground bunkers, and learning obscure card games to pass the time.

Now, there's a famous saying that God provides the cure before He sends the affliction. First of all, as many have noted, if the world would only convert to the Jewish Year 5760, then the computer chachams will have another 40 years to come up with a solution.

Secondly, history has prepared the Jewish people all too well for survivalism. We're usually quite level-headed, non-sky-is-falling types, at least when it's not erev yom tov. ("Pesach is coming, Pesach is coming" I can hear the anxious housewife's cry.)

Despite the absence of pogroms and sudden eviction, we can still experience a taste of survivalism. If you don't believe me, watch the supermarket shopper hoarding for kosher l'Pesach foods, which are available in the grocery stores only while supplies last. Then again, the mad rush for challahs at the bakery erev Rosh Hashanah can be equally nerve-racking. I still have the bruised ribs to show for it.

Thirdly, we have merited as a people to be blessed with the simple solution to the Y2K bug, when airplanes won't fly and gas stations won't pump. In case you haven't looked that far ahead in your calendar, Dec. 31, 1999 just so happens to fall out on erev Shabbat.

Did Hillel the Elder have this in mind when he set down the Jewish calendar about 2,100 years ago? On Shabbat, Jan. 1, 2000, if we're where we're supposed to be, namely, in shul, there's no problem with flying, driving, etc., as long as the shul has light, heat, a backup generator, and if we're lucky, cholent for a thousand.

Just in case, I think I'll be stocking up the freezer with challahs. No wait, the freezer runs on electricity. Oh well, there's always matzah. But if the world really does end on Dec. 31, 1999, where will I get my challahs for the next Shabbat?

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1/4 cup corn syrup	1/2 cup granulated sugar
1/4 cup melted butter	1/3 cup cocoa
2 eggs	1/2 tsp baking powder
1 tsp vanilla	1/2 tsp salt
1/2 cup all-purpose flour	1/2 cup finely chopped dried apricots

Preheat oven to 350°F. Coat 8" square baking pan with non-stick cooking spray. Whisk corn syrup with butter, eggs and vanilla just until mixed. In a larger bowl, stir together remaining ingredients except apricots. Stir in egg mixture until all ingredients are moist. Stir in apricots. Turn into prepared pan and bang pan on counter several times to get rid of any air bubbles. Bake in centre of preheated oven for 18-20 minutes or until edges start to come away from sides of pan. Preparation time: 10 minutes. Yield: 16 2" squares

About Teens

Dear Karilani,

There is this girl that I really like. The only problem is that she happens to be my best friend. We've known each other our whole lives and have grown even closer. I know that my feelings for her have changed, but I don't know how she feels towards me. I'm afraid to tell her how I feel because I would *never* want to lose the friendship that we have now. It would be awesome if she were my girlfriend but I don't know how she feels. What should I do?

Not Just A Little Crush

Dear Not Just A Little Crush,

This situation is very common between best friends. People often look for the qualities in a boyfriend or girlfriend that are apparent in their best friends. We choose friends for a reason, and when two friends become closer, different and unique characteristics that we may not have previously noticed will become evident.

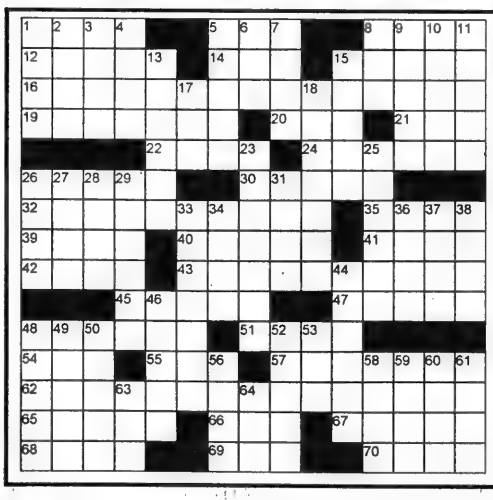
If you are really serious about your best friend, and have a hunch that she may like you too, then a good idea would be to explore the possibility of a changed relationship through a mutual friend. Try to find someone who is a close friend of both of you, and make sure it is someone you can trust. Tell the person that you are interested in your best friend and that you want him or her to plant the idea in her head to see how she reacts to it. If the reaction is good, then tell her how you feel. If not, then don't tell her. It is probably for the best.

You should be very careful what you do and say to her in this situation. Try not to make her feel awkward, because she may only pull away from you and your relationship. Try not to let your emotions get the best of you. Stay rational and try to anticipate what she is feeling and what her reactions may be.

In addition to not hurting your friendship, remember that you don't want to get hurt either. You have to be extra sensitive to how you are making her feel. Like you said, "I would *never* want to lose the friendship that we have now."

Good luck. We hope that whatever you decide to do works out for the best.

Karilani is a composite name for three girls, who are close friends and in Grade 11 in Toronto.



The Canadian Jewish News

Crossword Puzzle

Lights, Camera, Action!

By Matt Gaffney & David Bianco (QSyndicate ~ aol.com)

Across

1 Workplace, often
5 Shvitz location
8 "Goodbye!"
12 Spinoza's stock-in-trade
14 ____-tac-toe
15 32-across movie of 1983
16 32-across movie of 1995
19 More rigid
20 Lay out at Netanya
21 Saturn or Mercury
22 Painter Chagall
24 "La Bamba" singer
26 Like some beer
30 Nimble
32 Frequent Best Director nominee
35 Catches a crook
39 Author Ferber
40 1,000, in Quebec
41 Yiddish three
42 Laden with meaning
43 With 62-across, 32-across movie of 1982
45 Boxer Mike
47 Robin flats
48 Band members
51 Koufax's ERA, for example
54 "What ____, chopped liver?"
55 Fisherman's tool
57 First forefather
62 See 43-across
65 "____ Hall" (32-across movie of 1977)
66 Aaron Krickstein blast
67 Ten-centers
68 The ten ___ tribes
69 Lightning ____
70 "____ Drink the Water" (32-across movie of 1969)

Down

1 Lowers the lights
2 Make publishable
3 ____ Lily (Utah's state flower)
4 Madeleine of "Blazing Saddles"
5 Clinton Bane Kenneth
6 Great Expectations hero
7 41-across plus finef
8 Nightline Name
9 32-across movie of 1990
10 Great power
11 Golden-_____(retirees)
13 Ren's partner
15 Of an area
17 Knesset Member vote
18 Gullies
23 Larry King's show and cousins
25 "_____a Tenor"
26 Had debts
27 Focal point
28 Make muscles more defined
29 Goes with the flow
31 Money, to Isaac Bashevis Singer
33 Accrues
34 Prom night wheels
36 Provides with Uzis
37 Borscht ingredient
38 Letter starter
44 Free of footsteps, as a trail
46 Busybody
48 Eichmann, to Arendt
49 _____ acids
50 "PED XING" and others
52 Levied
53 Network of 8-down
56 Nicholas I, for example
58 At the center of
59 Blood: prefix
60 The Middle East's Gulf of ____
61 Popular computer game
63 65-across, for one
64 "The Name of the Rose" author

(This week's answers are on page 42.)

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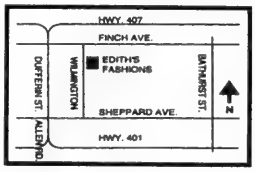

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The Canadian Jewish news
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Rabbinical students have a nice time in Nice. *Page 6*

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Canada's UN vote slammed

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — National Jewish groups are using some of the strongest language in memory to condemn Canada's support for a Feb. 9 United Nations resolution that called for an international conference to discuss the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel advocacy groups are saying that by supporting the resolution, Canada is helping to violate the Oslo accords and is undermining its own role in the Mideast peace process.

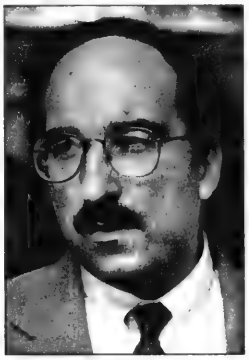
One official of the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) called the motion "one more in a long litany of useless and hateful resolutions" aimed at the territories conquered by Israel in 1967.

Canada's support for the resolution is "very distressing," said CIC executive director Rob Ritter.

The UN's General Assembly, meeting in an emergency special session last Tuesday, called for an international conference to ensure that the Geneva Conventions on protecting civilians in areas still under Israeli control are respected, as is the conventions' ban on settlements.

The resolution calls for the conference to take place in Geneva on July 15.

The non-binding resolution passed by a vote of 115 to 2. Only the United States joined Israel in opposing the motion. There were five abstentions, and 36 member nations were absent for the vote.



Dore Gold, Israel's Ambassador to the UN, called the resolution a "vulgar distortion."

The Arab-sponsored resolution calls for the 188 signatories to the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention, which governs treatment of civilians in occupied lands during wartime, to meet at an unprecedented conference at the UN's Geneva office to discuss "measures to enforce the convention in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem."

Israel responded quickly by saying it would boycott any such meeting. The resolution "seeks to apply the Fourth Geneva Convention selectively in only one case: Israel," said Dore Gold, the Jewish state's ambassador to the UN.

Gold repeatedly rejected calls for the conference, calling it "a vulgar distortion of international humanitarian law for the purpose of narrow political interests," and a moot point, given that 97 percent of the Palestinian population in the West Bank and Gaza Strip now lives under Palestinian rule.

Those sentiments were echoed by Israel's ambassador to Canada. In a statement released to *The CJN*, David Sultan said the resolution reflects "political considerations and not humanitarian ones," and is "irrelevant to the efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict."

Even though Ottawa had misgivings about how the resolution was brought forward and the language it used, it voted for it anyway "because of our support for its principles," said Canada's deputy representative at the UN, Michel Duval, in a statement.

"Canada remains greatly concerned at Israeli settlement activities in East Jerusalem and elsewhere in the occupied territories. We urge Israel to stop these activities which, in Canada's view, are a violation of international law and harmful to the peace process," Duval stated in his explanation for his vote.

Canadian policy, he explained, is that the Fourth Geneva Convention, drafted following World War II, "applies to the territories occupied by Israel in 1967, including East Jerusalem. We call on Israel to accept *de jure* [as a matter of law]

Continued on page 22

A COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION IN JERUSALEM

About 50,000 people gathered on Sunday in Gan Sacher in Jerusalem as a counter-demonstration to the 250,000 Haredim who were demonstrating up the road against what they perceive to be the Supreme Court's increasing incursions into religious life. *[Israel Sun photo]*

INSIDE

An Ashkenaz in Sepharad.
Please see page 9.

250,000 Haredim demonstrate in Jerusalem—please see page 29

The News in Brief

CANADA

Hearing for Alleged SS Man

OTTAWA — The Federal Court of Canada heard evidence last week about security screening procedures in the 1950s that would have prevented SS volunteers and concentration camp guards from immigrating to Canada.

William Kelly, a former RCMP liaison officer stationed in London after World War II, testified how field officers were trained to screen prospective immigrants to Canada. Justice Department lawyers contend that under the rules in place at the time, retired Windsor auto worker Michael Baumgartner, 74, would not have been admitted to Canada.

The Crown alleges Baumgartner voluntarily joined the SS in 1942 and later served in two concentration camps. Baumgartner's lawyer claims his client was forced to join the SS and that he never served in camps.

The Crown contends that membership in the SS or service in a camp were automatic grounds for inadmissability to Canada at the time Baumgartner immigrated.

They allege he lied about his wartime activities when he applied to enter Canada. Entering Canada by fraud would be grounds for the removal of Baumgartner's citizenship and deportation from Canada.

ISRAEL

Meeting Cancelled

JERUSALEM — A meeting of the Jerusalem local religious council was cancelled when nearly all its members boycotted to protest the inclusion of representatives from the Reform and Conservative movements. Council head Rabbi Yitzhak Ralbag called the session after being ordered to do so by the High Court of Justice.

Crime Up, Murder Down

JERUSALEM — Crime increased in Israel by three percent during 1998 over the previous year, with a total of 516,000 incidents reported, according to police officials. The 1998 murder rate was down by 10 percent from 1997, with 146 reported homicides.

Israel Funds Diaspora

JERUSALEM — Israel's approximately $54 billion 1999 budget includes $4 million to fund Israel-Diaspora relations. "This decision is a symbolic step in the relationship between Israel and the Diaspora," said Trade Minister Natan Sharansky. The budget's passage was secured only after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged $135 million to projects supported by Orthodox legislators.

Millennium Tourist Drive

JERUSALEM — Israel's Tourism Ministry has launched its campaign to attract visitors to celebrate the millennium. A glossy full-color brochure titled "Celebrating 2000 in the Place Where It All Began" touts such events as a motorcycle rally from Rome to Jerusalem, a New Year's Eve formation of a human ring around the Dead Sea, and a "Million Tourist March" to promote world peace.

WORLD

War Crimes Trial

LONDON — Britain's first Nazi war crimes trial opened here last week. Anthony Sawoniuk, 77, is charged with the 1942 murders of four Jews in the German-occupied town of Domachevo in Belarus. Members of the jury were advised to remove themselves if they or their families "suffered as a result of the German actions against Jewish or other races or religions."

House Arrest for Priebke

ROME — Convicted Nazi war criminal Erich Priebke has been given the right to serve out the rest of his life sentence under house arrest. A Rome court cited his poor health and allowed him to leave a military prison. Priebke was convicted for his role in the 1944 massacre of 335 Romans, including about 75 Jews, at the Ardeatine Caves south of Rome. Another former SS official, Karl Haas, was granted house arrest last year after being convicted on the same charges.

Prosecution Dropped

BERN — A Swiss governmental committee has voted not to prosecute an extremist politician for calling for a Swiss boycott of Jewish and American products. The country's Jewish leaders, saying that several Jewish businesses are already suffering from the boycott, criticized the decision not to prosecute Rudolf Keller. In July, Keller called for the boycott, saying Switzerland should retaliate for being "blackmailed" by Jews and the United States over its wartime role.

Welfare Office Robbed

MOSCOW — A Jewish welfare office in central Russia was robbed this month in what Jewish leaders believe was an anti-Semitic attack. Local police, who are treating the incident as an ordinary burglary, opened an investigation into the incident at the offices of the Chasdei Yerushalayim centre, where office equipment and some money were stolen. The office gives financial support to about 1,500 poor and elderly Jews in the Volga region.

Double Nominations for *Life is Beautiful*

LOS ANGELES — *Life Is Beautiful*, the tragicomic Italian fable of a Jewish father trying to shield his son from the horrors of a concentration camp, has garnered seven Oscar nominations.

Although other films received more nominations, *Life Is Beautiful* captured much of the Hollywood buzz by becoming the first movie in 30 years to be nominated for both best picture and best foreign film.

Roberto Benigni, the driving force behind the movie, also received nominations for best director, best actor and best screenplay.

Steven Spielberg's graphic World War II saga, *Saving Private Ryan*, won 11 nominations, including best picture. Spielberg was also nominated for best director.

Nominated in the documentary feature category was *The Last Days*, produced by Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation. The documentary depicts the experiences of five Hungarian Jews who survive the Holocaust and then return to the sites of the former concentration camps and their native towns.

Prince of Egypt, the animated version of the life of Moses, won two nominations, one for original score.

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Coroner looks into dying man's last hours

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL— The attending physician who removed a dying man's life support in spite of opposition from his family, said that consent of either the patient or relatives is not required in such situations.

The first four days of the 13-day public coroner's inquest into the causes and circumstances of Herman Krausz's death on July 13 concluded last week. This is the first time the coroner's office has held a public inquiry into a case involving life support.

Krausz's two children, George, 44, and Victor, 41, said even though they realized their 76-year-old father was dying, they had repeatedly expressed their opposition to reducing life support because any step that might hasten their father's death was against their "religious and moral beliefs."

They said they believed their father, a Holocaust survivor who regularly attended synagogue, had communicated clearly that he wanted to stay on the support.

Dr. Patricia MacMillan, who was in charge of the intensive care unit (ICU) at the Jewish General Hospital (JGH), testified that she and two other physicians, Denny Laporta and ICU chief Allen Spanier, decided to begin a terminal wean to diminish gradually the amount of life support given to Krausz.

Under cross-examination by the Krausz' sons' lawyer Peter Kalichman, MacMillan said that even if the elder Krausz had clearly and continually objected to a terminal wean, she would have proceeded anyway. "Ultimately, it was not his choice."

She said she believed this was in conformity with JGH policy. After taking a break to review the policy, she referred to a section on resuscitation that states in "rare cases" when "stringent criteria" are met a terminal patient "must be apprised of the therapeutic plan, but need not be informed of all measures withheld on the grounds of futility."

To a question from Kalichman suggesting that this section did not "perfectly fit" with the Krausz case, MacMillan answered "perhaps not."

MacMillan emphasized that she had tried her best to reach a "consensus" with the family and patient. She said she tried to make Krausz as comfortable as possible.

Laporta testified that he had not tried to get the consent of Krausz, and was well aware of the sons' opposition.

He said he fully supported the decision to wean Krausz from life support. "We were prepared to accept that as a consequence death may come more quickly."

The dispute came to a climax on July 9 in a heated meeting between the sons and doctors. That night, doctors began to lower the breaths per minute the respirator was delivering to Krausz.

The weaning continued despite the sons' sending a lawyer's letter on July 10.

According to testimony Krausz died 15 hours after the respirator had been turned off completely. The cause of death was pulmonary disease, pneumonia and a fungal infection.

A Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order had been in Krausz's file since June 22, entered by an earlier attending physician, Michel De Marchie. The doctor and the sons' testimony conflicted over whether he had informed the the DNR order.

Exactly what Krausz wanted was not easy to determine, the doctors said, but their testimony indicated that he was lucid. In fact, MacMillan described him as "remarkably alert," from the beginning of July on.

They said he could not speak because of the tube in his mouth since he entered the ICU June 14, but he could communicate through motions of his head, hands and eyes. Hungarian was his first language, but he knew English well. His hands had been tied loosely since the intubation.

His sons testified that on several occasions he had responded to direct questions by them in Hungarian indicating that he wanted to go on living and did not want the support removed, even though he understood he was dying.

Nurses records showed, according to Laporta, that "many" times Krausz had touched or bitten his tubes, and that the nasal tube had come out at least once.

From her meeting with Krausz midday July 9, MacMillan said there was "no question" in her mind that he wanted the tubes removed from his mouth and nose and understood that could hasten his death.

"He was fed up and wanted them out," she said. That interaction was witnessed and concurred by Krausz's family physician, Catherine Jarvis.

However, about one and a half hours later, after the sons had arrived at MacMillan's request, Krausz indicated by nodding his head that he did not want the support removed and wanted to go on living to questions posed by Victor in Hungarian.

The inquest will continue Feb. 22 and 23, and then will resume in April and finish in May.

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From the editor's desk

Integrity, not expedience

Most of us can still recall with abject disdain the way in which, for decades after the Six Day War, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) became a bearpit of the nastiest invective and outright anti-Semitism directed at Israel.

The lowest of all low points was reached in November 1975 when the GA passed the infamous and outrageous resolution that equated Zionism with racism.

That resolution was ultimately repealed 16 years later with the advent of the Oslo peace process. The tide of anti-Israel bias seemed to dissipate, diminished somewhat by new bilateral relations being forged by Israel with many of its former enemies. Indeed, for two or three years, an unfamiliar optimism infected Israel's representatives at the United Nations. Their credentials were no longer being routinely challenged and they were being asked to participate in various committees.

But that sense of optimism was short-lived.

In 1995, with the change of government in Israel, the UNGA returned to being, essentially, a reflexive, knee-jerk anti-Israel forum, constantly intervening in bilateral Israeli-Palestinian problems on the side of the Palestinians whenever they asked it to.

Whether the pretext was south Lebanon or Har Choma, there are many recent examples of UNGA's one-sided, retrograde diatribes against Israel.

Last week we witnessed the latest such example. By a vote of 115-2, the UNGA called upon the 188 nations that signed the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to convene this summer to ensure that Israel complies with its provisions regarding the protection of civilians in the West Bank and Gaza.

Dore Gold, Israel's ambassador to the UN, called the resolution "a vulgar distortion of international humanitarian law for the purpose of narrow political interests."

He understated the case.

If the signatory states do convene to judge Israel, it will mark the very first time they will have done so.

There was no such conference, nor any call for one, when for example, Iraq invaded Kuwait, Vietnam invaded Cambodia, or the former Soviet Union invaded Hungary, Czechoslovakia or Afghanistan. None of these instances of malicious aggression has burdened the conscience of the UNGA quite the way the plight of the Palestinians does.

Moreover, there is a significant legal issue as to whether the Convention protocols even apply to the West Bank and Gaza.

The rightful sovereignty of the area from 1948 to 1967 has not yet been legally settled. Only one country on earth, Great Britain, recognized Jordan's claim to the West Bank after the 1948 war. Even so, it bears remembering that Israel captured the territory while fighting a defensive war.

Finally, adding the last piece of absurdity to the morally inverted world of UNGA, virtually no Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza now live under Israeli rule. More than 95 percent live under Palestinian rule.

The resolution was nothing more than the most recent effort by the Palestinians to prejudice future negotiations over the very issue that was the subject of the hateful resolution, namely, the future of the settlements under the Oslo accords.

It is not the first time, nor will it be the last, that the Palestinians have ignored the dispute-resolution mechanism in the accords to embarrass Israel in the international arena.

As if the apparent reversion of the UNGA to the days of the automatic anti-Israel majority of the '70s and the '80s were not worry enough, Canada's active participation in the shameful campaign against Israel last week should offend all decent, fair-minded Canadians.

Canada voted for the resolution, according to Ambassador Michel Duval, "because of our support for its principles," calling "on Israel to accept de jure applicability of the Convention in the Occupied Territories, *including East Jerusalem.*" *(Our emphasis)*

To mollify the sense of betrayal, Duval suggested that the use of the emergency special session was not helpful. But it was obviously not so unhelpful that it caused him to reconsider his support for the motion. His expression of regret was hollow and insincere, an insult to the truth.

If Duval truly believed the method of the resolution was "not helpful," and if he truly believed the language of the resolution "will not benefit the peace process," then why indeed did he support it?

The real reason for Canada's affirmative vote, I suspect, owes more to the fact, now that Canada has a seat on the Security Council, that Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy is determined to successfully advance his own "human security" agenda at the UN. He seems to have been quite prepared to "buy" that support. The price however, was further isolation of Israel among member states, further undermining of the Oslo process, and further injury to the advancement of peace in the middle east.

In its role on the Security Council, indeed in its role as our representatives at the United Nations, the Canadian government has a responsibility to truth, to fairness, to justice and to integrity. We are ashamed and disappointed that it opted for expediency instead.

MBD

SEE JN

ENSURING A BRIGHT FUTURE
Children from Ethiopia get a vital head start in Rehovot at an innovative pre-school, a project supported by UJA Federation funds. [UJA Press Service photo by Vera Etzion]

Partition of Israel inevitable, says professor

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The partition of Israel between Jews and Palestinians is "simply an inevitability," says an Israeli professor and advisor to the government.

"It's not even a question," Dan Schueftan, a political scientist at Haifa University, told an audience at Beth Tzedec Congregation recently.

But because it has the upper hand, Israel "can dictate the terms under which the Arabs cannot destroy us," Schueftan said in a talk spiced with humor and blunt statements.

The Oslo peace accords, which he termed "unbelievably stupid and dumb," established the embryo of a Palestinian state. Schueftan said he supports the idea of concessions, but deplored what he called "foolish" and one-sided concessions granted to the Palestinians under Oslo.

Israel should never accept a Palestinians state in the true sense of a sovereign country, he said. The "overwhelming majority" of Israelis understand that their government should "impose" several conditions on Palestinians, against their will if necessary.

He said that some areas of the West Bank will remain part of Israel, including large Jewish settlements; the Palestinians must not be allowed to have an army, control over their air space, or alliances with other Arab nations; and "by far" the most important, must never be allowed the right of return, that is, the right of Palestinians expelled in 1948 and their descendants to go back to Israel. "The one thing that will destroy us is more Palestinians," Schueftan said.

"How will I know I did the right thing? The United Nations will condemn me," he said to laughter. "Even if everyone says I can't do it, I say, 'I'm doing it.'"

Israel should "reserve the right to do every nasty thing possible," including forcibly expelling Arabs currently inside Israel. "But doing it is another story." Schueftan said he would not support the expulsion of Israeli Arabs.

He cited several historical reasons for the inevitability of Palestinian statehood. For one, David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, presciently declined to capture all of the country's present-day territory, even though he could have. Because Arabs vastly outnumbered Jews at the time, "Ben-Gurion understood that if we took all the territory, [Israel] would be a Jewish state with an Arab majority. That ends either the Jewish nature of Israel or the democratic nature of Israel."

In short, there would be no Jewish state today, if Israel had captured the West Bank and Gaza in 1948. And Ben-Gurion supported the idea of partition as early as 1937, he said.

Part of the problem, he said, was the early failings of Zionism, which did not bring hordes of Jews to Palestine. Ben-Gurion knew that "one, the Jews aren't coming, and two, Arabs and Jews cannot live together."

The 1967 Six Day War resulted in misery for Palestinians, but "were it not for the misery we inflicted on Arabs, they never would have negotiated with us. Now, we get more and they get some. Life isn't fair, I'm delighted to say."

Arabs naturally settled in areas where there few or no Jews, and Jews settled in places underpopulated by Arabs. However, Israel "even today cannot digest the Arab areas. What do we do with that which we cannot digest? The question is not 'Do we partition?' but 'How do we do it?'"

Schueftan said "the best thing that can happen" is if Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat unilaterally declares an independent state on May 4, as he has said he would.

"If Arafat abrogates [the Oslo accords], beautiful. So what? Then he terminates the [peace] process, and Israel has many punitive measures" at its disposal.

Ben-Gurion remembered 25 years after his death

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — Few people can rival the genius of David-Ben Gurion says his biographer, an affiliated senior fellow with the Moshe Dayan Centre at Tel Aviv University.

"People like him only come when they want to, or when someone sends them," Shabtai Teveth said at a recent lecture sponsored by Holy Blossom Temple, The Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation and Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University, commemorating the 25th anniversary of Ben-Gurion's death.

Ben-Gurion's lifelong policy can be reduced to aliyah, said Teveth. "That was both the rudder and engine of his leadership. No other leader saw such a growth in Israel's Jewish population."

A second, but no lesser achievement, he said, was the founding of the Israel Defence Forces. "To amalgamate the separate militias into one military force was a mission impossible. Ben-Gurion was the one and only leader the [separate militias] were ready to accept as their leader in the War of Independence."

Throughout Ben-Gurion's career, his tenet was that for Zionism to exist, it needs the friendship and sympathy of the Jewish people, said Teveth. "If you do anything to contradict Israel, then [the country] will not exist," he said.

Ben-Gurion's second tenet, he said, was that for Israel to exist, it needs the sympathy of the three worlds. The country cannot exist without that, as well, said Teveth.

Ben-Gurion's third tenet, he said, was that Israel should contemplate an act of war only if there were no alternative. "It should wage no political wars."

Ben-Gurion was the only political leader who saw that a Jewish state was possible only under partition. "As secretary of Histadrut, Ben-Gurion preached the separation of Jewish and Arab economy.

"Had it not been for the victims of the Arab riots from 1936-39, we should have sent [the Arabs a big gift. Those riots] helped entrench a division of the economy."

Asked what Ben-Gurion's message would be to the youth of today, Teveth said it would be to study Hebrew. "The things that keep the Jewish people together are Hebrew and religion.

"Zionism offers youth the opportunity to prove themselves in many ways. Ben-Gurion would tell youth to come to Israel, and study Hebrew."

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It's nice in Nice for Conservative rabbinical students

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO – The French Riviera and the Jewish Theological Seminary – New York training ground for Conservative rabbis – wouldn't be likely partners on a word association test, but for the small Masorti (Conservative) community in Nice, France, two rabbinical students, who used to call Canada home, are bridging the gap.

"It's obviously kind of an exotic experience," said Jennifer Tobenstein, a native of Montreal who visits Nice as a rabbinic intern for one weekend every other month, alternating with Ayelet Cohen, who learned French as an adolescent in Montreal.

Torontonian Aubrey Glazer is a rabbinic intern in Paris. He commutes from New York one weekend a month.

The trio, all of whom learned French as a second language, comprise part of a group of rabbinical students who participate in the novel program of the World Council of Synagogues (the international body of Conservative congregations). Two congregations in England, one in London and one in Leeds, are also involved.

The French participants are "tremendously hungry for an intellectually open environment where they can sit with their spouses and ask questions," said Rabbi Charles Simon, New York-based executive director of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, who spearheaded the program as an executive member of the World Council.

Some French Jews have travelled to Paris from other cities to study with the country's only Conservative rabbi after hearing him on the radio, Rabbi Simon noted.

Tobenstein, 26, who is in her fourth (second-last) year of the JTS rabbinical program, said the congregation in Nice is warm and friendly.

Unlike most North American Conservative communities, the Nice congregation is largely Sephardi, with Moroccan, Algerian and Tunisian backgrounds. Of the city's 30,000 Jews, only about 5,000 affiliate with a congregation, said Tobenstein. There are several Orthodox synagogues and one Liberal one.

The new congregation evolved out of a lay-led Rosh Chodesh group. There are now about 50 members, but it is constantly growing, said Tobenstein. In January, they moved to a new location in two adjoining storefronts. Services were previously held in a hotel seminar room.

"There wasn't that strong sense of sacred space, which hopefully now they'll be able to develop," said Tobenstein.

In addition to leading Shabbat and holiday services and teaching, Tobenstein and Cohen are helping the newly formed ritual committee forge a synthesis of existing Sephardi and Ashkenazi customs.

They also do much work with youth. Both worked with NOAM, the Masorti scouting/youth movement, last summer – Tobenstein in France and Cohen in England. Tobenstein set up a youth program on her initial visit for the High Holy Days. Upcoming events include a Purim play, a bar mitzvah and a bat mitzvah.

"It's really exhausting and really energizing at the same time," said second-year-student Cohen, 24, adding that the Nice congregation hungers for knowledge of Jewish texts and traditions.

Some of the locals have found the traditional egalitarian services, led by Tobenstein or Cohen, somewhat unusual.

Aubrey Glazer is a rabbinic intern at a Paris synagogue.

But "the more people peek in, the more the mystery is broken," Tobenstein said. "They see it's not as radical as they would have thought."

Twenty-eight-year-old Glazer – a fourth-year rabbinical student whose eclectic background includes undergraduate French language and literature studies as well as film-making experience – is doing his internship at Adath Chalom congregation in Paris.

The "very vibrant congregation" of between 200 and 300 members moved at the beginning of February from a three-room apartment in the 16th arrondissement to a much larger storefront nearby. Their rabbi, Rivon Krygier, is a graduate of the Masorti seminary in Jerusalem.

Glazer's role, on his monthly weekend visits, includes teaching youth group counsellors, leading adult study groups on Shabbat, and giving sermons. He also leads havdalah services and a class across town in the eastern part of Paris with a small satellite group.

Masorti represents a modern but halachically and intellectually rigorous approach to Judaism, explained Glazer.

The 10-year-old congregation in Paris is egalitarian but more traditional in terms of outlook and attire than its counterpart in Nice, according to Glazer. It is also warm and welcoming, he said.

One tradition that impressed him is Rabbi Krygier's weekly aliyah, for which the entire congregation stands.

The effect on the students has been transformative, according to a JTS news release. Cohen stressed that, as her first pulpit experience, the program has served as an invaluable reminder of why she chose to enter the rabbinate, "something you can lose sight of during school."

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Greater Toronto Area

Jews must anticipate Messiah's coming: rabbi

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Contrary to what many think, prophecy was not restricted to those in ancient times, according to Rabbi Immanuel Schochet, professor of philosophy at Humber College.

Rabbi Schochet was giving the first in a lecture series on the Messianic era sponsored by the Jewish Russian Community Centre. The lecture was held at B'nai Torah Congregation.

The fact that prophesies come through the holy spirit, as opposed to dreams, voices or sounds, as was the case in ancient times, doesn't make them less valid, the rabbi said.

The most talked about prophecy today is probably about the coming of the Messiah, which has been foretold throughout Jewish history. "If we don't look forward to his coming, we are denying the prophets, as well as Moshe Rabbeinu and the Chumash," Rabbi Schochet said.

"Jews look forward and anticipate [his coming] every day, the whole day, even if he tarries. That is a fundamental of Judaism."

The fact that the Messiah has not come yet, he said, should not be the cause of losing faith in the prophesy, but rather should increase it. "It is not one more day of his non-coming, but one day closer to the day when he will come."

The present generation is more worthy of seeing the redemption than past ones have been, he said, because it is building on the mitzvot performed by Jews in past times.

The whole world doesn't have to change in order for the Messiah to come, the rabbi said. "Even a tiny action may be what is needed."

Then, he said, "every one of us will be a prophet, who will use that power for divine inspiration, and to understand the deeper profundities of the world."

The Messiah himself will be a teacher of Torah, Rabbi Schochet said. "All the Torah we have ever learned will be like nothing compared to the mystical dimension he will teach, not only us, but Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moshe, as well."

In spite of Rabbi Schochet's intention to give a general theological approach to the subject of prophecy and the Messiah, members of the audience were quick to demand specifics.

How do we know the redemption won't come for another 1,000 years, one person asked. "We don't have to know the exact date of his arrival; we just have to have faith," the rabbi replied.

Can he be someone already dead, asked another. Yes, was the answer, with the explanation that he would have the characteristics of the dead person, rather than being the exact same person.

Nevertheless, the rabbi said, obsessive speculation on the identity of the Messiah and on when he will come is "an exercise in futility that serves no practical purpose."

When asked straight out if he believed that the late Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, is the Messiah, Rabbi Schochet answered promptly: "When he was alive, I did. Now I am not so sure."

(Rabbi Schochet was a signatory to a notice by mainstream Lubavitch rabbis decrying the movement to proclaim Rabbi Schneerson as the Messiah.)

We can't proclaim someone as the actual Messiah until certain actions have taken place, such as the rebuilding of the Temple, and the ingathering of the exiles, he said.

There will be the resurrection of several prominent people, including those who can teach how to rebuild the Temple and how to perform the sacrifices. Also resurrected will be those holy people who "really suffered in golus (the Diaspora), and truly mourned for Jerusalem," he added.

The fact that there will be no more war or strife won't be "so that you can party," Rabbi Schochet said. "It will be so that there will be no distractions to stop you from understanding HaShem."

In reply to another question, he said that there will be no difference if you are in Canada or in Israel when the Messiah comes, "so long as you are where you are supposed to be, and are doing what you are supposed to be doing."

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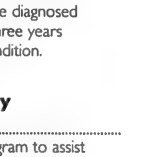
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Canadian complicity

Last week, during an "emergency special session" of the United Nations General Assembly (GA), Canada voted to support a resolution calling for the signatories to the Fourth Geneva Convention to meet in Switzerland to examine Israel's settlements policy and its treatment of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. The special session was convened at the behest of Yasser Arafat and the PNC. The final vote was 115 in favor; two opposed (Israel and the United States); five abstentions; and 36 absent. *(See related stories on page 1 and 4.)*

The convention was enshrined in 1949 as a result of the racist and genocidal policies of the Nazis. It was an addition to the original Geneva Conventions of 1864, which were the first international effort to codify rules for the humane treatment of civilians and military personnel in times of war.

Set aside the question of whether the Geneva Convention protocols even apply to the situation in the West Bank and Gaza. Set aside, too, the fact that more than 95 percent of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza live under Palestinian and not Israeli rule. The PNC-sponsored resolution was a transparent attempt to demonize Israel, to try, once again, to cast it as a lawless pariah within the community of law-abiding states. It was a transparent attempt by the Palestinians to circumvent the Oslo process in resolving its disputes with Israel. It was also, therefore, a flagrant, egregious affront to the letter and the spirit of Oslo.

Ambassador Michel Duval attempted to soften the sting into Israel's jugular of Canada's outrageous vote by expressing "regret" at the GA's resort to the emergency session vehicle and to the inclusion of language that was "complicated" and that "will not benefit the peace process." But his regret was nothing more than false remorse, serving only to prove Canada's position to be foolish, inconsistent, hypocritical and illogical, all at the same time.

That Canada was complicit in the attempt to demonize Israel and in the wholesale disregard for and violation of the Oslo accords, is breathtaking. To have supported a patently partisan, political ploy aimed so obviously and cynically at harming Israel and that totally flouts basic Canadian norms of fairness, truth and balance, is a disgrace to the values that we hold so precious.

We condemn the government for its shameful complicity.

For the sake of heaven

More than 250,000 demonstrators, almost all of them Haredim, gathered on the streets of Jerusalem last Sunday to protest against the Supreme Court. They were inveighing against what they regard as the unwarranted incursion of secular authority, as embodied by the Court, into their religious world. But there is no hermetic seal to their religious world. The issues of routine life in the religious world naturally spill over and touch every aspect of routine life in the non-religious world too.

As Israel's society is becoming more complex, so too are the issues coming before the Supreme Court. The overlap between the two worlds, religious and non-religious, was inevitable. But was the unfolding conflict between the two worlds also inevitable? We believe not.

Fifty years after its founding, the character of the young country is evolving, trying to find its own unique shape, and trying to determine the extent of accommodation, if any, between the need by the haredi minority to live by theocratic doctrines with the need of the non-religious majority to live by democratic ones.

We hope and pray, for the sake of the country and for the sake of heaven, that the changes in Israeli society unfold under a canopy of wise leadership that abjures extremist, hatred-laden language and embraces instead the language and the ways of peace.

WISDOM OF THE AGES

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Need national Holocaust museum in Ottawa

If Jean Chrétien's visit to Auschwitz expedites the building of Canada's Holocaust Museum, then the trip will have been exceptionally worthwhile. As Holocaust survivors die off, it is important that there be a tangible memorial to the victims of the atrocities perpetrated by the Nazis so that it will serve as an important historical reminder, with the hope that, perhaps, such an event must never be permitted to happen again.

It is regrettable that while Mr. Chrétien was a member of Pierre Trudeau's government, this trip was not made. It might have moved Mr. Trudeau and his cabinet to pass enabling legislation to prosecute Nazi war criminals who found their way into Canada after World War II. That would have given the process at least a ten year jump start over the laws enacted by the Conservatives under Brian Mulroney and many, many more Nazis would have been brought to justice.

Bert Raphael
President
Jewish Civil Rights Educational Foundation of Canada

Dearth of campus services for Jewish students

I was very intrigued to read (*CJN*, Jan. 21) that Rabbi Jeremiah Unterman, director, Board of Jewish Education of UJA Federation said: "Toronto is giving more than double to support Jewish education [compared with] most other Jewish communities in North America."

This support may be true for Jewish education in the elementary and high school grades (and I have a daughter in each stage) but it falls miserably short when we start to look at the post-secondary stage of education, and here I mean the commitment to Jewish life on the Toronto campuses.

This is the reason why we are delighted that UJA Federation has, for the first time in 50 years, committed to help us raise $2 million dollars to build Centre for Jewish Campus Life at the University of Toronto and renovate the York University campus site. This commitment will allow us to engage students at this most critical stage of their development and continue their Jewish education which should not stop at high school.

We would also like the community in its future planning to consider the plight of those 13,000 children (as noted by Rabbi Unterman) who are not getting any Jewish education at all. It may very well be, that the first time on campus that they are asked to participate in a Jewish event will be the first time that they are exposed to Judaism other than life cycle events. We must find a way to reach those children in their last years of high school so that we can welcome them with open arms when they do get to University.

Jack Zarek
President, Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto

Reform and Conservative have no clout in Israel

I am surprised that in its letter, ARZA CANADA could make such poor arguments regarding the recent Religious Council Bills brought forward in the Israeli Knesset. (*CJN*, Jan. 28)

To suggest that the bill violates the integrity of the municipalities and regions is false. The reality is that besides a handful of Israelis and some American Jews, Reform and Conservative do not have a presence in Israel besides a political lobby and some big buildings paid for by American Jews. From a Democratic representational perspective of the population, Reform and Conservative have no business having any representation on the religious councils. Who will they be representing? American Jews living in America? It's time Reform and Conservative stop trying to impose themselves in the name of democracy. Isn't it ironic that their only ally in Israel is the secular Supreme Court.

Their threat of Israel losing support from an overwhelming majority of Jews in the Diaspora holds very little weight. As ARZA stated themselves, they represent 6,000 out of 200,000 Jews in Canada. Diaspora Jews need Israel a lot more than Israel needs them. Maybe they should be directing their energies here in North America, so as to stop the 50 percent intermarriage rate so they can at least try to hold on to whatever members they do have. Their so-called Judaic practices that they are fighting for in Israel don't seem to be finding much adherence and loyalty here in America.

Richie Cohen
Toronto

Two Canadians eligible for Austrian compensation

In connection with their pending applications to the Austrian National Fund for the victims of national socialism, the following names have been given to the Austrian Embassy: Norbert Abrams, 3 Brewside Ave., Toronto, Ont. M5P 2T9 and Uriel George Luft, born Aug. 24, 1933, 520 Milton St., #3, Montreal, Que. H2X 1W4.

Unfortunately the contact between the National Fund and the two persons was terminated, probably because they have moved. Since they are regarded as probable recipients of payments by the fund, Mrs. Abrams and Mr. Luft or anybody who is in the position to establish a contact with them is invited to contact the Austrian Embassy at 445 Wilbrod St., Ottawa, Ont. K1N 6M7, tel. 613-789-1444.

Wolfgang Spadinger
Minister Counsellor
Ottawa

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Perspectives

An Ashkenaz in Sepharad

By MANUEL PRUTSCHI

My wife, infant son and I were in Spain in the mid-70s, literally in the dying days of the Franco regime. I was researching 18th-century Spanish-Caribbean society at the Inquisition Archives in Madrid. This made it possible for us to connect with the Jewish community, which hailed mainly from Morocco.

Praying at Madrid's one synagogue was my first exposure to the Moroccan-Sephardi rite. The entire service is said out loud. Congregants recite individual portions, so that at all times, prayer comes to one from different sections of the sanctuary. The congregational portion is interspersed with chants by the chazzan, and there is a lot of singing in unison. Everyone present participates and experiences the totality of the service. Everyone, as a mystic would put it, is "in the same rhythm" achieving a collective "we."

Sephardim perform birkat kohanim everyday. While the kohanim chant from the mizrach (east), fathers place their hands, wrapped in their prayer shawls, upon the heads of their sons, and bless them in turn. The relationship between the younger generation and their elders is manifested visibly in the synagogue.

After a man has been called up to the Torah, his sons, nephews, and other relatives, approach the bimah (tebah) and show their respect and love by kissing the one who has been honored with the aliyah.

It is at the Madrid synagogue as well, where I first came to know the Sephardi custom that when two individuals shake hands, each then takes his fingers to his lips in the gesture of a kiss. What a wonderful way of giving tangible expression to the preciousness of the exchange! Remember as well, that Sephardim, men and women, kiss not on one, but on both cheeks.

The history of Spain's Jewish community stretches back 2,000 years.

The very word Sepharad in Hebrew means Spain. Jews were settled in the western-most Mediterranean while the Second Temple still stood in Jerusalem.

Jewish Berber tribesmen already had been living in North Africa at the time of the original Muslim conquest of Spain, in the eighth century. The conquest would continue for centuries.

Life for Jews on the Iberian peninsula was a roller-coaster ride, oscillating between toleration and persecution, but particularly in the periods of harmony, there were golden ages for the Spanish Jewish community both under Muslim and Christian rule. Sephardim felt equally at home communicating in the holy tongues of Hebrew and Aramaic and the vernaculars of Greek, Spanish and Arabic. Many are the examples of Sephardim uniting in one person the multi-faceted qualities of pious rabbi and philosopher, fervent believer and famous financier, minister to the faithful and merchant of goods, religious scholar and scientist, mystical psalmist and worldly poet, fisher of souls and physician to the body, servant of God and civil servant of the state. Sephardim thus were best positioned to be the facilitators of a unique intercultural exchange among Christians, Muslims and Jews as well as to make a monumental contribution to Judaism.

Jews and those conversos (converts to Christianity) who maintained a secret loyalty to Judaism with the advent of the Inquisition and the implementation of the expulsion, would be dispersed to all points of the compass. They built significant communities throughout the world, particularly in Italy, the Netherlands, the possessions of the Ottoman Empire (covering the Middle East and central and eastern Mediterranean Europe) and even the Americas.

It was in Turkey where the lingua franca of Sephardim – Ladino – was to emerge and flourish. It is a form of Medieval Castilian Spanish, written in Hebrew characters. Ladino is to Sephardim what Yiddish is to Ashkenazim.

The synagogue in Toledo, Spain.

Rabbi Yaakov Culi authored in Ladino the multi-volume *MeAm Lo'ez*, the great encyclopedic 18th- century popular biblical commentary, first published in Constantinople. It has since been translated into Hebrew, English and other languages.

Our stay in Spain was memorable. It tangibly connected us with a magnificent Jewish past. It also introduced us to a contemporary Moroccan Spanish Jewish community whose members were the inheritors of that rich Sephardi heritage from the Iberian Peninsula and North Africa. We were able to study Sephardi history and culture, not only from paper documents, but also from people – living documents, as it were. We visited the Jewish quarters. We walked through synagogues whose buildings still stand, and we were moved by what they represented and by the uniqueness of their architecture.

The synagogue in Cordoba, Spain.

Who would have thought that over 20 years later, destiny would find me working in Toronto's magnificent new Sephardic Kehila Centre (SKC)? A part of that very community that we encountered two decades before in Spain, built the centre.

The building's architecture reflects the very sites we had visited. The sanctuary is built in the Moorish style. The lobby, with its arches and the Aron Kodesh (Hechal), with added North African motifs, transports us back to the synagogues of Cordoba and Toledo in Spanish Castile.

There are holy men in Moroccan Jewry who are akin to chassidic rabbis. They are known as *mekubalim*, that is cabalists. They are miracle workers who cure the sick and make the childless woman fertile. I had the profound privilege in 1997 to spend a Shabbat with one of them – Rabbi Refael Abuhatzira – at his home in Israel's coastal city of Ashdod. The rabbi inaugurated the synagogue at the SKC's opening. The congregation was named Abir Yaakob after the rabbi's ancestor, the sainted "mighty" Rabbi Yaakob Abuhatzira, the grandfather of the Baba Sali. His portrait graces my office. Rabbi Refael speaks Hebrew, French and, you will never guess, Yiddish.

Until relatively recently, there have been no authentic Sephardi yeshivot except for the outstanding yeshiva of Porat Yosef in Jerusalem. Many Sephardi rabbis, therefore, trained in eastern European-type academies. Not surprisingly, as a result, they speak Yiddish. On the other hand, I have yet to meet an Ashkenazi rabbi who speaks Ladino.

My stay with the rabbi in Ashdod was one of the most moving, humbling and memorable experiences of my life. It began with me being among those honored to complete the writing of a new Sefer Torah, all in silver, which the rabbi donated to Abir Yaakob. My friend and I specifically were invited to stay with the rabbi at his home. I have this quirk that I always prefer to stay in hotels. So a bit before Shabbat, we left for a hotel on the city's coast. Our intention was to walk back and forth between the hotel and the rabbi's house throughout Shabbat. As my friend was registering us at the hotel, which looked as if it had seen better days, I stayed outside looking after the car.

Unexpectedly, a fellow walked out of the hotel and in perfect English, asked me where we were from. – "Canada" I replied – "Me too" he said. He then proceeded to warn me that under no circumstances should we stay at the hotel – it was a fleabag. I quickly got my friend out, and we raced back to the rabbi's home, making it just before Shabbat.

We were greeted by one of the other guests who very nonchalantly told us – "Oh, you're here. The rabbi told us you'd be back."

We were left to wonder who was the mysterious Canadian, of all coincidences, who saved us from what would have been a dreadful Shabbat. My friend and I certainly had no doubt. He was a messenger that Hashem had sent on behalf of the rabbi.

Shabbat dinner was a feast of many courses, with the rabbi passing each of us the food from his own hand. It started with us consuming separate varieties of vegetables, so that one could make the pertinent brachah for each. The opening of the meal therefore, was replete with blessing. I also imbibed a substantial amount of spirits, and miraculously, woke up the next morning without even the slightest trace of a hangover. Among the Moroccan community, there is a real sense of food being sacred, and eating and drinking are sacred acts. Moroccan Jews eat with simchah, with true joy, and HaKaddosh Baruch Hu is definitely present as a guest at the table.

I thought Ashkenazim had a penchant for food, but we do not even come close to Sephardim. They truly integrate earth and spirit, taking an absolute delight in food, its quality, its tastiness and the sheer pleasure of eating it in the company of one's fellow Jews. It is one of the treasures of the culture.

There is an old Ladino saying, *Cada uno sabe su salmo, ma el chazan sabe dos*, Each one knows just his own psalm, but the chazzan knows both. Its lesson for us, is that there be mutual understanding between Ashkenazim and Sephardim and appreciation of their respective heritages. For the good of the Jewish people, we must not know only our single psalm, but be like the chazzan, know and respect both.

Manuel Prutschi is the national director of community relations for the Canadian Jewish Congress and the immediate past executive vice- president of the Sephardic Kehila Centre.

Opinions

February blues banned in Israel

You can't say I don't think of the well-being of my readers. That's why I've decided to spare you yet another take on Israel's political situation ahead of the elections in May, as seen now almost every day in the media.

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

I pledge that the following 700 words, though written by a journalist in Jerusalem, will be free of political content and electoral punditry. Such coverage can wait for upcoming columns, as the election is still three months off. After all, this is a tough enough time of year for all of you in Canada, given the insidious forces now preying on you, forces known to few Israelis.

For all the westernization of Israeli life, differences between Canada and the Jewish homeland still far outnumber similarities. February is one of them. This is the month when Israelis savor the early signs of spring, while Canadians, already reeling from months of bone-chilling winds and treacherous icy roads, ask themselves if winter will ever end.

February suffers from an image problem in Canada, like that of a recurring disease for which there is no permanent cure. In the Great White North, February is the bête noire of the calendar, the doomsday month of Canadian reality. This much-dreaded month is considerably friendlier in Israel. If Israelis have to wrestle with afflictions galore, the February blues are mercifully not one of them.

It may no longer be true, but in my previous life in Toronto, newspapers would dredge up statistics year after year showing that this is when the mental health of Canadians takes a dive as more of them commit suicide in February than in any other month. The collective venting of February angst seemed itself a ritualistic part of the seasonal routine.

The worst of winter may now be over for another year, but most Canadians, even those in big cities, are still hunkering down, under siege from the scourge of nature. Hibernation or an extended stay in Florida are out of the question for most people. Israel never looked so good.

In an apparent betrayal of my Canadian heritage, or a tell-tale sign of impending middle age, I now rejoice in the mostly frost-free, snowless winters in Israel. It is now 20 years since I last lived through a Canadian winter. And apart from hockey, I can't say I miss it. I'm also not allowed to forget it, as winter is what I'm most asked about after telling people where I grew up.

It's one of the few quintessential defining aspects of being Canadian wherever you live. As the venerated Quebec singer Gilles Vignault put it, "Mon pays, c'est l'hiver." Indeed, for Israelis, as with most foreigners, nothing seems to identify Canada as much as its winters. And nothing seems to define Israel less than its winters.

Winter in the Middle East is more like early autumn in Canada but without the flaming-colored leaves. Admittedly, in Israel there is little of the romance associated with winter in so many parts of the world. But at the same time, we're spared the natural calamities – blizzards, ice storms, freezing temperatures, tornadoes, hurricanes and the like – that occur in other countries during the winter.

Reports of such climatic excesses often appear on local newscasts, fascinating Israelis, who are safe in the knowledge such things don't happen here.

Israeli children gush with envy at images of metre-high snowdrifts in far-off places like Canada. My kids relish tales I recount to them of childhood winters spent in Toronto. The stories only feed their fantasies for a taste of Canadian winter in Israel. For them, nothing could score higher on the fun-o-meter than a snowfall, which happens at best only once or twice a year in Jerusalem and virtually never in Tel Aviv.

The mere forecast of possible flurries in Jerusalem sends most kids into a euphoric tizzy of anticipation and throws the entire city into a frenzy. At first sighting of the white stuff falling from the sky, even if by Canadian standards it's only a nebishy little snowfall, life in the capital grinds to a halt – and Jerusalem temporarily lives up to its name as a city of peace.

That's the rare exception. So far this winter, snow has been as absent from Jerusalem as polite political debate. On most days, meteorologists correctly predict relatively mild temperatures, clear to partly cloudy skies and occasional rain showers. Not exactly the conditions from which a snowstorm takes shape. Nor the February blues.

Now, about those political ill-winds blowing on the election campaign…

A new era of uncertainty

The death of King Hussein has left a gaping hole in the fabric of the Middle East. Hussein ruled Jordan for over 40 years, bringing a modicum of stability to its citizens and to its neighbors, including Israel.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

Hussein's record was not perfect – his mistakes included joining Egypt and Syria in the 1967 war, allowing the Palestinians to use Jordan as a base for terror, and bowing to pressure to support Iraq in 1990 – but overall, he had a very positive influence.

Long before the formal peace treaty was signed with Israel in 1994, Hussein took many steps towards cooperation between Jerusalem and Amman.

In secret meetings, Jordanian and Israeli leaders developed practical cooperation in a number of sensitive areas, including measures to stop Palestinian terrorism, and the peaceful division of scarce water resources.

In contrast to the rejectionism of most Arab leaders at the time, Hussein recognized that such policies mainly hurt the Arabs themselves. In 1973, Hussein came to Israel to warn Golda Meir of the impending Egyptian and Syrian attacks. More recently, Hussein helped to lower tensions between Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

However, the intense intrigues that accompanied Hussein's last weeks highlighted the continued potential for instability in Jordan. Hussein's brother, Hassan, had been crown prince for decades, and in the past few years, developed a close working relationship with many leaders, including Israelis. Suddenly, Hassan was replaced by Hussein's oldest son, Abdullah, and everything changed.

King Hussein is deeply mourned in Israel, and it will take his successor many years to develop a similar level of respect. Abdullah's experience as a senior army officer in charge of special forces has prepared him to deal with the military threats to Jordan, but he will also be tested politically. Unlike the children of rulers in many other Arab countries, Abdullah was never a playboy, and has not used his position to enrich himself. Rather, the new king has played a serious, if low-profile role in Jordan, but many questions remain. The major uncertainty is whether Abdullah can continue his father's careful balancing act.

The uncertainties of political transition affecting the basic interests of millions of people throughout the region, go beyond the particular case of Jordan. None of Israel's neighbors have developed stable processes to transfer power.

In Syria, President Hafez al-Assad, in his 70s, began grooming his second son, Bashar, to take over, after Assad's first son died in a car accident. At the same time, Assad's brother Rifat, who tried to take power many years ago, may seek to stop Bashar. In addition, a number of top Syrian officials and military officers may also attempt to take power following Assad's death, perhaps returning Damascus to the pattern of coups and counter-coups that existed in the 1950s and '60s. The only certainty about Syrian succession is uncertainty.

In Egypt, the assassination of President Anwar al-Sadat in 1981 was followed by a smooth transition of power to then-vice-president Hosni Mubarak. In that case, the system worked, and Mubarak continued Sadat's policies (including the "Cold Peace" with Israel.) However, Mubarak, now in his 70s, has never appointed a vice-president, and the future leadership of Egypt is uncertain. Although it is hard to imagine any Egyptian leader renouncing the peace treaty with Israel, there are many loud voices in Egypt that have forgotten the bitter costs of the repeated wars.

From an Israeli perspective, the uncertainty regarding succession among the Palestinians is also unnerving. Yasser Arafat has been a one-man show for many years, controlling Palestinian policies and public life. Arafat is aging and ill, and while he seems committed to taking the Palestinians to independence, the nature of such a Palestinian state, particularly after Arafat, is unpredictable. There are many contenders for power from both the "security" forces (the guns) and the political elite (the suits). The contest for power may become violent, and a Palestinian state may disintegrate into anarchy and civil war.

Going beyond to Iraq, Saddam Hussein's totalitarian state does not allow for any potential successors, except for his son Uday. Uday has a reputation as a playboy who is even more brutal than his father. He was seriously wounded in an assassination attempt a few years ago, and has so many enemies that he will have difficulty following his father in ruling Iraq.

Other countries, such as Morocco and Saudi Arabia, are also ruled by aging monarchs. Both states are closely aligned with Europe and the west, and instability in either would have major and negative impacts on the region.

This uncertainty in all directions is a major source of concern for Israeli decision makers from all parts of the political spectrum. The Middle East is unstable enough, even when the leaders are known and the regimes relatively stable. Israel has good reason to move slowly and make sure that agreements reached today are maintained in five years and in 50, regardless of who is in power in the neighboring countries.

Being dirty and healthy at the same time

An article by Minna Morse in the *Ume Reader* got me thinking about my grandmother who passed away more than 60 years ago. One of her sayings ran like this: "Dirt cleans the stomach." She used to say that when something we were about to eat fell to the floor. She would pick it up without considering that having fallen to the ground rendered the food inedible unless it was first cleaned.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Now, so many decades later, it seems there was even more to her saying. Morse refers to an article in the British journal *New Scientist* of July 18, 1998, which claims that "today's squeaky clean world" might help to make us ill rather than healthy.

According to Morse, an increasing number of scientists believe that our growing separation from dirt and germs may be behind the rapid rise in allergic diseases such as asthma, and perhaps even auto-immune diseases, such as diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis. She quotes the *New Scientist* as saying: "Wherever you look, allergic diseases seem to follow hard on the heels of wealth and modernization. Asthma, hay fever and eczema are all on the rise, and doctors report seeing more children at a younger age developing insulin-dependent diabetes."

According to this new theory, called the "hygiene hypothesis," these allergic illnesses are often the result of our society's aversion to dirt. During most of early history, the immune system was bombarded with dirt and germs from the moment each newborn infant hits the cold light of day. Just as the brain cells of a baby need stimulation to make the right connections, the argument goes, the immune system needs proper stimulation to develop properly. According to the hypothesis, exposure to the microbes that live in dirt and grime helps the immune system defend against certain diseases, particularly asthma.

I trust the reader of this column will understand that I am not about to dispense hygienic and medical information. There is a deeper reason why I bring this to your attention. A couple of hundred years ago, a movement arose on the Jewish religious scene of eastern Europe that claimed: "We can never reach the good unless we have also experienced the opposite." This heretic movement was headed by Jacob Frank, a shady character, who led its followers to experience all sorts of forbidden activities, so that they might learn to elevate themselves to greater heights. Forbidden sexual acts were the extreme expression of this "religious" abberation. It claimed that their physical diversion would stir up as the Divine sparks in the universe and stimulate the human psyche to strive for ever high goals.

On another and more acceptable level, we might say that we cannot relate to someone's pain unless we ourselves have gone through some degree of similar suffering. Opposites may often have a strange relationship, and the hygiene hypothesis may indeed make some sense in various ways. Sending our children to make mud piles might indeed to some degree be preventive medicine, but I wouldn't suggest taking either the physical practice or the metaphor too far.

The Kirshner File

King Hussein of Jordan – an assessment

In a fitting tribute to King Hussein's role as a moderating force, peacemaker and Israel's closest friend in the Arab world, a large, high-powered Israeli delegation attended his funeral in Amman last week.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Felled at the age of 63 following a six-month struggle with cancer, King Hussein was the third Arab leader after Anwar Sadat and Yasser Arafat to reach peace with Israel.

With his untimely death, Israel has lost an ally of immeasurable value. But there is no discernible reason to believe that King Hussein's hand-picked successor, his oldest son Abdullah, will not be faithful to his father's policy of maintaining a mutually beneficial friendship with Israel.

The ties that bind Israel and Jordan are geographic, political and historic: a common border, the longest of any of Israel's neighbors; a pro-Western orientation, with a strong tilt toward the United States; a desire to keep Arab/Palestinian radicalism at bay; an informal association between the Zionist movement and the Hashemite royal house, ushered in by Chaim Weizmann's 1918 meeting with Feisal, the son of the Sharif Hussein of Mecca, King Hussein's great-grandfather, a direct descendant of the prophet Mohammed and the guiding light of the 1916 Arab Revolt.

A country with few natural resources, Jordan – originally known as TransJordan – emerged from the chaos of World War I. Formerly an Ottoman backwater, TransJordan fell under British suzerainty, and Abdullah, one of the Sharif of Hussein's sons and King Hussein's grandfather, was declared its emir.

In 1921, the British colonial secretary, Winston Churchill, arbitrarily detached TransJordan from the Palestine mandate. In 1946, two years before the British government gave up its mandate in Palestine, TransJordan won its independence from Britain.

In November 1947 and again in May 1948, on the eve of the first Arab-Israeli war, Abdullah held secret talks with Golda Meyerson (Meir), a Jewish Agency representative, in a last-ditch attempt to broker an understanding about the future of Palestine. Abdullah, who harbored visions of establishing a pan-Arab state, offered the Jews semi-autonomous status under Arab sovereignty. The Jewish Agency rejected the offer.

When the War of Independence ended, Abdullah's British-trained army, the Arab Legion, had captured the West Bank. In 1950, Abdullah annexed the new areas, which the United Nations had reserved for a Palestinian state. Only Britain and Pakistan recognized the land grab.

A year later, a Palestinian assassinated Abdullah in eastern Jerusalem. Abdullah had antagonized the Palestinians because of the annexation and because of his plans to sign a non-aggression treaty with Israel.

Hussein ibn Talal, the son of Talal, who had been declared mentally unfit, was crowned king in 1953. Young and inexperienced in statecraft, King Hussein was an unlikely ruler. Yet he survived coups, a dozen attempts on his life and Israeli retaliatory raids into the West Bank. King Hussein endured one of his most serious crises in 1958. The Hashemite monarchy in Iraq had been overthrown, prompting fears that Jordan itself would be destabilized. King Hussein appealed for help, and Britain dispatched paratroopers to Jordan via Israel.

Mindful of Israel's indirect assistance, King Hussein did his best to keep the porous Israeli frontier quiet. Two-thirds of Jordan's population was composed of Palestinians, and they burned with vengeance to regain their homes and villages in Israel.

Seeking to preserve calm, King Hussein opened a backchannel to Israel. In 1963, he conducted the first of numerous clandestine meetings with top Israeli officials and prime ministers.

However, in the wake of the PLO's formation, he found it increasingly difficult to prevent Palestinian incursions into Israel. These raids forced Israel to strike back, causing unrest in Jordan. King Hussein's knack of balancing his intrinsic commitments to the Arab world with his efforts to work with Israel was severely tested.

Under the impact of Arab pressure, King Hussein signed a defence pact with Egypt, an old enemy, in May 1967. And then, with the Six Day War raging, his forces shelled Israeli-held western Jerusalem. In short order, Israel captured the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. It was a terrible blunder, a far worse one than his studied neutrality during the 1991 Gulf War, which alienated the United States, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

In a perfect illustration of King Hussein's sometimes schizophrenic policies, he affixed his signature to the August 1967 Khartoum declaration, which defiantly opposed a peaceful settlement, negotiations with and recognition of Israel. Yet, a few months later, he supported United Nations Resolution 242, which called for a "just and lasting peace" in the Middle East and a withdrawal of Israeli forces from the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights. Throughout much of his reign, he sought an " honorable" peace with Israel, but insisted on a full Israeli evacuation of the territories.

During the post-1967 period, King Hussein failed to rein in Palestinian guerrillas attacking Israeli bases and settlements in the West Bank and in Israel proper. Israel bombed and shelled PLO camps in Jordan. In one notable Israeli raid against a PLO base in Karameh, just across the Jordan River, the Arab Legion joined the fighting.

Be that as it may, King Hussein acceded to Moshe Dayan's Open Bridges policy of keeping open lines of communication and commerce between the West Bank and Jordan.

In 1970, King Hussein – a benevolent despot – cracked down on the PLO, which had created a state-within-a-state in Jordan. During the ensuing civil war, Israel massed troops, forcing the retreat of a Syrian expeditionary force which had invaded northern Jordan.

Jordan tried to solve the festering Palestinian problem in 1972 with a proposal to reunite the West Bank and Jordan, but Israel rejected the idea out of hand.

Prior to the 1973 Yom Kippur War, King Hussein warned Israel to prepare itself for a massive offensive by Syria and Egypt, but the Israeli government did not heed the tip with the utmost seriousness.

King Hussein

During the war, King Hussein, in a half-hearted gesture of Arab solidarity, sent an armored brigade to the Golan, but refrained from opening a front on the West Bank. Jordan lost 28 troops and 18 tanks in the battles.

Jordan paid lip service to the Palestinian cause, but was not keen about the Arab League's 1974 decision to recognize the PLO as the "sole, legitimate" representative of the Palestinians. In 1988, during the intifadah, King Hussein severed administrative ties with the West Bank, paving the way for the 1993 Oslo agreements.

He was critical of Egypt's 1979 peace accord with Israel because it did not concretely address Palestinian concerns. But once Israel and the PLO recognized each other, King Hussein threw caution to the wind, ignored Syrian threats and established official relations with Israel. However, Jordanians who have misgivings about the peace treaty derisively describe it as "the king's peace."

King Hussein's relationship with Yitzhak Rabin, whom he eulogized as a "brother" at his 1995 funeral, was generally excellent. But he did not get on easily with Benjamin Netanyahu, twice accusing him of undermining the Oslo agreements and once, in the bungled Khaled Meshal affair, of meddling in Jordanian internal affairs.

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Artificial insemination

By RABBI CHAIM STEINMETZ

Comparative Law

Many single women in their late 30s and early 40s are concerned about whether they will be able to find the right person to marry while they can still have children of their own.

It is under these conditions that a new question is coming to the forefront: Is it ethical for a single woman to become pregnant via artificial insemination?

This article is based in part on a thorough and passionate article by Dvora Ross in the recently published volume, *Jewish Legal Writings By Women.*

One objection relates to anonymous donor sperm. Rabbi Eliezer Waldenberg (Tzitz Eliezer 9:51:4) notes that it is forbidden for a woman to remarry for three months subsequent to being divorced or widowed because we may not know who the father is (Shulchan Aruch EH 13:1), and a clear genealogy is extremely important (Yebamot 42b).

In addition, there is a concern that the child of an anonymous donor may someday meet and marry a brother or sister, unaware that they are siblings. Based on these rules, Rabbi Waldenberg forbids the use of anonymous donor sperm.

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein (Iggrot Moshe EH 2:11) dismisses this comparison. He notes that the three-month-waiting period between marriages is because the child may mistakenly think the second husband is the father, while in reality it is the first husband.

However, in the case of a sperm donor, the child is aware that the father is anonymous. Rabbi Feinstein also says the possibility a child of an anonymous sperm donor will unwittingly marry a sibling is statistically remote.

According to all opinions, this problem can be solved by using the sperm of a non-Jewish donor, or by obtaining the identity of the donor before the child marries.

Outside of the issue of an anonymous donor, there are no halachic concerns. In fact, Rabbi Y.Y. Weinberg (Seridei Eish 3:5) says that it is permissible for a single woman to use donor sperm to become pregnant.

However, others object to this on ethical grounds. One objection is that the mother and child may be targets of slander, because even a pious, chaste single woman will be accused of promiscuity when she becomes pregnant.

One has a responsibility to avoid even the appearance of scandal. As it says in Proverbs 4:24: "Remove from yourself an untrue mouth, and distance yourself from crooked lips."

Because of this concern Shlomo Zalman Auerbach argues that it is forbidden for a single woman to have a child through artificial insemination (Nishmat Avraham IV page 181).

One could argue that this concern could be answered. The mother could publicize that she intends to have a child via artificial insemination. Once the artificial insemination of single women becomes more common, this would no longer be a concern.

Another objection is based on the needs of the child. Rabbi David Golinkin writes that some studies show that children of single-parent families are psychologically disadvantaged.

However, Ross points out that these studies take place in situations of family trauma such as divorce or death. These conclusions may not be true for women who are single mothers by choice. In addition, in all families there are many other factors (parental age, economic status, living grandparents) that can affect the psychological happiness of future children. Would that mean that only those who will have children in an

Continued on page 14

Jewish Web Week nears

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

You are cordially invited to spend some time with a few hundred thousand of your closest and dearest friends.

For the second year, Jewish Web Week is gearing up to encourage visitors from around the world to learn, meet, enjoy and party. Jewish Web Week 99 (JWW) begins on Sunday and continues until next Friday. Like last year, much effort is devoted to Jewish education, but there will also be a celebration of Jewish culture and music, a chance to shop and even an opportunity to join a virtual scavenger hunt. All events mentioned can be reached from the Jewish Web Week home page **[http://www.jww.org]**.

The World Music events are being produced in conjunction with Stephen Horenstein, the director of the Jerusalem Centre for Contemporary Music, and Fellow of the Mandel School in Jerusalem. Virtual Radio JWW will present broadcasts of pre-recorded music from around the world, while the Webcast Concert for Peace will present live benefit performances.

Performers will be able to host online chats or be interviewed in a JWW forum. Music ranges from jazz, rock and classical, to experimental, klezmer and liturgical.

The online fair is a showcase for the best programs and projects using technology for Jewish education. There will be online games and resources for Purim and Pesach. As well, educators can chat in live forums about Jewish education and technology.

Like last year, special events are being planned for singles. On February 24, single men and women will be invited to attend live simultaneous parties in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami and Toronto. Each party will be connected by satellite, and cybercast. Every Tuesday night in New York, Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis holds her *Hineni* lecture where 1,000 come to study Torah and schmooze.

During Jewish Web Week, singles from around the world will also be able to attend the class through a cybercast.

Many of the organizations behind JWW99 are synagogues and other non-profit organizations **[http://www.jww.org/project6/index-body.html]**. But there are also many small bookstores, craftspeople and software companies who would love to get you to check out a novel piece of merchandise that might not be available in your neighborhood Judaica shop.

And when you're done shopping, how about going on a hunt – an online scavenger hunt. Groups and individuals will hunt online to learn about leadership and get to know one another at the same time. Teams will be composed of youth from various cultural and religious organizations. If you would like to organize a team in your community, register with **[eric@jww.org]**.

So just who are all those thousands of people that will be taking part in this year's Jewish Web Week? It's hard to say, but I would like to leave you with an interesting statistic. Last year, the popular magazine *Yahoo Internet Life*, **[http://www.yil.com/]** devoted its cover story to an exploration of religion on the Internet. In *God On & Off-Line*, the magazine attempted to survey the world's major religions and gauge their activity on the Internet **[http://www.zdnet.com/yil/content/mag/9804/godonandoff.html]**. The magazine estimated that while Jews make up only 0.2 percent of the world's population, Jewish sites account for an impressive 8.5 percent of religious sites on the World Wide Web.

Those sites should be humming next week.

***

Mark Mietkiewicz is a television producer in Toronto with an interest in the Internet. He can be reached at mdm@inforamp.net.

Rabbinic Reflections

Discovering holiness

By RABBI RON AIGEN

In this week's Torah portion of Terumah, we learn about the Jewish notion of holiness.

In the first instance, we learn where it is to be found. God says to Moses, "Let them build me a Sanctuary that I may dwell among them." (Exodus 25:8)

As our sages are fond of pointing out, God, whose presence is everywhere, does not need a dwelling place. Indeed, God's holiness cannot be contained in any limited space.

We human beings, on the other hand, do require a context in which to create or discover holiness. As the verse says, the sanctuary is the place we are to build and inhabit so that God's presence may dwell among us. This is normally understood to mean that our activity in that place will merit the association of God's presence.

When we moderns consider the activity that took place in that sanctuary, namely animal sacrifice upon the altar, we might wonder how that slaughter-site merits the association with holiness, much less God's presence. A closer examination of the ancient horned altar, however, suggests many possibilities for a concept of holiness that is still relevant for us today.

The horns of the altar, originally used for the consecration of the altar itself, may have been symbolic of strength, like the horns of the bull. Whatever strength was symbolized in these horns, we know that the horns of the altar were seized by the refugee who was seeking asylum, thus connecting the altar with the concept of justice. The rabbis further expand the meaning of holiness by understanding the altar as a tool that transformed slaughter-site into soul-symbol.

Noting the biblical injunction that the altar had to be made of earth or unhewn stone, the rabbis teach that whereas iron is for punishing, the altar is for forgiving; where iron cuts life short, the altar prolongs the life of man. Granted that the animal rights people would not be happy with this view, we can nevertheless see the rabbis' attempt to link holiness with life and not with its opposite, death.

Another rabbinic legend tells us that Adam was created from dust of the altar. Judaism recognizes the human sense of imperfection, failure, and need for atonement, forgiveness and reconciliation. By telling us that we are created from the dust of the altar, the rabbis give us the image of human beings created with original forgiveness. Here we see the effort to link the altar with the enhancement of the inner life of the human being, with those psychological or spiritual issues of existential guilt and forgiveness.

Yet a third midrash connects the altar with a wide range of spiritual values by reading the Hebrew term for altar, *mizbeach*, as an acrostic for *mechilah*, forgiveness; *zechut*, merit; *brachah*, blessing; and *chayim*, life.

The altar is a source of *mechilah* in that it was used for seeking atonement or reconciliation with God. One acquired *zechut* by developing the virtues of gratitude and humility. These, too, were deep human needs which found expression through the rituals associated with the altar. Through the altar-ritual, human beings become more human and hence more disposed to bestowing *brachah* on others. And finally, the altar signifies *chayim*, a life of enduring values, values that create a meaningful life.

In all these ways, the rabbis sought to connect the altar as a source of holiness with the concept of promoting (human) life on both the physical and spiritual levels. In particular, the holiness the rabbis saw in the altar, as the site of greatest holiness within the place of holiness, was directed toward the inner life of man and woman. They sought to find holiness in the deepest human needs – for forgiveness and for gratitude – and in the creation of a life of values and meaning.

Rabbi Aigen is the spiritual leader of Congregation Dorshei Emet in Montreal.

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Grandparenting explored

***Grandparenthood*, by Dr. Ruth K. Westheimer and Dr. Steven Kaplan (Routledge, $30).**

Not only are we living longer, but we tend to be more active and engaged than our grandparents. It is a somewhat frightening fact that many of today's baby-boomers will end up being grandparents for half of their lives.

Books
Bernard Baskin

Tragically, many grandparents find themselves raising a family for the second time.

There are an estimated 700,000 children being raised by grandparents in the United States because of their parents' drug habits, criminal activities or a variety of physical and mental ailments.

Ruth Westheimer, best known as a radio and T.V. expert on sex related problems, received her doctorate on the nature of the family. In her new book — written with the help of Dr. Steven Kaplan, a professor at the Hebrew University – she offers information and advice and points out available resources for troubled grandparents in search of answers to a spate of questions.

The book's approach is pragmatic, down-to-earth and encouraging. Dr. Ruth shows grandparents how to take advantage of their unique position to help enrich their own lives as well as the lives of their grandchildren, and not feel overwhelmed in the process.

The book covers a host of topics, including how to manage visits, plan new and unusual activities and make proper decisions when it comes to gift giving.

Dr. Ruth also addresses the increasingly common situations of divorce, non-traditional and multicultural families, and what happens when the grandparent becomes the parent.

On the subject of intermarriage she writes: "Your child's decision to marry outside his faith may have caused dismay, embarrassment, and even a major crisis in family relations. However, by the time grandchildren come along, it is clearly time to move on.

"Many parents only come to terms with their child's choice of a partner when a grandchild is born. The sight of their grandchild seems to melt away all their misgivings or at least push them aside."

Now in her 71st year, Dr. Ruth, recently widowed and a grandmother of three, has few regrets.

She is certain that grandparenting is one of the last adventures that she is going to experience and she doesn't plan to miss a moment of it. Neither, she insists, should you.

* * *

***A Time to Tell*, by Reuben Cohen (Key Porter Books, $28.95).**

Reuben Cohen is a talented, ambitious, shrewd, Maritimer. During his active life he experienced periods of success, and garnered many coveted honors. But, he also had to withstand times of abject failure and despair.

The child of poor immigrant parents, he grew up in the tiny Jewish community of Moncton.

He built a thriving law practice, became a wealthy and prominent financier, and devoted himself to charity and good works. He served as chancellor of Dalhousie University, was elevated to the Order of Canada, and was welcomed into elite business and social circles.

Then quite suddenly, Central Guaranty Trust, the company he had built so arduously and acutely over the years, collapsed. His wife, the mainstay and love of his life, died, and most of his friends deserted him.

The author's acquaintances, politicians and business colleagues included the Bronfmans, Reichmanns, McCains, Blacks, Hatfields, and Cohen relates amusing stories and anecdotes about them.

Touching on a wide range of topics, this honest, human and reflective memoir is well worth reading.

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First Reform camp to open

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Canada's first Reform summer camp is gearing up to open for its initial season this July.

The name of the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism's (CCRJ's) new venture – Camp George – was announced at a recent luncheon held at the Prince Hotel.

Benefactor Sam Reisman paid tribute to his late father, for whom the camp is named, noting George Reisman's decency, determination and distaste for pretense.

"If my father were alive today, he would never permit me to name something after him," said Reisman. "May his memory be illuminated by the laughter, joy and leadership."

Joey Steiner, president of UJA Federation – which sold the Maple Lake camp site to the CCRJ – expressed pleasure that the site is staying in the Jewish community.

Previously, it was "perhaps not being used to its fullest extent," he noted. The site will remain available for adult retreats and conferences throughout the year.

Camp George will have state-of-the-art facilities for waterskiing, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, windsurfing, tennis, basketball and mountain biking, camp director Jack Feldman told *The CJN*. There will also be low ropes, high ropes and two climbing walls.

> *'Creative and innovative'*

Arts activities and a Jewish educational component developed by a team of educators and rabbis will also be part of the summer program. "It will be very creative and innovative," Feldman said.

There are 130 campers registered thus far.

In the past, about 200 Canadian children per year have attended Reform camps in the United States, said Rabbi Allan Smith, New York-based director of the youth division of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), the central North American organization for Reform Judaism of which CCRJ is an affiliate. There are 10 UAHC camps in the United States.

Rabbi Smith expressed his appreciation to UJA Federation. "Sometimes in a community it's difficult when one particular group comes to you and says, 'Please help us.' That you did this for us...that was a sense of klal, a sense of this whole community of Israel.

"And I want you to know that this camp is about a whole community. It's about all the Jewish community of Canada, and it's about what we can do together," he said.

Gavin Herman, chair of the CCRJ camp board; Rabbi Gunther Plaut, rabbi emeritus of Holy Blossom Temple; and CCRJ president Nancy Bercovitch, also spoke.

Artificial insemination, ethics, single motherhood explored

Continued from page 12

ideal family situation are allowed to do so?

One serious objection is concerned with public policy. If we accept single mothers by artificial insemination, we make single motherhood respectable.

This will weaken the social strictures against having children out of wedlock. This in turn will weaken the institution of marriage.

However, this problem can be dealt with by creating guidelines for single motherhood by donors, limiting artificial insemination to women in their mid-to-late 30s who are concerned that they will not marry in time to have children.

In these individual situations it will be recognized as a decision made in a case of need, not the acceptance of an alternate lifestyle that rejects marriage.

There are few halachic reasons to prohibit artificial insemination of single women. However, several halachic authorities advance ethical and public policy arguments to prohibit this.

These concerns can be answered, and this question ought to be assessed on a case by case basis by a competent halachic authority.

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz is the spiritual leader of Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem in Montreal.

MINYANIM IN THE GTA
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Synagogue	Address & Tel.	Fri. Night	Shabbat	Sun. A.M.	Daily A.M.	Daily P.M.
Adath Sholom (C)	864 Sheppard Ave. W. (416) 635-0131	----------	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	8:00 AM	----------
Aish HaTorah (O)	949 Clark Ave. W. (905) 764-1818	5:34 PM	8:45 AM	8:00 AM	6:30 AM	5:05 PM
Beth HaMinyan (C)	70 Ridge Hill Dr. (416) 785-3655	----------	9:30 AM	----------	----------	----------
Beth Sholom (C)	1445 Eglinton Ave. W. (416) 783-6103	5:30 PM	8:45 AM	8:30 AM	7:30 & 9:00 AM	5:30 PM
Chabad of Markham (O)	83 Green Lane (905) 886-0420	5:34 PM	9:30 AM	8:30 AM	6:45 AM	5:05 PM
Emunah Shleima (O)	4120 Bathurst St. (416) 638-6115	5:42 PM	8:45 AM	8:00 AM	7:00 AM	5:05 PM
Lodzer Centre (C)	12 Heaton St. (416) 636-6665	5:00 PM	9:00 AM	----------	9:30 AM	----------
Temple Har Zion (R)	7360 Bayview Ave. (905) 889-2252	8:30 PM	10:30 AM	9:00 AM	7:15 AM	----------
Tifereth Yisrael (O)	756 Sheppard Ave. W. (416) 487-4161	5:29 PM	8:30 AM	8:00 AM	Mon. Thurs. 6:30 AM Tues. Wed. Fri. 6:45 AM	5:05 PM

This is not a comprehensive listing of the synagogues in the Greater Toronto area. The information is provided by the Vaad Harabonim of Toronto and the Toronto Board of Rabbis. The Vaad and the Board will periodically revise the listings. For statutory holidays, please call the Synagogue for any changes in times.

USDS develops program to reduce bullying

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — A year and a half ago, a 12-year-old student complained that his peers were ostracizing him, which is considered a form of bullying.

The episode occurred while the school was in the midst of implementing an anti-bullying program, said Lucy Cohen, director of education of United Synagogue Day School (USDS).

The student and his parents approached the administration to voice their concerns, Cohen said. "The student wanted to leave the school. His parents did not want him to leave, but they were prepared to take him out because they didn't want him to suffer."

The student had filled out one of the surveys on bullying perceptions circulated by the school; students filling out the survey could share anonymously how they felt, she said.

"It allowed this student to disclose how he felt. He felt safe to disclose his feelings."

The administration and teachers had already begun participating in training sessions on bullying. They worked privately with the boy and organized group discussions to raise sensitivity among his classmates, Cohen said.

"The other students were not aware that their behavior had such an impact on the boy.

"The kids became very supportive. They learned to recognize and identify bullying behavior and the subtle behavior that they might not have perceived as bullying prior to this."

In this situation, the program worked, and the boy who initially experienced the difficulties is happy now, Cohen reported.

She said this was one of several instances of bullying that have been effectively handled by the school since the anti-bullying program was inaugurated.

When bullying came to the attention of the Parents Association (PA) of USDS about three years ago, parent Debbie Kornhauser offered to look into improving the situation at the school.

The association then agreed to sponsor Kornhauser's attendance at a conference on bullying at York University.

Kornhauser, a mother of three USDS students, told *The CJN* that experts tend to view bullying as a form of physical, psychological or verbal aggression, as well as an imbalance of power. The victims generally have difficulty defending themselves.

"A person is being bullied when he or she is exposed repeatedly over time to negative actions on the part of one or more persons," she explained.

Through the PA, the parents took their concerns to Cohen, who agreed that the problem needed to be addressed and asked that a committee be set up to deal with the issue, Kornhauser said.

The USDS anti-bullying committee, which is made up of parents, teachers, administrators and a social worker from Jewish Family & Child Service, was established in October 1996, and has been chaired by Kornhauser since its inception.

The committee made it clear that bullying behavior of any kind is unacceptable and that everyone has the right to learn in a safe environment and be treated with respect, Kornhauser said.

The committee then turned to York University professor Debra Pepler, an expert on bullying who was hired as a consultant. She helped the group to determine the needs of the school and to adopt a strategy.

In 1997, Pepler met with the teachers to sensitize them to the issues of bullying and she gave a three-part training program. She also spoke at a parent meeting.

With her help, the committee developed a policy on bullying for the whole school.

"We created an addendum to the school's official code of behavior with respect to bullying," Kornhauser said.

She stressed that the clarification of the code of behavior was in accordance with Jewish values where children develop a sense of respect for others. "The school is committed to fostering derech eretz, respect, as a primary focus."

Many of the teachers have incorporated aspects of the anti-bullying program into the curriculum to develop empathy among the students, Kornhauser said.

The committee spent a year preparing a school-wide procedures manual on bullying, which, after being approved by the education committee in June, was distributed to all staff members. A parent copy was sent out to all families this summer, she said.

In September, the committee, which now includes two new guidance counsellors hired by the school, changed its name to the committee for peaceful problem solving, to reflect its new direction, Kornhauser said.

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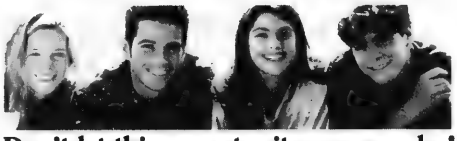

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jewish toronto

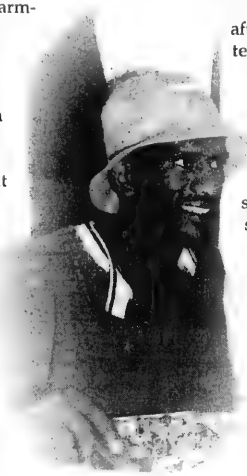
By Elaine Fogel

Campers Absorb Story of Sorrow and Success

Danny Admasso may be typical of many young, Ethiopian Jews in Israel today - courageous, hard-working, and determined. But, for Camp Ramah staff and campers last summer, Danny was not the 'typical' counsellor. Hired as a Judaica specialist and brought over from Israel, Danny's voyage from Ethiopia to Israel, thanks to the Jewish Agency, funded by the worldwide UJA Federation movement, left a profound and lasting emotional impact on counsellors and campers alike.

Growing up in a tiny Ethiopian village of only four families, Danny was a shepherd with very little schooling. In addition to farming, his father made tools, while his mother created ceramics to sell at the city market once a week. "Our lives were very primitive," he said, during an interview from Israel with *Jewish Toronto*. "There weren't many modern things."

Danny's father taught his eight children about Israel and read Torah with them in Amharic, their native language. (His mother had already died in childbirth.) It was all in preparation for the escape from government persecution about which his father dreamed.



death en route

In 1984, when Danny was nine-years-old, his entire family made their first attempt to flee. Caught by government officials, they were jailed for two weeks after being stripped of all their money and assets. "We couldn't continue living in our village," said Danny. "Everything we had was gone. It was empty."

Two months later, they tried again with a hired guide to accompany them. A donkey and some horses carried what few possessions they had, as 40 people began their trek on foot. When robbers interrupted their journey and confiscated all their possessions, Danny's family was forced into slave labour for a month. Finally permitted to continue, the family journeyed fearfully by night, shoeless and sleeping in caves. "A lot of people died on the way," Danny recalled. "You could see them dying of thirst or from exhaustion. It was a big tragedy, but we had to continue."

Many of those who survived the traumatic trip to Sudan were so desperate for water, they drank from the filthy river and died from contamination. Others perished from infested food during their seven month wait in a Sudanese refugee camp.

Israel at last

But Israel wasn't far away. "I felt like I was in a dream," remembered Danny, after the Jewish Agency flew the family to Israel.

With the death of his father soon after their aliyah, Danny was orphaned at ten, and sent to an Israeli government boarding school. "They helped me a lot and took care of me," he said.

Now, after his army service, Danny counsels homeless and drug abused youth, saving his salary for his next challenge - university. "My dream is to be a doctor," he said, "because I want to save lives and help people."

comfort and fear

His summer experience last year at Camp Ramah helped Danny to confront his suffering. "Every time I told the story I was crying," he admitted. "It was good to tell them that other Jews have lived a different life."

"I think seeing a young Ethiopian Israeli and hearing about his difficult life is what shocked me the most," observed Assistant Camp Director, Debbie Spiegel. "His young adulthood is so vastly different than the North American youth experience - having kids relate to that is crucial for our Jewish leaders."

"During one evening of staff education, Danny spoke about his experiences travelling from Ethiopia to Israel," added Camp Director, Rabbi Mitchell Cohen. "As he described the death of his loved ones, everyone could not help but feel for him. It also intensified everyone's feelings of Zionism, and pride in the fact that the State of Israel, with all of its problems, still creates miracles."

For Danny, his gratitude to the worldwide Jewish community and the Jewish Agency is evident. "You dream, and someone makes your dream come true. How do you say thank you?"

The Jewish Agency has airlifted over 21,000 Jews from Ethiopia and helped them integrate into Israeli life.

jewish *journeys*

We Want Your Input!

The Nominations Committee of UJA Federation is accepting recommendations for members of the Board of Directors, Board of Governors, and the UJA Federation Council. The Annual meeting and elections take place Wednesday, June 2, 1999.

Please submit your suggestions before February 26, 1999.

Nominations Chair
Sandra Brown
UJA Federation
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Around jewish toronto

new faces

UJA Federation welcomes Israel Experience Coordinator, (left) **Annette Crandel**, and Cultural Services Coordinator, **Jennifer Turack**.

financial news

Calling all lawyers, financial planners & insurance professionals... the Professional Advisory Council of UJA Federation's Endowment Fund, invites you to a mid-winter meeting on **Tuesday, February 23 at 12:00 noon**, at Ernst & Young, 100 King St. W. 16th Floor. Presentations include *Charity and Not for Profit Pitfalls & Concerns, Probate Fees*, as well as *Israel - On the Brink of the Millennium*. Lunch reservations required. RSVP to Linda (416) 635-2883, ext. 203.

meet mr. levy

The Sephardi Network of UJA Federation, in conjunction with the Sephardic Kehila Centre, invites you to an informative evening with U.S. Sephardi leader, Leon Levy, on **Sunday, March 7, 8:00 p.m.** A dessert reception follows. RSVP to (416) 635-2883 ext. 177.

purim reminder

The Purim Extravaganza at the Bathurst Jewish Centre (BJC) takes place **Sunday, February 28 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Co-sponsored by Junior UJA and the BJC, expect fun for the whole family! Call (416) 636-1880 ext. 229 for more information.

jewish toronto, *a supplement of the Canadian Jewish News, is sponsored and produced by UJA Federation. Jewish Toronto Website: www.feduja.org*

A Day in the Life of Our Chief Chaplain

jewish toronto

by Adi Neuberger

After spending an afternoon with Rabbi Ronald Weiss, head of the UJA Federation-funded Jewish Family & Child Service Chaplaincy Service, one can't help but realize that the Chief Chaplain's modest mission of mercy is actually quite monumental.

Although the objective remains constant - to deliver comfort, strength and spiritual guidance to those in need - whatever their circumstance and wherever they may be - there's nothing routine about *this* rabbi's line of work.

Anything can happen at anytime, as I found out one snowy winter day when I accompanied Rabbi Weiss to observe a day in his life.

"I'll go wherever I'm needed"

I ask Rabbi Weiss how he prepares for difficult situations, after a briefing about our first stop - an emergency call he received earlier in the day. "I don't," he responds, as we make our way to a downtown hospital to console a young woman who recently failed at her fifth suicide attempt. "What will you say to her?" I inquire as we arrive. "I'll take her lead and see how it goes. I have no agenda," he replies.

After spending half an hour at the bedside of the distraught 23-year-old, who relayed a lifetime of heartache and sorrow through intermittent tears, it was time to say goodbye and move on to the next visit. But not before Rabbi Weiss disappeared momentarily to respond to a second emergency call from a chaplain at another downtown hospital. This time the person in need of Weiss' services was a recently widowed woman confused about Jewish burial customs.

While heading north to see a terminally ill hospice patient confined to a bed in her parents' home, Rabbi Weiss finally reaches the anxious widow by cell phone after a dozen attempts. "I'm so sorry about your recent loss," he says in a quiet, sympathetic voice, while he weaves through traffic and retrieves phone numbers of Jewish funeral homes from a computerized address book.

"When I can't get to someone in person, at least I'm just a phone call away," Weiss tells me. "It's better than nothing - isn't it?" I agree and ask if the nature of his work ever gets him down. He asked if I could wait for the answer until after our next and final visit. "This one might be a little tough," warns Weiss. "But I think it'll give you a good sense of what chaplaincy is all about."

Upon leaving the modest home of this brave, intelligent woman coping with terminal illness, while struggling to maintain her dignity, I realize what Weiss meant. The middle-aged former media professional could barely muster the strength to engage her visitor in their usual theological dialogue, yet somehow managed to break a smile as they parted. She was glad he came and he felt it.

Rabbi Ronald Weiss on one of his many daily visits.

The Chief Chaplain's days, which usually begin at 7:30 a.m., and often end long after his four kids are asleep, consist mainly of brief visits to community members in any number of private and public facilities across the city. Weiss heads a corps of 150 dedicated JF&CS Chaplaincy Service volunteers, who make their way to 33 hospitals, 45 nursing homes and 24 prisons, offering an unconditional supply of compassion and care to the sick, the isolated, the institutionalized and those held in correctional institutions.

"I go wherever I'm needed, whether I'm asked to recite a prayer with a mourner or just exchange a few friendly words," explains Weiss. "My job is to provide comfort and strength to anyone who seeks it."

The Boston-born Weiss studied at Brandeis University before graduating from Yeshiva University and becoming the rabbi of a small Orthodox congregation in upstate New York. Weiss admits chaplaincy work was not his first calling. "It's not what I always envisioned myself doing. Nonetheless I feel I'm providing a much-needed service."

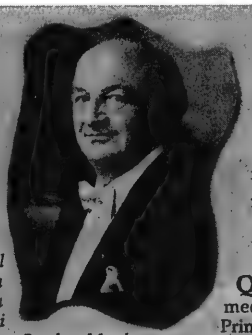
The rabbi and I hardly speak during the short drive back to my office. Our last visit has not only left me speechless and emotionally drained - it has also provided me with all the answers I need - and then some.

If you are interested in becoming a Jewish Family & Child Service Chaplaincy Service volunteer, call Program Coordinator Toby Maskowitz, at (416) 638-7800 ext. 287.

face to *face*

with Leon Levy

Sephardi Ambassador Extraordinaire



Leon Levy is one of the most influential Jews in the United States. As Immediate Past Chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations (an umbrella group for 53 U.S. Jewish organizations), he has travelled the world spreading goodwill. Levy led a delegation to Israel with President Bill Clinton for the funeral of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and was one of 10 recipients worldwide, to accept Spain's Concorde Prize, a gesture of retribution on the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of Jews from Spain. As a licensed civil engineer, Levy applied his expertise to, among other projects, restoration of the Statue of Liberty. Born to Sephardi parents, who emigrated from Turkey, Levy is best recognized for his tireless efforts on behalf of the Sephardi community. He will be speaking at a UJA Federation Sephardi Network event on Sunday, March 7, 8:00 p.m. For details, see Around Jewish Toronto on the previous page.

In a recent telephone interview with Elaine Fogel, Levy describes his unique experiences as an international Sephardi ambassador.

Q: Tell us about worldwide Sephardi community accomplishments.

A: What we have done is to unite Sephardic organizations and tackle problems that differentiate us from the Ashkenazi community. In Israel, the Sephardim are gaining more credibility in their day-to-day lives. They're not being treated as poorly as they were 25 years ago in education and certainly in politics. That will continue. Our job is to get on the map so they know there is an organized Sephardic community out there. And we're still doing it.

Q: I understand that you had a meeting a few years ago with the Prime Minister of Greece. What was that about?

A: I met with the late Papandreou for the World Jewish Congress. We tried to discourage the Greeks from issuing identity cards with a religion designated on it. We were totally opposed to it. Their reason was not necessarily to put Jews in a special light, but I think they wanted to go after the Muslims. We very strongly objected to passports having a "J" on it to identify Jews.

Q: You were one of the ten recipients of Spain's retribution gesture on the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of Jews in 1492. Can you tell us about that?

A: That was a highlight. We were very involved with the 500th anniversary. Spain was reaching out in friendliness. They give an annual prize, comparable to the Nobel Prize, called the Prince of Asturias Awards, but the major award, the Concorde Prize, was given to the Sephardi Jews of the world. It was very special.

Q: What do you see as your next challenge?

A: We have to combat assimilation. Sephardi Jews have a strong identity and tradition and we believe in tolerance and moderation. We want to attract our next generation to the fact that they come from a heritage of pride. My goal is to do what little I can to strengthen the association of our people with our rich, exotic heritage.

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The Canadian Jewish news

Shad Valley's summer program definitely not for the nerds

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Laura Erdman's friends teased her about going to "nerd camp" when she applied to the Shad Valley summer program for senior high school students.

The award-winning program, which focuses on science, technology and entrepreneurship, is run at eight Canadian university campuses every July by Shad International, an independent organization based in Waterloo, Ont. Over 400 students participate.

Erdman and five other Canadian Jewish students – Joy Abramson, Arneet Saltzman, Amos Bitzan, Aviva Leber and Michael Lebedinsky – were among the award-winners of the first annual Royal Bank Shad Entrepreneurship Cup, announced at the Science Teachers Association of Ontario annual conference late last year.

For the contest, student teams created an original product. Entries – including a short video and detailed business and marketing plans – represented the best effort from each campus.

The nerd image is "a big misconception," said Erdman. "The people were just amazing." They're typical teenagers, she insisted, but they "happen to not think that school is the worst thing that ever happened to [them]."

Subject matter, nonetheless, might appear daunting. Environmental engineering, particle physics, finite math and logic were some of the topics addressed. Leadership, business and teamwork were key aspects of the program, but recreational activities also played an important role.

For Erdman, an alumna of United Synagogue Day School who is now in her OAC year at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT), Shad represented not only a tremendous learning experience but her first "secular" experience.

There's more to life than studying for Aviva Leber, left, and Laura Erdman, seen on an outing at the Shad Valley summer program.

A multicultural night at the University of New Brunswick campus proved to be "a very good bonding experience," she said. She participated in a presentation on Judaism and learned about various nationalities, including one she'd never heard of.

Leber, an Ottawan in her OAC year at Sir Robert Borden High School, hopes to study medicine. An alumna of Montreal's United Talmud Torah, she met Erdman when they were assigned as roommates, and participated with her as part of a larger group on the project that won the award for best prototype, an Internet- and CD-ROM-based driving school. Leber served as financial manager, while Erdman worked on the business plan. The pair are now good friends.

Mike Lebedinsky designed the virtual driving school. Born in Moldova and raised in Israel from age six until two years ago when his family moved to Calgary, Lebedinsky changed all his plans for university as a result of Shad.

The Henry Wise Wood High School alumnus chose a new major and a new school at the last minute, opting to study Communications Engineering at Carleton University.

The Best Business and Best Overall awards went to the Carleton University team, headed by Abramson, a CHAT graduate who is a first-year Engineering student at the University of Toronto. Saltzman, an OAC student in the gifted program at William Lyon Mackenzie Collegiate Institute, was operations director for their project, an improved skate guard for in-line skates.

Shad was "a lot of work, but it's worth it," said Saltzman.

Amos Bitzan, an OAC classmate of Saltzman's whose twin brother John also took part in the Shad program, worked on the marketing aspect and business plan of a project called Child Trak and Forget-Me-Not at the University of British Columbia campus. The system, which won second prize overall, is designed to warn parents, by emitting a beep when their children stray too far. With modifications, the same system can be used to keep tabs on valuables.

The students all agreed they left they program more well-rounded.

"Meeting all these really great people from all over the country was probably the greatest benefit," said Bitzan.

"It's one of the most amazing things I've ever done," said Abramson.

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On Campus

York student creates do-it-yourself mezuzah kit

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO – Sam Stone, a fourth year design student at York University, has combined his design talents with his entrepreneurial skills to create a do-it-yourself mezuzah kit.

"I stumbled into the Judaica design scene and it has turned out to be quite wonderful," says Stone, 23. He adds that the design of Judaica artifacts requires a great deal of research.

Stone had attended the industrial design program at Carlton University. After his first year, he decided to work for an architectural firm to gain experience and to explore career options.

He later enrolled in the Faculty of Fine Arts at York University which gave him "flexibility to explore different design disciplines as well as traditional art forms," he says.

Throughout his four year program, Stone has been working as a freelance designer. He has designed corporate literature, furniture, glass screens, and architectural design projects.

His introduction to Judaica came in 1997 when he was referred to Kolel: A Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning. He was told that Kolel needed a portable ark for its programming.

The ark was submitted to the Jewish Students' Arts Festival where it won honorable mention. Later it garnered two additional awards.

"The ark opened up projects of all different kinds in the Jewish community for me including, a religious school which commissioned me to create a kit where bar and bat mitzvah students could construct their own yad (pointer) for reading Torah."

The school later asked Stone to come in and teach the students the history of the yad and about Judaica design.

"The yad program went so well," says Stone, "that they asked me to create a similar program for mezuzot."

The project received an enthusiastic response from rabbis, artists and religious school educators of both adults and children. He ran the program as part of Jewish Campus Services' Jewish awareness month in January.

Soon he was leading mezuzah programs for groups. He has designed a contemporary mezuzah kit with instructions, which is now being sold at Israel's Judaica. The kit will soon be available at other Judaica stores.

A sampling of the mezuzah kit. Inset is its creator Sam Stone.

He also created a format for others who wish to lead the program in other cities.

Stone, who will be completing his design program at York this spring, says he intends to continue his freelance design work this summer.

He stresses that he is "a designer of Judaica along with other design areas and disciplines."

In the fall, he will intern for three months at Atelier Mendini, a world famous design studio in Milan, Italy.

"This is a great opportunity for me to learn from people on the cutting edge of the world design scene."

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Activist Abrams aimed to stop 'mockery of murder, genocide'

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — For Victoria businessman Harry Abrams, the recent tribunal ruling that retired columnist Doug Collins and the *North Shore News* promoted hatred against Jews was the culmination of a lengthy and sometimes harrowing experience.

Fueled by a dogged desire to put a stop to "a mockery of murder and genocide," Abrams launched the case with a complaint before the B.C. Human Rights Commission. He alleged a series of articles written by Collins in 1994 promoted contempt of Jews.

The case was no ordinary file-and-forget legal matter for Abrams. On the contrary. It marked a coming of age in his efforts to stop those who would vilify Jews. While today he may be fielding dozens of phone calls from well-wishers who applaud his gumption, seven months ago it was quite a different matter.

Harry Abrams

It was midsummer and the case was about to resume after a lengthy adjournment. Abrams was in an outdoor cafe discussing the white supremacist movement with a reporter when they were interrupted by a call on Abrams' cell phone.

It was his wife. She had just received an anonymous call in which part of a conversation Abrams was having with a woman about the white supremacist movement was played back to her.

Abrams was shaken. It was a recording of the conversation he was having with the reporter.

"I felt I was being followed, that someone with a long-distance microphone was recording me and phoning back to intimidate me," he said.

Abrams reported the incident to the police but no arrests have been made.

Undaunted, Abrams proceeded with the case. Two weeks ago a B.C. Human Rights Tribunal ordered Collins and the *North Shore News* to pay Abrams $2,000, to refrain from printing articles that promoted contempt of Jews and to publish relevant portions of the judgment in the paper.

"I'm very pleased," Abrams said, "It's a landmark decision. I think it's historic for the Jewish community in Canada. It's historic for human rights."

Dismissing suggestions the decision will restrict free speech, Abrams declared the judgment "a victory for freedom of speech. It's a defeat for his (Collins') version of speech...[in which] he picked on people because of their characteristics.

"It's not a fair goal to vilify people for characteristics they cannot change. That's beyond fair comment."

Beyond winning the case, Abrams feels the decision "has galvanized my experience in Jewish human rights advocacy...Most people don't want to deal with these issues, to study anti-Semitism, the nature of hate, what makes them tick, their psychology."

A native of Montreal who moved to Victoria in 1982, Abrams runs his own advertising business. His first interest in extremist politics goes back to 1986 when lawyer Doug Christie brought neo-Nazi propagandist Ernst Zundel to Victoria for a speaking engagement at the prestigious Empress Hotel.

A "community outcry" ensued that prompted the Empress to cancel the booking, Abrams said.

During the early '90s, Abrams learned that neo-Nazi groups were organizing in the area "with impunity" but he was galvanized into action when he found a copy of the *North Shore News* containing Collins' articles delivered to his door as an insert in a now defunct Victoria paper.

With further issues of the paper, Abrams began to see "a definite pattern" in which Jews were attacked in Collins' articles.

'I understood this was something I was going to do'

A booklet published by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre on Holocaust denial put the issue into perspective for him and prompted him to contact Sol Littman, the centre's Canadian representative.

After a long conversation "I realized that my fate [had changed]. It was like a calling. I understood this was something I was going to do."

In 1994, he became a volunteer researcher for the centre, studying the proliferation of hate materials on the Internet.

Abrams later switched allegiances to B'nai Brith's League for Human Rights and in 1996 he was appointed the B.C. representative of the League.

The League eventually entered the case as one of several interveners, backing Abrams' position.

For Abrams the issue was clear: "They're not going to make a mockery of murder and genocide. We have to challenge it, fight it. We can't let it pass and forsake the memories of those who were murdered."

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Coast to Coast

Mac students get new adviser

By MOURA WOLPERT
CJN Correspondent

HAMILTON — Although there are about 300 to 500 Jewish students at McMaster University, only 127 have signed up with the McMaster Jewish Students Association (MJSA).

That's not nearly enough for Judy Schwartz, the new MJSA adviser, who would like to see every Jewish student on campus involved.

Schwartz, a Burlington resident, has spoken about Judaism in schools, churches and to women's groups. She succeeds Sheila Freedman, who died last fall.

Schwartz and her husband Dennis, Toronto natives, lived in Israel for 2½ years. Their daughter Noa, was born there. Years later, their second daughter Ora, has made aliyah.

"As I get accustomed to the job, I will get more pro-active," promises Schwartz. She would like to do "a real promotion," but acknowledges that the best way is through the students.

The MJSA is the only group to have its own lounge, office and kitchen on campus. She became aware of the importance of the office, says Schwartz, when she realized that the MJSA is "the last outpost for any form of Judaism to be ignited."

But the office was open only on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., when a kosher lunch was provided. Schwartz felt "that was totally inadequate," and now opens the rooms on Tuesdays and Wednesdays as well, and would like them to be open Monday through Thursday. She makes sure there's always kosher food available for snacks.

"This should be the home away from home for the students," she says.

Rabbi Zalman Itkin of the Chabad Jewish Centre regularly attends Thursday lunches, and Rabbi Irving Zeplowitz of Temple Anshe Sholom also comes.

On Tuesday evenings, there is a free bagel dinner and study group led by Rabbi Meir Joshua of the Jewish Enrichment Centre of Hamilton, on "any Jewish subject the students wish to discuss."

Schwartz is "unbelievably impressed" with the students. "There's a spark in them...they really want to learn," she says.

While she would like to see as much programming as possible, Schwartz realizes that it must be "on the students' time. They have to study, they have jobs, exams...I consider myself their silent leader," she says. "They have to feel it's their organization and they have to run it."

The MJSA executive is headed by Monika Roseman and Dan Kobric, co-presidents.

Tight control of finances pays off for Hamilton JCC

HAMILTON — Years of tight financial controls have paid off for the Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton-Wentworth.

There was obvious relief at the recent annual general meeting when treasurer Joel Feldman presented the financial report, and accountant Larry Matlow of Vine & Partners, auditors for the JCC, expressed satisfaction at "the way things have gone [thanks to] the tighter controls that have been put in place."

The JCC, Brown reported, raised over $200,000 in the last three years towards its debt retirement. But, he assured the meeting, "we won't start a capital campaign until that's been taken care of."

Brown was referring to the long-awaited development of the JCC's approximately 26 acres of land and to the renovation planned for the existing building.

Meanwhile, he announced that a committee would be set up to canvass the community, to determine whether it "will support the JCC with memberships and dollars."

Plans for the coming year include an intensive membership drive and the development of new programs, especially for young people, he said.

The JCC, he said, is presently engaged in discussions with a Young Judaea shaliach in Toronto, who he hopes will come to Hamilton.

Meanwhile, said Brown, Sandy Levy and Vivienne Epstein are working with the young people and preparing programs.

He also announced that Hamilton will participate in an international youth weekend for smaller Jewish communities planned by the Windsor JCC.

Brown made special presentations to Rachel Loewith and Dana Brown, volunteers with Tzedaka Tzentrepieces, a fundraising project for teens initiated by the Loewith family, "which has proved to be a wonderful fundraiser for Jewish social services."

Announcing the establishment of an annual Volunteer Leader of the Year award in memory of the late Barry Foster, Brown presented the plaque that was to have been given to Foster as Volunteer of 1998, to his widow, Joy, the JCC's administrator. —*M.W.*

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Coast to Coast

Jewish groups criticize Canada's UN vote

Continued from page 1

applicability of the Convention in the Occupied Territories, including East Jerusalem."

Canada's support for the resolution, however, was tempered with several concerns.

"We regret that the General Assembly is again using the Emergency Special Session mechanism in a manner which is not helpful," the Canadian statement said. "Moreover, we find that the resolution has been complicated by language which will not benefit the peace process and elements which are not germane to the question of the convening of the conference on the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention."

Given Canada's misgivings about the resolution, it should have voted against or at least abstained, said an angry Ritter.

This was not a run-of-the-mill anti-Israel resolution at the UN, he believes.

"It's really disturbing that they're using extraordinary measures [the emergency special session]. What I find galling is that with all the problems in the world, this is the one the UN singles out."

In effect, the resolution violates both the Oslo and the Wye River agreements because it attempts to move the peace process from bilateral talks between Israel and the Palestinians, to an international forum, the CIC says.

Canada is also effectively violating two fundamental principles of its Middle East policy, said CIC national chair Brian Morris: first, that it will avoid taking actions or making statements which undermine direct, bilateral talks between Israel and its peace partners, or otherwise prejudge the outcome of those negotiations; and second, that Canada, by its own explanation for its vote, opposes "any unilateral actions that would jeopardize peace..."

Harold Brief, who chairs the Israel affairs committee of Canadian Jewish Congress, said CJC is "very, very disappointed" with Canada's support for the resolution.

"When one reads Canada's explanation for its vote, one would assume it would either vote against or at least abstain," Brief said.

In a letter to Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy, Simon Rosenblum, national co-president of Canadian Friends of Peace Now, said Canada's yes vote "gave credibility to a stunt which can do nothing to further peace-making in the region."

Resolution was 'extremely unbalanced'

The resolution was "highly rhetorical" and "extremely unbalanced," Peace Now said.

Israel has long disputed the applicability of the Geneva Convention to the territories on the grounds that the lands were not under any legitimate rule between 1948 and 1967.

The CIC also believes the Geneva Conventions are being misapplied to Israel.

The conventions were drafted in response to steps by the Nazis before and during World War II to forcibly transfer civilians to territories occupied as a result of unprovoked military aggression, whereas Jews are choosing to reside in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and areas of Jerusalem that had been inhabited by Jews prior to 1948, and conquered by Israel in 1967 after a "purely defensive" war, the CIC says.

The CIC Canada's support for the UN resolution "is cause for further intensifying our approach to the government. This will be done."

Last Friday, Axworthy used Canada's new chairmanship of the UN's Security Council as a soapbox when he called on the world to begin talking about ways to protect civilians caught up in armed conflicts.

Past UN assemblies also asked Switzerland, as the depository of the Geneva Conventions, to convene a conference of the treaty's signatories. It organized a meeting last October, attended by some experts, but has yet to arrange a full-scale conference.

This time, however, Switzerland said the UN established no mechanism for a global conference,

"Switzerland cannot contemplate an active role in convening and holding a conference of this type unless the state parties first define a solid basis for the implementation of such a measure," said a Swiss UN observer.

Although the Palestinians won the vote for the conference, "we'll have to wait and see if they want it after the Israeli election," said a European UN envoy.

Stewart Wheeler, a spokesman for for the Department of Foreign Affairs, told *The CJN* that Canada's explanation of its vote speaks for itself.

"Canada remains greatly concerned at settlement activity in East Jerusalem and the Occupied Territories."

At the same time, Canada is "a strong supporter of getting both sides to achieve a durable and lasting peace," Wheeler said.

– *With files from JTA*

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Coast to Coast

Canadian Jewish educators gather in Winnipeg

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Passion.

It's a teacher's most valuable tool. A teacher must have passion for what he or she teaches, says Arna Panar Poupko, and that's especially important for a Jewish teacher.

"A great teacher is one whose character shines through," Poupko, a well-known Jewish educator, told an audience of Jewish educators here earlier this month.

The Judaic consultant for Montreal's Jewish Federation was keynote speaker for the inaugural Western Coalition of Jewish Educators Conference, held at the Asper Jewish Community Campus. The meeting attracted Jewish day school teachers and administrators from Vancouver, Edmonton and Calgary as well as teachers and parents from Winnipeg.

"Most people see life as a journey," Poupko noted. "Such is Jewish education. The joy comes not in reaching your destination but in the discoveries along the way."

Successful teaching, she observed, comes from a strong knowledge of the material, an appreciation of that material and a commitment to it.

"In our society, people avoid declarations or statements about ethics and values," she said. "I believe that Jewish teachers must develop personal beliefs and ideals about Judaism and must be willing to represent them."

As well, teachers must continue to study, read and evolve.

"If we don't do it ourselves, if we are not turned on by Judaism, how can we expect to turn on our students? To be a Jewish teacher is more than just a job. It is a noble calling."

Poupko also was one of five panelists debating the pluralistic nature of most Jewish schools' student bodies. She argued that pluralism should be approached from a positive point of view, ideally with equal time given to each of Judaism's major denominations.

Instead, the result of most pluralistic Jewish day schools is the lowest common denominator, by which the schools can offend the least number of people, she said.

Robin Meyerowitz, who teaches at Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate in Winnipeg, agreed that pluralism is a nebulous term which can often lead to a bland approach to Jewish education.

"Students in class should be talking about and arguing about their differences," she said. "They should be given the opportunity to explore different ideas and be exposed to different rabbis. Some children know where they stand religiously.

"Many others are still searching."

Rabbi Michael Levinson of Temple Shalom observed that most Winnipeg Jews don't know a lot about the Reform movement even though many households here are "Reform-style," with a liberal approach to Judaism.

At the same time, he said he feels it is important for children in his congregation to be exposed to traditional Jewish practices and be comfortable with them.

Rabbi Charles Grysman argued that pluralism is fine as long as a school's philosophy is built around some key tenets which are acceptable to all the Jewish religious movements.

"Students should be able to connect with something meaningful and substantial," said Rabbi Grysman, spiritual leader of Ketulat Zichron Yisrael in Thornhill and a teacher, teacher supervisor and curriculum consultant at Netivot HaTorah Day School.

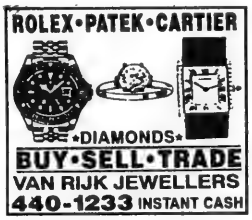
The idea for the conference was born two years ago with the establishment of the Western Coalition of Jewish Educators.

"It sometimes seems that the 'real' Jewish world is in eastern Canada and the rest of us are in the west," said Jack Solomon, director of education for Winnipeg's Grey Academy, in his welcoming presentation.

"The coalition gives us, as educators from smaller communities in Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver the opportunity to discuss common concerns and issues and joint programming. We are thrilled to be hosting this first conference here."

Jemmie (Gord) Silver welcomed the opportunity to get together with fellow Jewish educators. "Our Jewish communities in western Canada are only large enough to support one or two day schools," said Silver, a teacher and vice-principal of Calgary's Akiva Academy. "There is not much opportunity for Judaic studies development."

Other presenters were Dr. Alex Pomson, co-ordinator of the Jewish Teacher Education program in the Faculty of Education at York University; Mooli Broog, national education emissary for the Jewish National Fund in Canada; Dr. Claude Oppenheim, director of the Calgary Jewish Academy; and Sylvio Berlfein who has been leading Israeli dance workshops for over 20 years.



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גידי קורן וחברים

הייה שלום,חוסיין:

אם מישהו היה אומר לי לפני עשר שנים שהידיעה ברדיו שחוסיין נוסס ושמעבירים אותו לירדן כדי למות בבית - תגרום לי להזיל דמעה- הייתי אומר לו שהוא פסיכי לגמרי. אבל עובדה. - האיש האהוב ביותר במזרח התיכון הגיע לסוף דרכו. מה שגרם לכולנו, אני חושב, להרגיש חיבה עמוקה למלך הירדני היתה עמידתו האיתנה והאמיצה נגד הפת"ח בשנת שבעים, ואחר כך הימנעותו ממלחמת 73. והצטרפותו לתהליך השלום. כשנפתחה ירדן לישראלים - התגלתה ארץ עם תושבים בדואים עדינים ומקסימים, וגילינו את פטרה הקסומה. את היכרותי האישית עם ירדן ערכתי חמישה ימים אחרי שעשה חוסיין את הטעות הפטאלית והצטרף למלחמת 67. הייתי נער בן עשרים, חובש קרבי, ובדרך לשכם ראיתי גופות מרוטשות של חיילים ירדניים וישראלים. ובכפר ערבה ראיתי ילד קטוע גפיים ברחוב: וכשהם ראו חובש ישראלי חובש את פצעיו של הילד - האישונים שלהם התרחבו בפחד ובחוסר אמון. גם הילד פחד ממני. רק אחרי שנתתי לו ופל מצופה של השק"ם ראיתי שאמא שלו מתחילה לבכות בכי שונה, של רווחה. ואחר כך ביקורו הבלתי נשכח של חוסיין בהלוויה של יצחק רבין. ודבריו המלכותיים לעומת דברי ההבל של הנשיא עיזר וייצמן. איזה אישי איזה בן אדם! ואז שמענו שהוא נלחם על חייו במרפאת מיו במינסוטה, וברגע המשבר של שיחות השלום הוא הופיע והצליח לתווך בין עראפת ונתניהו. הוא עמד שם, חיוור, שביר, חולה מאוד, כפי שנראים חולי סרטן סופניים. ובירדן , שבה הקפידו שלא להראות את תמונתו לעם, היתה היסטריה כשהבינו עד כמה הוא חולה. אבל הוא מוכן היה להקריב את הסוד הזה לטובת השלום. היה שלום, מלך יקר. אני חושב שבישראל מעריכים ומוקירים אותך יותר מאשר את המנהיגים המקומיים. אתה הבאת לתודעתנו משהוא אציל, נקי. עשית לנו היכרות עם הצדדים היפים של האומה הערבית.

טליה על קרן ישראל החדשה:

" שלום גידי , מחובתו של כל ישראלי להסכים עם חומרת העניין של סיכון אובדן הדמוקרטיה בישראל. כפי שטענת שבוע שעבר "אם ישראל באמת חשובה לנו- צריך לדאוג שהיא תמשיך להיות דמוקרטיה מערבית ולא... נוסח טורקיה".
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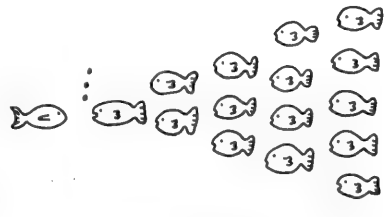

"I brought the whole mishpocha!"

CJSeniors

Retirees help Jews for Judaism

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO—Retirees Jerry and Sandra Genesove have earned the praise and recognition "for their extraordinary contribution to Jews for Judaism's growth in Canada," says Julius Ciss, the executive director of Jews for Judaism.

Toronto's Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, thanks to the efforts of the energetic duo, has raised more funds for Jews for Judaism than any other synagogue in North America to date."

Jerry, 69, who taught at Parkdale Collegiate and was the only high school teacher at the Toronto Board of Education who wore a kippah during classes, retired three years ago. Sandra worked in the movie industry as a booker for Columbia and Orion Pictures. She retired five years ago.

"Although I have been a volunteer throughout my life,now that I am a senior and retired and I have more leisure time, Jerry said.

"I believe that being an active volunteer not only helps many needy causes, but also keeps me mentally agile and gives me a feeling of accomplishment."

Sandra served as a volunteer at the Queen Street Mental Health Centre. She and Jerry were both on the board of Boys Town Jerusalem and they are presently on the board of Dental Volunteers for Israel.

At the Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue they work as a team, volunteering on numerous committees. Twelve years ago they formed the Entertainment and Cultural Connection, which presents monthly programs featuring speakers, comedy acts, musical evenings and fundraisers for charitable causes.

Speaking of missionaries, Jerry told *The CJN* that one of the upsetting moments was when a Jewish teacher told him that he considered himself a Christian Jew.

"This was quite a shock to me. During our conversations, I discovered that the teacher had no real knowledge of Judaism. Thus, he was easy prey to missionaries."

This incident fortified his interest in helping "other Jews resist Christian missionaries targeting Jews. Five years ago, the Genesoves established an annual fundraising program for Jews for Judaism.

The Entertainment and Cultural Connection joined with Shaarei Shomayim's Brotherhood to present a musical evening with The Shpeelers, a volunteer group of musicians who presented a program "with a touch of klezz;" all proceeds were donated to Jews for Judaism.

The first campaign raised $2,000. That amount doubled the following year and has continued to increase annually. Last year, more than $11,500 was collected and Jerry says that this year "we expect that it will be even more successful."

While Sandra looks after the arrangements and keeps the records, Jerry is energetically soliciting the congregation's members for donations.

"Jerry and Sandy deserve a hearty *yasher koach* for their truly selfless efforts," Ciss said.

This year's musical program with The Shpeelers will be held on March 21, at 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim. The musicians will be Dr. Leslie Train, Les Aaron, Dr. Alfred Silver, Gurion Hyman, Belarie and Martin Zatzman, Sheryl Saperia, and comedian Sam Rosen.

When applauded for their efforts by Ciss, Jerry replied, "Don't thank us, thank the members of Shaarei Shomayim and the many others who believe in what Jews for Judaism has accomplished."

Jerry added that he hopes that every synagogue in the country would also raise money for Jews for Judaism "and help to counter the missionary threat which I hope would put the missionaries out of business.

"I challenge every shul, in fact, every Jewish organization, in the country to do just that."

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

Deadlines for What's New and About People: Monday, Feb. 22, is deadline for March 4 issue, and Monday, March 1, is deadline for March 11. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Saturday, Feb. 20

WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT

Ohr Somayach Toronto Women's Night Out starts off with Jump for Joy at Skyrider's Trampoline followed by Raise Your Consciousness with Jewish Meditation, 8-10 p.m., at 9094 Leslie St. Thornhill. Reserve. 905-886-5730.

Sunday, Feb. 21

LAUGHTER UNLIMITED

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Brotherhood breakfast program presents laughter unlimited, The Comedy Guys with **Norm Winkler**, magic comedian, and **Sam Rosen**, comedian. Breakfast 9:15 a.m. $4.

GRAND ORDER OF ISRAEL

Grand Order of Israel, benefit society, general meeting 9 a.m., Ramada Inn on Wilson Avenue.

ADULT EDUCATION

At Temple Sinai adult education breakfast **Al Gorlick**, chair of Alliance of Seniors to Protect Canada's Social Programs, speaks on An Individual Can Make a Difference, A Group Can Change the World. Services 9:30 a.m., breakfast 9:50 a.m., program at 10. $3.

STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

Toronto Festival of Storytelling focuses on *The Seven Beggars*, a story of many stories by **Rebbe Nachman** of Breslov, told by **Justin Lewis**, 1-5 p.m., Riverdale Jewish Community Centre, 179 Danforth Ave., upstairs. Pay what you can. $7 suggested. Justin Lewis 538-4060.

MEZUZAH HANGING

Residents and their families are participating in a grand mezuzah hanging at Lincoln Place Nursing Home, 429 Walmer Rd., 2 p.m. With over 175 Jewish residents, Lincoln Place, in conjunction with Jewish Family & Child Service, undertook a campaign to provide mezuzahs for these residents.

FREE PERFORMANCE

Young Jewish musicians and dancers from North York Committee for Enrichment and Education present Russian ballet, ballroom dancers, piano players, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Earl Bales Community Centre.

GIFT OF THE JEWS

YUJJIES (young urban Jews 20-40) at Indigo, sponsored by Kolel: A Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning and the Les and Minda Feldman Family Foundation, lecture, Another Gift of the Jews: The Way of the Web, with **Baruch Sienna**, 7:30 p.m., Indigo Café, 2300 Yonge St. 905-709-1900, ext. 222.

HALACHIC ASPECTS

Beth Jacob V'Anshe Drildz presents Halachic Aspects of Pre-Nuptial Agreements and Marriage Annulment with **Rabbi Mordechai Willig**, rosh yeshiva at Yeshiva University and rabbi at Young Israel of Riverdale, 8 p.m. Co-sponsored by Canadian Friends of Yeshiva University. 638-5955.

GAMES SINGLES PLAY

A fun social evening of bridge, Trivial Pursuit, Chutzpah, Scrabble and more for Jewish gentlemen and ladies, Group A ages 21-39, Group B ages 40-69. $5. Early Bird Bingo 7:30-8 p.m. **Mollie** 733-3634.

THE JEW IN THE LOTUS

A Passover Journey in India by **Rabbi Michael** and **Chashi Skobac**, presented by Entertainment and Cultural Connection and Shaarei Shomayim Brotherhood, 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim. Special tables for singles 21-39 and singles 39 and up. Guests $2. All ages invited. Coordinators **Jerry** and **Sandra Genesove**.

Monday, Feb. 22

GRANDE FINALE

Expressions of Judaism Through the Arts, sponsored by Adath Israel and Beth David B'nai Israel Beth

Continued on page 27

Happy Purim

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What's New

Continued from page 26

Am congregations, concludes with **Allan Merovitz** and Simcha Klezmer Ensemble with **Tiima Kiik** on accordion, **Martin van de Ven** on clarinet, 8 p.m., at Beth David.

Tuesday, Feb. 23

ANNUAL DINNER DRAW

Canadian Friends of the Jerusalem College of Technology Annual Dinner Draw at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. Tickets $150. 787-7565. Co-chairs are **David Anisman**, **Saul Feldberg** and **Joseph Klasner**.

PURIM FESTIVAL

B'nai Brith Lodge Dr. W. Filderman for Romanian speaking people celebrates the Purim festival at a party, 7 p.m., B'nai Brith Building, 15 Hove St. **Felicia Lowy** 631-0634.

Wednesday, Feb. 24

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) monthly meeting with **Louise St. Denis** speaking on Canadian Records – Bring Life to Your Family Stories. 8 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. Non-members $3.

WELLNESS EDUCATION

The Wellness Education Group of Baycrest Centre session entitled Wen-Do Women's Self-Defence Program. Demonstration. Presenter is **Maria Warner**, Wen-Do instructor. 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the Wagman Centre. $2 at door. **Judy Chu** 785-2500, ext. 2340.

HILLULA DINNER

Hillula dinner, Rebbe Yitzhak Bengualid. 7 p.m. at Sephardic Kehila Centre, 7026 Bathurst St. $25. RSVP before Feb. 21, 905-669-7654, ext. 223.

Thursday, Feb. 25.

BRIT MILAH

Brit Milah, Sign of the Covenant, Sign of the Times?, a lecture with **Rabbi Larry Hoffman** exploring how circumcision became a "sign of the covenant" and the issues surrounding circumcision today. 7:30 p.m., Holy Blossom Temple. Presented by Kolel: A Centre for Liberal Learning, co-sponsored with the Reform Mohalim of the Greater Toronto Area, Holy Blossom Brotherhood, and Brit Milah Board of Reform Judaism. $5. 905-709-1900, ext. 222.

U OF T JEWISH STUDIES

University of Toronto Jewish Studies Program and Department of Near and Middle Eastern Studies lecture, Theology, "Tolerance" and Power: Jewish Perceptions of Christianity in Medieval Europe with **Prof. David Berger**, Brooklyn College, plus book launch commemorating the 10th anniversary of the death of **Prof. Frank Talmage** (first professor of Jewish studies at U of T), 7:30 p.m., Thomas Fisher rare Book Library, 120 St. George St. **Eva Hollander** 978-5301.

MOVING TO ISRAEL

Information for new immigrants, returning Israelis and shlichim about moving to Israel – shipping, appliances, insurance. Noon to 6 p.m. individual meetings with company representatives; 7-10 p.m. company presentations. Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St. Israel Aliyah Centre 633-4766, Consulate General of Israel 961-1126.

And What Else Is New

BIBLICAL WOMEN

Shaar Shalom Synagogue Scholar-in-Residence program Feb. 19 to 21 with **Miriam Klein Shapiro** focuses on Maidens, Matriarchs and Martyrs – Biblical Women Seen Through the Ages.

Shapiro speaks Friday after dinner on Sarah, First Jewish Woman – Her Impact on the Modern Jew (advance reservations, $25); Saturday morning sermon, The Faith of the Jewish Women in the Wilderness; Sunday breakfast study session, Esther: That's a Heroine?

Pre-register. For reservations, shul office 905-889-4875.

BRAZILIAN CARNIVAL

Brazilian Carnival Ball, a festive gala with colorful costumes, Brazilian dances and Latin music, Saturday, Feb. 27, at Metro Toronto Convention Centre, to raise funds for the new Sandra A. Rotman University of Toronto Program in Neuropsychiatry at Baycrest Centre. 785-2500, ext. 2092.

FEMINIST APPROACHES

Beth Tzedec adult education committee features author, teacher, feminist **Naomi Graetz** of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Shabbat and Sunday, Feb. 20 and 21. Shabbat, from the pulpit, Feminist Jewish Approaches to the Hebrew Bible; and lecture during Seudah Shlishit, A Closely Guarded Secret: Wife Beating in Modern Jewish Life; Sunday breakfast lecture, Daughters of the Bible: The Case of Dinah.

MAGICAL MASQUERADE

University of Toronto Jewish Students Union's Magical Masquerade of Purim dinner with three-course meal and illusionist, Thursday, March 4, 8 p.m. at Marky's, 6233 Bathurst St. Dress informal, costumes optional. $20. Reserve by Feb. 25. 978-0421.

KABBALAH CENTRE

Kabbalah Centre, 678 Sheppard Ave. W. 631-9395.

Monday, Feb. 22, 10 p.m., Hillula of Moshe Rabeinu, $10.

Tuesday, Feb. 7 p.m., New Learning Hebrew (level . . 10 weeks, $100; Purim Seminar, 1½ hours, $10.

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 7-10 p.m., Advanced Reincarnation (level 3) in Hamilton, five weeks.

Friday and Saturday, Feb. 26 and 27, Shabbat Zachor, prayer services (Friday 6 p.m., Saturday 9:30 a.m.), meditations, kosher cuisine. Meal reservations by Wednesday, Feb. 24.

PURIM SEUDAH

Festive meal, music, dancing, prizes, costume parade, organized by Beth Tzedec Young Families and co-sponsored by Men's Club and Sisterhood, Tuesday, March 2, 5:30 p.m. Prepaid reservations by Thursday, Feb. 25. **Florence** 781-3511.

TRIVIA NIGHT

A multimedia Trivia Night for university students and couples organized by university students to raise money for Zareinu Educational Centre, Saturday, Feb. 27, 8:30 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. $25. **Tamar** 254-1211

A YUK YUK'S EVENING

A Yuk Yuk's evening of stand-up comedy presented by Shaar Shalom Brotherhood and Sisterhood, Tuesday, March 2, 8 p.m., at the synagogue, 2 Simonston Blvd., Thornhill. $18 in advance, $20 at door. 905-889-4975.

WALKING/HIKING GROUP

Marv's Walking/Hiking Group walks every Sunday morning, age over 40 preferable. Call 24-hour Hike Line 905-790-8098.

ST JOHNS COURSES

Held at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. **Rhonda** 905-731-9441.

Infant and Child CPR has been changed from Feb. 21 to Sunday, March 7, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. $36 includes lunch.

Heartsaver CPR, Sunday, March 21, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. $36 (Choking, stroke, AR and CPR), includes lunch.

FOR SENIORS

Boston/Cape Cod trip May 9-14, co-sponsored by Bathurst Jewish Centre and Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living. Waiting list available. **Teme** 636-1880, ext. 364, or **Barbara** 225-2112, ext. 134.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Feb. 18, a video; Feb. 25,lecture by **Schura Vorona**, Escape of the Jews from the Spanish Inquisition; March 6, Purim dance, call **Malka Colla** 630-5771. All activities in Hebrew, English and Jewish. New members welcome. **Jerry Bengall** 905-707-7334.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Feb. 25, Thornhill Square; Feb. 26, Casino Rama; Tuesday, March 2, lecture 10 a.m.,Take Charge of Your Life by **Leonard Rubenstein**; March 7, dance with live band; March 17, shuffle off to Buffalo. All programs ongoing. Membership $12. Phone regarding Atlantic City and Las Vegas trips. 395-7881.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club: Israeli trip March 7-24, all inclusive, nine full days of touring. Aug. 25, morning cruise followed by matinee performance of *Move Over Mrs. Markham* at Gryphon Theatre, **Lena** 785-5773. Golden Book donations go to Laniado Hospital in Israel. **Dorothy Bloomfield** 787-1526.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

Caregiver Education series speaker on Thursday, Feb. 18, nurse **Sorena Swartz**, placement coordinator, North York Community Care Access Centre, discusses Long Term Care Placement – What Are the Choices?, 1:15 p.m.

At Osteoporosis Support Group meeting Tuesday, Feb. 23, 1:15-2:15 p.m., **Susan Bowles**, Department of Pharmacy, Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre, speaks on How Important Are Calcium and Vitamin D?

Israeli Club Etrog meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays for movies, sing-alongs, lectures, bingo, dances. Feb. 23 is bingo. **Anna**.

Movie, *Emma*, Sunday, Feb. 21, 2:30 p.m.

BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

Books and Bagels, Sunday, Feb. 21, welcomes poet **Rafi Aaron**, who reads from *A Seed in the Pocket of Their Blood* about Jewish life in Europe, immigration to North America, the Holocaust and love and war in Israel, and poet/psychiatrist **Ron Charach** who reads from his latest book of poetry, *Past Wildflowers*, and from previous books, *The Big Life Painting* and *Someone Else's Memoirs*. 11 a.m. Coffee and bagels. Non-members $8.

Seniors Club: Thursday, Feb. 18, 2 p.m., informal talk by Seniors' co-ordinator **Judy Weinryb** on How Humor Reflects Our History and Personal Struggles; Thursday, Feb. 25, 2 p.m., classic film *Hester Street* (1974). Discussion and refreshments follow.

BATHURST JC

Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 636-1880.

Free tax preparation assistance for seniors: income guidelines $15,000 no dependents, $22,000 with dependents, Thursdays March 11, 18, 25, 1-4 p.m. by appointment only. In cooperation with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario. **Teme.**

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20

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Health

Hatzoloh dispatches emergency first aid service

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — In two to three minutes, or even less, part of Toronto's Jewish community can receive emergency first aid service from Hatzoloh, a volunteer organization.

Hatzoloh began in New York in the 1960s as a service mainly for the city's Orthodox population. It can now be found all over the world, including in Israel, Australia, England, Switzerland and Mexico. Montreal has had this service since the winter of 1996.

Heshie Kuhnreich, best known as one of the leaders of the Zemer Orchestra, is executive director of Toronto Hatzoloh. He explained that there are 12 dispatchers, who work from their homes using a sophisticated telephone communication system, and 18 responders, all highly trained emergency medical technicians.

"From a practical point of view, they are equivalent to a standard level 1 Ontario paramedic," he said. They are able to deal with such crises as heart attacks, trauma, allergic reactions, motor vehicle accidents, choking and imminent childbirth.

They are trained to use defibrillators, and to administer basic medications like the epi-pen for allergic reactions, or nitroglycerin. They are not permitted to start IV lines, to prescribe drugs or to transport patients to a hospital.

Hatzoloh is not intended to replace or compete with 911 or Metro ambulance service; indeed, Kuhnreich said, relations are excellent between it and Toronto's emergency service organizations. Rather, he said, one complements the other.

When a person calls Hatzoloh, the dispatcher will quickly decide whether his or her needs will be best met by Hatzoloh, or if 911 should be called as well or instead. If necessary, the dispatcher will call 911, as well as calling the nearest volunteer to respond to the call.

Every volunteer will show an identification badge when he arrives and should not be allowed in without it, Kuhnreich said.

Each responder has in his car a full set of top-of-the-line medical equipment, including braces, splints, oxygen and basic medicines. Some cars have defibrillators, and Kuhnreich said efforts are being made to equip all volunteers with one.

Hatzoloh is connected with the disaster services programs of the city, as it is in most places where it has been introduced. For example, in last year's ice storm in Montreal, it was discovered that the water was not safe to drink. A message was sent out over radio and television, but it was realized that the Orthodox community would not hear it, because it was issued on a Friday night. Urgences Santé, the Montreal emergency services program, took members of Hatzoloh door to door in the Jewish areas to give the warning in person.

Hatzoloh can also be present at large community events, such as it was at the Israel at 50 celebration, in case they are needed.

Kuhnreich said that Hatzoloh is necessary because of the uniqueness of the Jewish community in areas such as language and cultural issues. For instance, he said, "if you respond to a call on Friday night and find a bottle of wine on the table, you have to realize that the family aren't drunks, but are saying kiddush."

Two people respond to each call, said Kuhnreich, and nearly everyone speaks both Hebrew and Yiddish.

All the volunteers are trained not only medically, but also in halachic issues. Questions may arise, for instance, as to whether a person can be transported to hospital on Shabbat, and whether someone in the family can go with him or her.

"Many people simply do not understand the halachahs of how to deal with emergencies, and so they would sooner call Hatzoloh than 911," he said.

At the moment, Hatzoloh only operates between Sheppard and Eglinton avenues and between Avenue Road and Dufferin Street. Plans are being made to expand service up Bathurst to Thornhill as soon as enough volunteers are available and trained.

The organization also wants to offer community education programs, such as CPR and first aid techniques. It plans to sell neon street numbers at wholesale prices, and already has stickers with their emergency phone number, to be put on the telephone.

One should not fear that if one calls Hatzoloh, it will result in poorer care from regular emergency services. Kuhnreich noted that frequently by the time an ambulance or paramedic unit or fire department arrives, Hatzoloh volunteers have stabilized the patient, obtained a complete history, contacted family and generally calmed everyone down.

In fact, Ron Kelusky, acting general manager of Toronto Ambulance, wrote in a letter to Toronto Ambulance supervisors and crews: "I have committed that this department will work with them as partners in community medicine, and develop interactive protocols to ensure appropriate response and quality service."

The emergency phone number is 780-9991. For information, or to get the stickers, call 780-1484.

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Haredi/secular conflict in Israel heats up

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — If the High Court of Justice does not stop its involvement in religious affairs, there will be war, the organizer of Sunday's haredi demonstration against the court threatened after the rally ended.

More than 250,000 people attended the demonstration, while another 40,000 attended a counter-demonstration in support of the court, according to police estimates.

"If after this demonstration, the High Court is not convinced to cease involvement in church-state issues, there will be war," said demonstration organizer Menahem Porush. "The people who were here are ready to invade any space."

Porush attacked Justice Minister Tzachi Hanegbi for his participation in the counter-demonstration, saying he "betrayed us."

MK Moshe Gafni, secretary-general of Degel Hatorah, also said he hoped the demonstration would prove effective. "A democratic country cannot ignore 300,000 to 400,000 people taking to the streets," he said. "If it does, there will be a terrible situation here."

"The demonstration was a springboard, not an ending point," added demonstration spokesman Dudi Zilberschlag. "If the demonstration doesn't help, we will get two million signatures on a petition and continue the battle to end judicial activism."

Some 2,000 policemen were brought into Jerusalem to ensure order at the demonstrations. Besides one attempt by 10 students to demonstrate immediately opposite the Haredim – which was quickly dispersed – both demonstrations went off peacefully.

Almost all of those who attended the anti-court demonstration were Haredim, though a smattering of national religious demonstrators could be seen.

The demonstration, at the old central bus station in Jerusalem, overflowed its boundaries, and many people were forced to climb on roofs, balconies and even pillars – sometimes at the risk of their lives – to get a better view of the dais.

Demonstrators arrived on foot from all over Jerusalem, and on buses from all over the country. All of the haredi sects were represented. Even members of the anti-Zionist Toldot Aharon sect, which normally boycotts such events, participated.

Virtually all leading haredi and national religious rabbis attended, including Shas spiritual leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef; Gur Rebbe Yaakov Alter; Rabbi Yosef Shalom Elyashiv; Belzer Rebbe Yissachar Dov Rokach; Vishnitz Rebbe Moshe Hager; Chief Rabbis Yisrael Lau and Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron; and former chief rabbis Avraham Shapira and Mordechai Eliahu, now the spiritual leaders of the National Religious Party.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met last week with chief rabbis Meir Israel Lau (left) and Eliahu Bakshi-Doron in a failed attempt to head off the haredi protest. [RNS/Reuters photo]

The demonstration was also a media event, with dozens of television crews from all over the world in attendance. The organizers set aside a special place for the press on one of the roofs, but so many people attended that the improvised press box was soon taken over by demonstrators.

The crowd bore placards with slogans such as Enough Incitement and The High Court is Dividing the Country.

The demonstration opened with a prayer, followed by the recitation of psalms. It reached its climax an hour and a half later with the responsive recitation of the Shema Yisrael, and closed with the sounding of dozens of shofars.

Afterward, demonstration organizer and acting Agudat Yisrael chair Menahem Porush, read out a resolution calling for an end to incitement against the haredi population, and appealing to the court to stop intervening in religious affairs. The resolution also said the Haredim will

Continued on page 30

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Israel & the Jewish World

U.S. threatens to close its embassy in Damascus

By NITZAN HOROWITZ
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

WASHINGTON — At the end of last week, the United States threatened to recall its ambassador from Syria, after Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas lauded the mobs that had attacked American facilities in Damascus in mid-December, at the height of the Desert Fox military initiative against Iraq.

Tlas's statements to the official newspaper *Tishrin*, which reflects government thinking, infuriated the U.S. State Department. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright telephoned Syria's ambassador in Washington, Walid Mualem, to bitterly protest Tlas' statements.

Albright told Mualem that unless Syria apologized for the boorish statements, the United States would recall its ambassador from Damascus.

A senior American official confirmed to *Ha'aretz* that the United States had lodged an official complaint with the Syrians, protesting Tlas' "scandalous and disgraceful" utterances. The official protest was delivered to the Syrian ambassador in Washington and also directly to the Syrian foreign ministry in Damsacus. "We clarified to the Syrians that we are considering taking the appropriate steps," the official said.

The Americans, who expect an answer from Syria soon, said they are treating the matter with the utmost seriousness.

Violent mobs attacked and stoned the American embassy and the ambassador's home (as well as the British embassy) in Damascus, to protest America's attacks on Iraq. The damage to the facilities has been assessed at about $500,000 (US). *Ha'aretz* has learned that the U.S. Marines guarding the facilities were taken by surprise and were forced to use tear gas to repel and disperse the mobs.

During the attack, Christine Crocker, wife of U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker, was alone in the official ambassadorial residence, and had to barricade herself in one of the rooms in fear for her life. The mobs shattered the windows and burst into the house, smashing furniture and other objects.

A source in Washington said there could be little doubt that the attacks had been approved by the Syrian authorities. "Such things don't happen by coincidence, especially not in Damascus," the source stated. One of the telltale signs, the source said, is the fact that although the incident was serious, no Syrian security forces showed up, although they usually maintain a presence in the quarter where the embassies are located. Another source noted that a nocturnal parade of that kind throughout the city "couldn't have taken place without governmental approval, pure and simple." The attacks were even filmed and the images broadcast on Syrian national television.

At the time, Ambassador Crocker registered an official protest. Deputy Secretary of State Thomas Pickering summoned the Syrian ambassador, who gave him a long lecture. Paradoxically, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al Shara expressed regret for the incident, but claimed the whole thing had been "spontaneous."

Pickering said at the time that he almost called the Syrian ambassador a liar. He added that the United States expected full compensation, and claimed that the Syrian police had joined the furious mobs. "It wasn't a marginal or negligible incident," Pickering said.

The American Foreign Service was also criticized for its inability to deal with the situation properly, and for responding to the Syrian outbreak with cowardice. Popular columnist Willian Safire wrote in the *New York Times* that the Damascus incident was the worst invasion of American territory since the invasion of the American embassy in Iran by students. Conservative Senator Jesse Helms, head of the Senate's foreign relations committee, indicated he intended to hold a Senate hearing to determine who was responsible for the affair.

Rabbi Yosef slams Chief Justice

Continued from page 29

continue their war against the Reform and Conservative movements. Afterward, organizers expressed satisfaction with the results.

"The Torah will win," declared Rabbi David Yosef, who was the first to call Chief Justice Aharon Barak the "enemy of the Jews."

Dudi Zilberschlag, the demonstration's spokesman, said, "We will undermine the legitimacy of the Supreme Court. Everyone will understand that they have to...live with us in peace."

The counter-demonstration in support of the court, – which took place in Jerusalem's Gan Sachar, about half a kilometre from the haredi demonstration – was characterized by loud calls for the separation of church and state. This call was repeated by speakers, including Meretz leader Yossi Sarid, Jewish Agency chair Avraham Burg, Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan and Centrist party candidate Roni Milo. Organizers said they were pleased with the success of the demonstration, having expected only 20,000 people. Thousands of students complained that they were unable to attend because of the lack of buses.

In addition to high school and college students, participants included academics, representatives of the Reform and Conservative movements, and politicians. They bore signs such as "I am a Jew who believes in democracy."

Eitan called for the major parties to unite against the Haredim, and Gesher leader David Levy also spoke in the judges' defence. But the left-wing attendees only applauded for those on their side of the political spectrum. The nadir was hit when Justice Minister Tzachi Hanegbi ascended the dais and was greeted with catcalls. Only strenuous efforts by the organizers quieted the crowd enough to let him speak. During the demonstrations, several Jerusalem streets were closed.

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Israel Election Notebook

May 17

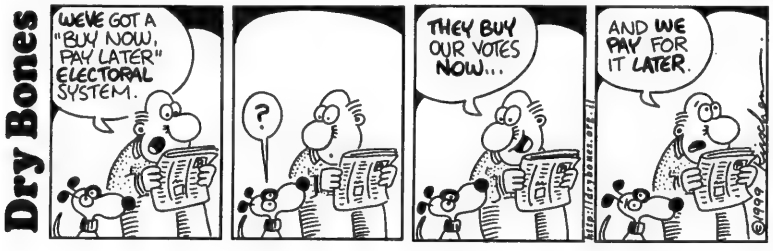
• Allies of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu fared worse than expected in the Likud party's primaries, prompting some Likud officials to call the results a slap in the face to the prime minister. Likud veteran Moshe Arens, whom Netanyahu had described prior to the primary as part of his "leading team," ranked 26th in the party's list of Knesset candidates. Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon dropped several slots to eighth place.

• Fifty-five political parties are expected to take part in the upcoming elections. The total was announced when the deadline passed for registering parties to take part in the vote for the 15th Knesset.

• The Meretz party re-elected Yossi Sarid to head its list in the elections. Current Knesset members Ran Cohen, Chaim Oron and Amnon Rubinstein took the next three slots on the party's list.

• The daughter of slain prime minister Yitzhak Rabin joined Israel's still-unnamed centrist party headed by former defence minister Yitzhak Mordechai. Dalia Rabin-Philosof, a lawyer, will run in the party's sixth slot in the elections.

These election posters in Givatayim are on a street, whose name, ironically, is Valley of Blessing. [Israel Sun photo]



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The struggle for peace without King Hussein

By ILAN GEWURZ

Guest Voices

"As long as I live, I will be proud to have known him and to have worked with him as a brother and as a friend. I commit myself to continue to do my utmost that we leave a similar legacy. And when my time comes, I hope it will be like my grandfather's and like Yitzhak Rabin's."

These were the closing words of the late King Hussein's address at the funeral of the late Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin. Now, "his time" has arrived, and in Israel he is indeed being remembered, not only as a great leader, but as a symbol of the struggle for peace.

King Hussein and Yitzhak Rabin, signing peace documents, during more optimistic times. [RNS]

However, I believe that real questions lie not just in the legacy he leaves behind, but in the challenges that his life and subsequent death pose to the populations living in the aftermath of his rule.

In the heart of Tel Aviv at the site commemorating the assassination of Rabin, a memorial service was rapidly organized in memory of King Hussein. Candles were lit and a video that had been prepared in advance recapturing his life was shown, with special emphasis on his commitment to and achievements in the realm of peace.

A book of condolences, open for all passers-by to write in, was put together to be sent to the royal family from the citizens of the State of Israel.

However, the subtle hidden message, latent yet ever too relevant, behind the loving appreciation for a great leader and expressed commitment to the continued struggle for peace, was the deep despair and sense of hopelessness of a nation bereaved of leadership and vision.

Israel is a country that has seen numerous wars; its citizens have lived through countless challenges and many difficult periods. However, throughout, there has always been a deeply embedded belief, or perhaps hope that "all will turn out for the best." There was always a sense that wars could not go on forever, that at some point after all, the hostility would be over, and peace would remain as the only possible existing reality.

Today that sense of hope, the belief that longing for peace is not entirely in vain, seems to have died along with the leaders who have come to symbolize that vision. It is this attitudinal change, the lack of faith stemming from an inability to remain hopeful and build upon the legacies of those leaders who were committed to peace that leaves an overwhelming sense of directionlessness among this country's citizens.

It seems as though the passing of great leaders such as Rabin and Hussein has not merely left a legacy of their commitment to peace, but has created a paralysis, an inability to envision an optimistic future without them. The idealization and mythification around these truly great men has left talk of peace largely directed towards the achievements of the past. The danger in this process is that it leaves the people with a deep sense of despair and little motivation to actively pursuit any type of vision of peace.

"Since 1995 I have wanted to meet you," writes one young Israeli woman in the book of condolences, "and tell you how much I love you and your way of peace. I always believed that I would get the chance to meet you and it makes me want to cry to think that I will never get the opportunity. So now, all I can say is goodbye."

Through the remembrance and mourning of this great figure, the feeling of disarray and frustration which exists among Israelis can be felt in the air. "Great men of peace," one man writes. "So lonely is the world without you both."

For Israelis, the death of Hussein seems to fit right in with the sentiment of having lost any real vision of peace. They continue to mourn a peace that no longer seems possible, a vision that no longer seems attainable, a dream that no longer seems plausible and a hope that no longer succeeds in instilling faith, optimism and drive towards activism in the hearts of this country's youth.

The real challenge that Israelis face today after the passing of another great symbol of peace, is how to build upon the achievements of the past and re-inspire the citizens of this country. For without a dream to look forward to, without a vision to believe in, how can the struggle towards peace continue and how can the legacy of great leaders truly be kept alive?

Ilan Gewurz, a former CJN *columnist, is a Dorot Foundation fellow presently living in Israel.*

Feb. 8

• Lawyers for El Al Israel Airlines reportedly asked the attorney general for permission to fly on Shabbat.

Feb. 9

• Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised to "energize and accelerate" efforts for peace with the Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon in response to the death of King Hussein. Speaking on American television, Netanyahu said he and Syrian President Hafez Assad would "sit together, one way or another, in the same tent."

Feb. 10

• Israel will free an Egyptian who is the longest-serving Arab prisoner in an Israeli jail. President Ezer Weizman decided to commute the sentence of Mohammed Sawarka, who served 22 years in jail for planting a mine that killed an Israeli soldier.

• The Shin Bet, Israel's domestic security agency has softened some its interrogation methods, according to a lawyer for a Palestinian detained by the agency.

Feb. 11

• The Supreme Court ordered stepped-up security for its justices. The move came after several haredi leaders lashed out at recent court rulings, calling the judges anti-religious. President Ezer Weizman visited Ovadiah Yosef, the spiritual leader of the Shas party, in an attempt to head off a planned anti-court rally Sunday.

Feb. 12

• *Ha'aretz* reported that Jordan's King Abdullah is planning an official visit to Israel after the mourning period for his father is completed. He told a visiting delegation of Israelis that the people of Israel should view him as "a brother and a supportive friend."

• Chief of staff Shaul Mofaz called upon soldiers to be especially cautious. Security officials have received credible warnings in the past months about the intention of terror groups to kidnap soldiers. Two such kidnapping attempts were recently foiled.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Jordan's King Abdullah planning close ties with Israel

By DOUGLAS DAVIS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LONDON — One of the first acts of Jordan's King Abdullah will be to authorize the resumption of strategic cooperation with Israel.

This will include the restoration of full-scale intelligence cooperation, according to well-placed sources in Amman quoted by the *Foreign Report* newsletter.

This is expected to lead to the reopening of an Israeli intelligence station in Amman – described as a "gold mine" for officials with Mossad, the Jewish State's foreign intelligence agency.

Abdullah is also reported to be ready to renew strategic understandings, such as the late King Hussein's secret agreement during the 1991 Gulf War granting the Israeli air force the right to fly over Jordan, if necessary, en route to Iraq.

In exchange, Israel will provide a written commitment not to conduct any operations in Jordan, such as the botched Mossad attempt in September 1997 to assassinate Hamas official Khaled Mashaal in Amman, a move that prompted

King Abdullah

Hussein to shut down the Mossad station.

The London-based newsletter reported this week that Efraim Halevy, who heads Mossad, met his Jordanian counterpart, Samikh Batikhi, after Hussein's funeral and that they agreed to hold further talks.

It also reported that the resumption of deep strategic cooperation is the result of past secret contacts between Abdullah, then a major general commanding Jordan's Special Forces, and former Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, now a candidate for prime minister in Israel's May elections.

According to the newsletter, Mordechai delivered a favorable report after secretly visiting Amman at the request of Hussein to observe the training of Jordan's special forces units and to assess Abdullah's military abilities.

Abdullah made a reciprocal secret visit to Defense Ministry headquarters in Tel Aviv as Mordechai's guest last year, before his father's health deteriorated, and later urged his father to reinstate the special strategic relationship with Israel.

"Now that Abdullah is king," said the newsletter, "he will do this himself."

It is also expected that Turkey will tie itself more closely to the Israeli-Jordanian strategic understanding through three-way, counter-terrorism exercises and the assignment of Turkish liaison officers to join their Israeli and Jordanian counterparts.

IDF approves strategic plan

By DOUGLAS DAVIS
Jewish Telegraph Agency

LONDON — A recently approved strategic plan for the next century will give the Israel Defence Force a global reach, according to the London-based newsletter *Foreign Report*.

The plan – described by the newsletter as "ambitious, extraordinary and radical" – will enable the IDF to deal more effectively with international terrorism and with potential threats from such countries as Iran, Pakistan and the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan.

According to the report, the IDF will build a strategic command to deal with the threats rather than rely on creating ad-hoc forces to deal with emergencies as they arise.

The new command, which will be headed by a general who reports directly to the army chief of staff, will be constructed in four stages.

The first will involve the creation of an intelligence infrastructure in countries that do not border Israel – a massive operation that will involve the installation of eavesdropping devices and other monitoring systems, as well as making preparations for electronic warfare and computer espionage.

This task would normally be handled by the Mossad foreign intelligence service, but the strategic command will turn the project over to Israel's military intelligence service, Aman, according to *Foreign Report*.

The second stage will involve the gathering of intelligence data from distant sources. This is expected to occur some two years after the first stage begins.

The third stage will involve building a force capable of operating far from Israel. A first step toward creating that force began with the recent delivery from the United States of a squadron of F-15I jet fighters, which is now operative.

The aircraft are bought "naked" in the United States and, after arriving in Israel, undergo substantial modifications, including the fitting of sophisticated Israeli electronic equipment, the newsletter reported.

The F-15I squadron is intended exclusively for long-distance missions by the strategic command, including a possible bombing raid against nuclear installations in Iran. The jets are capable of travelling to their targets and returning to base without the need to refuel.

At the same time, a special full-time commando force will be trained for strategic missions beyond Israel's borders.

In the fourth stage, the chief of staff will coordinate all the ingredients of the new command. These include intelligence data from Aman, as well as the training of F-15I air and ground crews and the army commandos.

Also at this stage, Israeli officials envisage cooperation with the United States and Britain through liaison officers.

According to *Foreign Report*, Israel believes these are the only two governments that share the Jewish state's security concerns – and are willing to fight terrorism beyond their frontiers.

The family of the late

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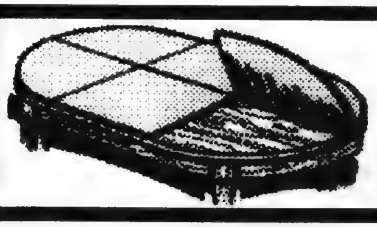

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Glaring gaffes mar movie

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Antoine de Caunes and Elsa Zylberstein in *Man Is A Woman.*

Man Is A Woman, one of the movies to be shown at next week's Cinefranco film festival at the Cumberland 4 theatre, rests on two shaky premises.

Jean-Jacques Zilbermann's romantic comedy, which takes place in Paris and in Brooklyn, turns on the improbable relationship and subsequent marriage between a gay, secular man and an Orthodox Jewish woman.

In real life, anything is possible, of course. But *Man Is A Woman*, which opens at Cineplex Odeon theatres on March 26, stretches reality beyond the realm of plausibility.

The protagonists are Simon (Antoine de Caunes), a musician who can play a mean klezmer tune with a clarinet, and Rosalie (Elsa Zylberstein), a devotee of Jewish tradition and religion, as well as a Yiddishist and a singer.

Rosalie, whose parents are Chassidic Jews, first catches a glimpse of Simon at his cousin's wedding in Paris. When Simon's mother coyly suggests that Rosalie is romantically interested in him, he archly reminds her of his sexual orientation.

Simon's wealthy uncle, a banker and Holocaust survivor who wants to perpetuate the family name, is undeterred. He offers Simon 10 million francs and a mansion if he drops his objection to marriage. And in a cynical aside, Simon's opportunistic mother reminds him that he can always divorce Rosalie.

Having set the scene, Zilbermann arranges for the young couple to meet. Sparks fly, she is smitten and Simon is hooked. Rosalie decides that her parents and Simon should meet.

At first, Rosalie's father, a cold, stuffy businessman, dislikes Simon. But eventually, he warms to him, as does Rosalie's brother Daniel, a self-professed homosexual who's estranged from Orthodoxy.

As Simon's involvement with Rosalie deepens, he confesses that he is a "total virgin" with women, but not with men. The bombshell doesn't seem to faze Rosalie, and the lovers are wed.

Man Is A Woman, which is shown with English subtitles and which explores universal themes like love and lust and deceit and acceptance, flounders on two counts.

What viewer can accept the farfetched premise that Rosalie, the product of a cloistered haredi background, lives without a chaperone in a foreign city and thinks and acts like a free spirit?

And, more to the point, how believable is it that a dyed-in-the-wool gay man can, even for a price, suddenly and sincerely enjoy a full heterosexual relationship?

In light of these glaring gaffes, how can one truly immerse oneself in this film?

Man Is A Woman will be screened on Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m. For information about Cinefranco, call 928-6595.

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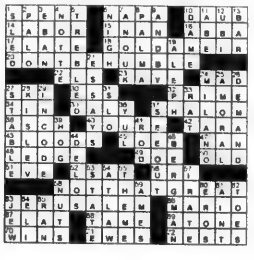

Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

KLEZMER COMES TO CLINTON'S

Toronto's highly-acclaimed **Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band** returns to Clinton's Tavern, 693 Bloor St. near Christie, where they first began performing in public 12 years ago.

The band brings its high-energy, soulful klezmer music Feb. 18 & 19, with the first set beginning at 9 p.m. each evening. ($7 at the door.)

The band has just returned from a three-week tour of Sweden, and is set to tour in Western Canada and the United States following the Toronto performances. Afterwards they plan to enter the recording studio to produce a fourth CD.

* * *

Home Sought for Yiddish Books: Thousands of Yiddish books, currently sitting in storage at the Albert J. Latner Jewish Public Library in north Toronto, need a new residence.

The books, which belong to the Committee for Yiddish of the UJA-Federation, were packed in boxes a few years ago, when space at the library became too tight to display them. Now the boxes are becoming buried beneath other boxes.

"We're looking for a new home for the books, somewhere where we can display and use them," says the Committee's **Bess Shockett**. "We also need able-bodied people to move them and set them up on shelves." 635-2883 ext. 155.

* * *

Books & Bagels: The next instalment of the Bloor JCC's popular literary brunch features poet **Rafi Aaron** and poet-psychiatrist **Ron Charach**, along with the regular bagels, creamcheese and coffee. Feb. 21, 11 a.m. Members free, non-members $8. 750 Spadina Ave., at Bloor. 924-6211.

* * *

Novel Approach to Middle East: Montreal-born new author **Peter Ginsberg** was in Indigo's Richmond Hill store last week to promote his first novel, *Katifa*, "a story about the real Middle East, the Middle East of ordinary human beings."

Ginsberg, now a professional engineer, emigrated to Israel in 1972, served as a tank gunner in the Israeli Army, and returned to Canada in 1978. His book is "shocking, disturbing, and absolutely unforgettable," says an Indigo press release.

Katifa is available at Indigo Books, 8705 Yonge St. at Highway 7.

* * *

Attention Young Composers: The Song of Songs Artists Collective, with the Bloor JCC, Trinity-St. Paul's United Church and the Bathurst Jewish Centre, intend to commission a new choral work to be part of an upcoming program featuring artists from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds.

Composers under the age of 30 are invited to submit a choral work, a cappella and no divisi, three to five minutes in length and in any language. The work should be based on any part of the text of the Song of Songs. Submissions are due by March 15.

A jury will choose the winning entry, which merits a $500 prize and a premiere performance as part of a larger program May 26 & 30 at Trinity-St. Paul's Centre, and June 2 at the Leah Posluns Theatre.

The program also includes the **Toronto Chamber Choir**, the **Trinity-St. Paul's Choir**, the **Lachan Choir**, **Benjamin Maissner**, **Milton Barnes**, the **Me-irim Dance Company** and **Shula Saltzman**. For details, contact David Failla or Brad Ratziaff, 922-4954.

* * *

In the Spotlight: Feminist author-journalist **Michele Landsberg** is the focus of the Vision TV documentary *Michele Landsberg: Iron In Her Soul*, set to air March 3 at 9 p.m. The doc also features interviews with **Gloria Steinem** and **Judy Rebick**.

The 60-minute production captures a seldom-seen Landsberg with her husband, *Stephen Lewis*, and their three adult children. Friends and associates also recount the events and battles of her political activism and show how her crusades have elicited a public response, changed attitudes and provoked reaction from governments.

Landsberg also speaks about her battle with breast cancer in the mid-1990s, during which she found strength in gardening.

The program is being presented as part of a series of five shows about women, in celebration of International Women's Day, March 8. Four Women of Egypt is the instalment set to air March 5.

Ford Centre gets funding

TORONTO — Toronto City Council has extended funding to the Ford Centre for the Performing Arts. This funding secures the presentation of the 1999-2000 concert season at the George Weston Recital Hall.

Beginning in September, the season will include classical, jazz, Celtic and klezmer concerts, featuring notable Canadian artists, including the Canadian Opera Company.

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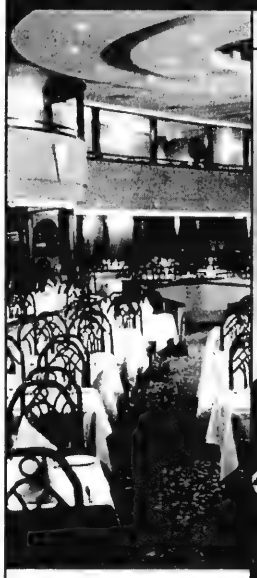

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TRAVEL TALK

BY BILL GLADSTONE

JORDAN IN TRANSITION

With the world's eyes on Jordan last week for the funeral of King Hussein, I have occasion to recall my two extremely interesting visits to that country, once in the late 1980s and again in the late 1990s, after the lapse of a decade.

On my first visit, I rode into the fabled rock-carved city of Petra on horseback. That is no longer allowed, because of the increased numbers of visitors that Petra now receives daily.

On my return visit I couldn't help but notice the tremendous improvements that Jordan had made to its tourist infrastructure. The presently-stalled peace process had injected new life into the tourism industry, provoking a spurt of new hotels, restaurants, tour companies and other service industries.

Hydro wires were being strung up to bring electricity to some remote desert villages for the first time. Many hotels were being built, especially around Petra, an area that previously lacked the water resources to accommodate a rise in visitors. Improvements were evident at almost every site I visited. Among other factors, the peace agreement and open borders with Israel had invigorated the economy.

I travelled with a contingent of five Canadian travel writers who were official guests of the Jordanian government. Our guide was a Canadian woman of Jordanian descent, Sahar Jarrar, a representative of Royal Jordanian Airlines. Sahar and her husband had been close friends of the royal family and she had gone to school with the late queen. Connected to a powerful political family, she was a niece of a former prime minister.

In the late 1960s, as a Jordanian government official in Libya, she had been kidnapped by Libya's Khadafi regime and imprisoned for months as a political pawn. Sahar, in short, had stories to tell. She seemed to know everybody, and gave us many introductions to people who would otherwise have been inaccessible.

Geopolitically, Jordan redefines the phrase "between a rock and a hard place," as I learned in talks with government ministers. The Hashemite Kingdom's relations with Syria are far from neighborly, and are often deeply problematic with Iran as well.

Despite our obvious political differences, which we chose not to explore, Sahar persuaded me of Jordan's good will towards the peace process. If Jordan has extended a hand in peace to Israel, it is because it is reaching for something it genuinely wants.

Since the trip was co-sponsored by the Israeli Ministry of Tourism, after the Jordanian segment we crossed at the Arava border crossing near Aqaba-Eilat, and spent several days in Israel. Perhaps Sahar detected a complementary sense of good will underlying the supercharged political atmosphere in Israel, which she was visiting for the first time.

Among Israelis, some pundit has commented, King Hussein was so well respected that he could have been elected prime minister. His successor, Abdullah, says he will continue the peace process endorsed by his father, a good sign for the long-term stability of the region.

I look forward to returning to the beautiful country of Jordan some day.

* * *

Toronto-Tel Aviv, Non-Stop: Starting March 28, El Al Israel Airlines offers two non-stop flights from Toronto to Tel Aviv each week. The flights depart Toronto on Sundays and Thursdays in the early afternoon, and reach Tel Aviv the following morning.

Along with the new non-stop flights, El Al continues to offer Monday and Wednesday service from Toronto with a stop for passengers in Montreal. The airline's four weekly flights from Toronto have a total capacity of more than 800 seats, providing plenty of options for Canadian travellers.

* * *

Viennese Celebration: This year the Austrian capital, Vienna, is commemorating the 100th anniversary of the death of composer Johann Strauss (1825-1899). The Canadian charter airline Canada 3000 is commencing weekly flights from Toronto to Vienna on May 10. Return fares start at $699.

The Vienna Tourist Board has republished its full-color, 20-page brochure on Jewish Vienna & Austria. For a complimentary copy, contact the Austrian National Tourist Office, 967-3381; email anto-tor@sympatico.ca. Also available at no charge is *All Austria in Your Pocket*, a very good compact guide to the whole country.

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Authors & Poets

The CJN is pleased to announce the third annual Passover Literary Supplement. We therefore invite the authors and poets among our readers to submit their works to us. We are looking only for works of fiction or poetry that explore Jewish themes.

The works must be original and previously unpublished. The fiction cannot be longer than 1,500 words. We must receive your works ***no later than February 26, 1999*** at *The CJN*, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, Ontario M3B 3K4. If you want us to return the submissions, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Otherwise, we will be unable to do so.

—The editor

El Al seeks an end to Shabbat restrictions

BY ZOHAR BLUMENKRANTZ
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — El Al has petitioned Israel's Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein to cancel the restrictions precluding it from operating on Shabbat and Jewish holidays.

Company CEO Joel Feldschuh and chairman Joseph Ciechanover told El Al's board of directors last week why the airline wants to end the ban on breaching the Sabbath, which dates from 1982.

Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom intends to allow other carriers to compete with El Al, but Rubinstein had stated that these airlines could not be proscribed from operating on Shabbat. El Al's board concluded that the airline has to resume operations on Shabbat in order to remain viable.

Meanwhile, KAL chairman Arye Nehemkin called on Yahalom to immediately open the aerial cargo transport sector to competition. He promised that the company would not fly on Shabbat.

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Remembering the master of klezmer

By ERIC STEIN
Special to the CJN

On Feb. 14, a significant milestone of Jewish cultural life passed without much notice. On that date, 10 years ago, the legendary clarinetist Dave Tarras died at 91.

Tarras is recognized by musicians and scholars as one of the most important innovators of 20th century Jewish music. It was largely from his style that what we know today as modern klezmer music developed.

Tarras was born into a family of musicians in Ternovka, Ukraine, in 1897. He began formal music lessons at an early age, showing immediate talent on the balalaika, mandolin and flute. In his early teens he discovered his true musical voice in the rich sonority of the clarinet.

In 1921, Tarras emigrated to America. At Ellis Island, he watched in horror as customs officials destroyed his instrument with a routine fumigation.

In retrospect, it was a small price to pay, for Tarras was among the last lucky few to arrive before the U.S. government introduced immigration restriction laws and by 1924, had completely suspended all Eastern European immigration to America.

Tarras settled in New York and spent a year working in the fur trade before he purchased a new horn. He soon took a few small jobs playing weddings and other simchahs, entertaining immigrant Jews hungry for the sounds of the "old country." But he had still yet to realize his musical gifts would provide him a career.

At that time, New York's self-appointed "King of Jewish Music" was the brilliant but undisciplined clarinetist Naftule Brandwein. Brandwein's fabled virtuosity was surpassed only by his outrageous antics, volatile personality and taste for alcohol.

After seeing Brandwein perform, Tarras had an epiphany. As he later recalled: "I heard Naftule play – it was a good experience. I figured if he's a star, I can do better."

Becoming a fulltime musician, Tarras soon supplanted Brandwein as the top Jewish clarinetist on the scene. Bandleaders like Joseph Cherniavsky, Abe Schwartz and Alexander Olshanetsky preferred Tarras' cool professionalism, refined technique and excellent sight-reading abilities to Brandwein's unpredictability and lack of formal skills.

Tarras' timing could not have been better, for the Depression and war years would be the golden age of Yiddish music in America. He rapidly became a top-draw on the "Borscht Belt", the circuit of hotels and resorts in the Catskills mountains.

Back in the city, Tarras became a fixture in the Yiddish theatre, playing for hundreds of productions and backing such legendary performers as Aaron Lebendeff, Molly Picon and Seymour Rechtzeit. As demand for his services grew, and as composers began writing with his talents in mind, the Tarras "sound' in many ways came to define Yiddish theatre music.

Tarras' recording career also took flight. As a leader, featured soloist, or section-player, he would eventually appear on more than 500 records, often uncredited.

Listening to the recordings made at the pinnacle of his career, Tarras' virtuosity is unmistakable. These records sound as alive and exciting today as the day they were recorded. Tarras plays with both passion and control; his tone is rich, his phrasing lyrical and inventive. His astounding precision makes the most complex passages sound effortlessly smooth.

His original compositions and contemporary arrangements of old-world melodies also testify to his genius. As none other before him, Tarras updated the style and repertoire of Jewish music that had been brought over from Europe, turning it into a thoroughly Americanized form, yet no less authentically Jewish.

***

In the decades after WWII, however, Tarras' career slowed as the audience for *heymishe* Yiddish music shrunk. The twin effects of Americanization and prolonged immigration restrictions had left the Borscht Belt and Yiddish theatre in decline. First-and second-generation descendants of the immigrant generation were simply less interested in Yiddish music, identifying more with American styles like jazz and later rock and folk.

Tarras and his contemporaries attempted to adjust to these shifts by mixing swing rhythms and complex jazz orchestrations with the Yiddish style. Some of these experiments resulted in highly sophisticated musical statements, like the brilliant 1956 album *Tantz! (Dance)*

Nonetheless, *Tantz!* and others like it failed to find a market. As Tarras later explained: "The stores said 'It's a good record, it's beautiful, but if it's jazz we want, we got Benny Goodman.' It's not Jewish cause it's mixing in too much jazz and it's not jazz cause it's mixing in too much Jewish." *Tantz!* was simply too far ahead of its time.

Though Tarras had little trouble finding work in the late '50s and '60s, he eased into a not-altogether voluntary retirement.

***

But in the '70s, resurgent interest in Jewish instrumental music, now dubbed "klezmer", inspired a massive revival of form. Tarras was at first amused by the revival. He puzzled over the term "klezmer", which in his day had been an insult referring, in his words, to "a guy that couldn't play – he could only scratch out a tune for the cheap goyim."

But whatever the term, Tarras appreciated his coronation as a living master. In 1979 he recorded his first album in years, and though by the age of 80 his skills had begun to diminish, he was once again in demand as a performer.

Tarras received all sorts of media attention in the last decade of his life and received numerous commendations. When he died, by his wishes, his clarinets were bequeathed to his protegé Andy Statman.

***

Dave Tarras' impact on 20th Century Jewish music is sometimes overlooked. His contemporary, Benny Goodman, is often thought of first when the subject turns to Jewish clarinetists. Though Goodman was himself a master, he built his career in jazz and knew little about playing Jewish-styled music. It was Tarras, in fact, who established the instantly recognizable sound of the Jewish clarinet.

Like very few others in the history of modern music, Tarras' legacy can be measured in the degree to which his own personal style and body of work has come to typify an entire genre. All the facets of his playing – his tone, phrasing, ornamentation, compositions and repertoire – make up the elements of a style that is more popular today, worldwide, than ever.

It is with good reason that Tarras has been dubbed the "father of Yiddish-American klezmer music." Fusing the centuries-old tradition of European-Jewish music with the progressive spirit of his adopted home, Tarras bridged the gaps between past and present, between Europe and America.

(The author acknowledges the scholarship of Henry Sapoznik as the main source of bibliographical information about David Tarras.)

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4 bdrm. stacked townhouse, reno. cathedral ceilings + amazing space.

BAYVIEW/JOHN-$169,000
3 bdrm. townhouse, huge kitchen. Best price in area.

Call to view these properties or for a free appraisal on your property

SEIDMAN
REAL ESTATE LIMITED REALTOR
633-7373

BATHURST WILSON $149,900
3 bdrm. condo, huge liv. & din., baths & lndry. ens., parquet flrs., replaced kit., 5 appls., balc., A-1 buy. Don't Miss!

• • •

OVERBROOK FINCH
Large split level, 3 bdrms., 3 baths, family room, fin. bsmnt., double garage, steps to all!

• • •

BATHURST SHEPPARD
Ideal starter, 3 bdrms., 2 baths, finished basement, large lot.

• • •

A. & D. SEIDMAN 633-7373

WESTMOUNT location, 5 bdrms., 2 kitchens, stunning ravine w/o from basement, many upgrades, $579,000.

50 DALLAS ROAD, stunning new custom-built 2 storey, 4,000 sq. ft. home on 53 x 170 ft. lot, 9' ceilings. Many extras can still be chosen! $699,000.

PRIMROSE I, 2 bdrm. corner unit, updated, reduced, immediate, $239,900.

Call **Saul Goldkind**
Sutton Group Admiral Realty
416-739-7200

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Bath/Lawrence, lovely 2 stry., 3 bdr home, 4 appl., gar, sunrm, bsmt, $1600/mo+ util. 364-1063

Clanton Park area, lge., 4 bdr., newly reno'd. 905-660-1919.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

STOP SHOVELLING SNOW!!!

Skymark Living - Two plus one condominium, beautiful condition, hardwood floors - asking $259,200.

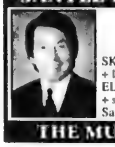
Canyon Towers - Two plus one condominium, only suite in the building for sale, freshly painted - Exclusive asking $159,000.

Call to view
David Papernick
HomeLife/Bayview
905-889-2200
Make the right Moove!!

Bath./Lawrence - Crystal Towers. 2 bd., 2 bth., PH, lux., full uprg, great views 416-787-2468

30 CONDOMINIM FOR SALE

SANTEE REALTY INC. (416) 441-2003



SKYMARK
DON MILLS & FINCH (TORONTO)
SKYMARK II: Exquisite penthouse, 2 bedrooms & family room + large balcony with panoramic view. This price won't last. ELEGANCE : well upgraded, 2 bedrooms + family room + sun + south exposure, 775 sq. ft. For our updated inventory, contact Santee Leung, F.R.I., Skymark Specialist

THE MULTI-LINGUAL CONNECTION

Bath./Centre - 1,253 sq. ft., 2 bdrm. + sol., 2 bth., 5 appl., rec. fac., pkg., sec, locker. $197,500 Private. 905-731-3958.

Ten Prue Ave. - Lux 2 bdr., 1600 sq. ft., 2 undergrnd pkg., quiet, secure bldg., adjacent to shul. 783-7249.

Yonge/Clark - lux. 1565 sq. ft., marble, herringbone hrdwd., designer kit., 5 appl., many upgr., Asking $289,900. 905-707-1177

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

130 Neptune - New decor, 2 bdrm., 2 full bth., new kit., walk-in closet, undergrnd pkg., pool, $1250/mo. 905-771-9727.

60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION

Bath/Steeles, 2 bdr furn apt. to share,n/smkr,$420/m. 665-9967

75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

120 SHELBORNE AVE.
(Sabbath Elevator)
Bachelor & 1 Bedroom Apts. For Rent
Well Maintained Bldg.
Close to T.T.C., Shopping & Synagogues
For Viewing & Information
Call **241-8561** Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

Alexander Towers, Hollywood lux. oceanfront 2 bdrm. condo. Full amen. incl. maid service, valet pkg, elegant furn. $1000 per week. Negotiable for varied durations. 416-789-3271.

Spring Break/Passover/Read Week. Lux., spacious apts. & homes. 416-445-6200.

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT

ANBER MOVERS
(LOCAL MOVING)
SPECIALIST IN:
TORONTO ↔ VANCOUVER
NEW YORK ↔ FLORIDA
(514) 735-8148
1-800-561-MOVE

Hemispheres - 2 bdrm., 2 bth., oceanfront, high flr., furn., tennis, etc. 954-454-2935.

75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

BATHURST WILSON

NEWLY DECORATED SPACIOUS 1, 2 & 3 BDRMS.
- Large balconies
- Central air conditioning and heating
- Hardwood Floors
- Sunken living rooms
- Surveillance cameras and card access system
- Outdoor swimming pool
- Close to conveniences and TTC
- Underground parking available

CONVENIENT NORTH YORK LOCATION

125 Neptune Dr.
(416) 787-7171

1 bdrm in newly reno'd bsmnt. by Wilson subway. Pref. Non-smkr., single prof., lau., cable, pkg., $550/mo. 416-398-7478.

Bath./Baycrest,spac. bsmt apt, new kit & bth, exc loc. n/smkr, n/pets. $500/mo. 782-5887.

Bath./Eglinton, lge 2 bdr., main flr duplex, lau., pkg., dishwasher. Util. incl. Apr. 1. 781-5145.

Bath./Lawrence - 1 bdrm. bsmt apt., near TTC, no pets/smoke, $580/mo. all incl. 416-780-9363

Bath./Lawrence - brand new 2 bdrm. bsmt., $1000 incl. 3 appl. Avail immed. 416-787-3316.

55 ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Seeking apt. or condo rental in central Toronto, south of Lawrence. Tenant is responsible professional with references. For one person. Max rent $1,000. Required April 1. Basement not acceptable. You would feel comfortable renting this tenant a self-contained suite within your home or leasing your condo. 416-762-0372.

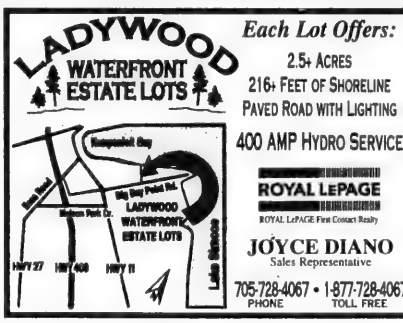
BATHURST-SHEPPARD
Very lg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrms., ample closets, some 1½ baths & 2 balc., roof, laundry, ravine setting, pool, ind. pkg., 6 apts. per flr. From $900.
960-3238 - Bus.
631-9377 or 631-0388 - Super

155 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR SALE

RAANANA LOTUS HEIGHTS
Dramatic new stunning apartments, great location, for sale by developer. For this and other projects throughout Israel, please all our New York sales office:
Phone **212-213-2866**
www.thegammagroup.com

IT PAY$ TO ADVERTISE IN THE CJN CLASSIFIEDS
CALL TANYA AT (416) 391-1636
10% Advertising Rebate
CJN Classifieds Really Work!

180 OUT-OF-TOWN PROPERTIES



240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Kettle Creek Clothing Co.
is seeking an experienced, sales oriented
STORE MANAGER
for our Promenade location. We are in search of an enthusiastic, self-motivated, career oriented individual dedicated to giving outstanding customer service. If you are a leader with outstanding people skills and have a flair for fashion:
Fax your resume **416-256-1146**
Attn: Lisa Morrison.

Traditional Synagogue in Dallas, Texas, 110 yr History, 400+ families, seeks energetic Associate Rabbi to lead youth, family & adult programming and assist Senior Rabbi with all congregational and life cycle events. Fax resume to Attention: Search Committee at 214-739-5625 or e-mail: SteveBlas@Yahoo.com

RECEPTIONIST/ SECRETARY WANTED
Energetic, organized person required for a Jewish charitable organization. Proficiency in MS Word and Excel required. Knowledge of Gift Rap an asset. Fax resume to **(416) 781-6439**

Enthusiastic, creative teachers required for progressive Downtown Jewish Schools for September,1999. SK Junior teacher, Grade 2-3 team teacher for Day School; Hebrew teachers for Community School. Teaching certificate & Judaic studies background required. Relevant experience is an asset. Submit résumé plus 3 references & their phone #'s to: Joan Schoenfeld, c/o Bloor JCC, 750 Spadina Ave., Toronto, M5S 2J2 or Fax: (416) 924-0442.

248 CAMPS

Instructors/Lifeguards wanted for day camp. Must have Red Cross Instructors and NLS. Fax resume to 905-731-0005 or mail to Lubavitch Day Camp, 770 Chabad Gate, Thornhill, Ont., L4J 4V9. Attn: Swim Director.

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Experienced cleaning lady avail., refs. Sophia 532-6693.

Friendly staff of Sunshine Services, will clean, cook, shop, keep company or care for the elderly. 416-503-8788.

Frustrated by trying to find a suitable nanny? Let us help you. We have dependable, caring nannies who are thoroughly qualified, personally interviewed & pre-screened. All refs. are checked. Some are CPR trained. Low finders fee.
Wee Care Placement Agency
416-789-3070

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

GOLDEN CARE LTD.
There's *no place* like HOME!
*Experienced Caregivers Live-in & Live-out
*Reference & Police Checks
*We only hire **THE BEST!**
*On-going contact with you after placement
THE BEST PERSONAL SERVICE
Honey Hecker
665-4229 or 665-1435

NEED A NANNY?
• No Fee to Employer
APPLE DOMESTICS
(416) 730-0127

Experienced live-in Filipino Caregivers available from Israel.
ELLA'S DOMESTICS
Nannies, Housekeepers, Companions. Live-in or Live-out.
(416) 221-5114

TLC
PLACEMENT SERVICES
Looking for a reliable nanny-housekeeper? Live in & live out nannies available. Reasonable rates. Excellent service.
905-882-9149

Exp. cleaning lady will clean home or apt. Eva 416-769-1393 after 8:00pm.

High quality house cleaning. Call Dora, 736-1179.

Nannies, live-in &out, full &part-time, cleaning. In-home elderly care by RN's & nurses aides. Bonded, refs. **416-224-9907.**
Servicing Toronto since 1985.
NUMBER 1 DOMESTICS.

Polish lady avail. to care for elderly who speak Polish & Russian. 416-503-1582.

Very exp. lady looking to clean homes. Refs. 416-747-7721.

255 DOMESTIC HELP WANTED

Caring companion homemaker req'd for bright, senior lady. Live-in, 5 dys/wk. 416-512-9033

Exp. babysitter for wkends & eves. Refs.920-1774, after 4pm

HCA. Live-in or live-out, light cooking & housekeeping. Refs. 416-789-5505.

257 HEALTHCARE AVAILABLE

Personal Support Worker will care for sick or elderly in their home. Call evenings, 615-1970.

Private nurse avail. to care for senior ladies. 416-492-4270.

259 SENIORS

Resident Placement Service (Retirement) for Jewish Seniors.
For information contact:
Ellie Salbil, Placement
Co-ordinator **(416) 330-6469**

260 BUSINESS PERSONALS

Jewish Singles Registry. Over 1710 registered. **416-483-4151.**

Toronto Premier Rainbow Dating Services
Best Gay Dating Service of Canada. Operated by a Gay Jewish Man. 416-565-0802. E-mail: torontop@rainbowpremier.com

264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Khentov-Bieler Kira & Greg are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter Rochelle born on January 24, 1999 at 5:39pm. Excited grandparents are Maya & Mark Khentov and Michele & Richard Bieler. Delighted great grandparents are Irene & Mat Tucker and Annie Bieler. Rochelle is welcomed by aunt Elana and uncle Leonel Apter and little cousins Ariel and Ethan.

Maxine & Raymond Meltz and **Harvey Dennis** are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter **Alana to Oren**, son of **Rochelle & Steve Rotstein.** Very proud grand parents are Doris & Morris Miller and Pearl & Syd Dennis and Raye & Leon Klein. Fondly remembered at this time are late grandparents Fay & Abraham Rotstein.

Ron & Lena Berman take great pleasure in announcing the engagement of their daughter **Michelle to Marc**, son of **Sharon & Joe Goldstein.** Proud grandparents are Sid Schlifer and Abe & Sonia Rosenfeld.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

CLASSIFIED ADS/ SERVICE DIRECTORY ADS
· CUSTOMER SERVICE ·

The CJN **requires that advertisers check their advertisement upon publication, as *The CJN* will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion, and there shall be no liability for non-insertion of any advertisement. Liability for errors in advertisements is limited to the amount paid for the space occupying the error. All copy is subject to the approval of the management of *The CJN*. *The CJN* reserves the right to classify all advertisements.**

Service Directory & Classified Ad Deadlines are Wednesday, 8 days previous to the issue, by 4 pm.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

To **Listen & Respond** To Ads call **1-900-451-4552 *Ext.*# 65**
The call at the 900# is only $2.49 per minute
To Place Your **FREE** Ad call **905-276-6167 *Ext.*# 65**

The *Meeting Place*

Brought to you by the Canadian Jewish News

Women seeking Men

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single female, radiant, smart, sophisticated, compassionate, fun, open, loving, enjoy good food, good conversation, long walks, quiet romantic times. Seeking a male, who is romantic, professional, with traditional values, emotionally and financially stable, and is ready to explore life. AD#1866

DEVELOPING NEW INTEREST
Professional Jewish female, non-smoker, warm, pretty, enjoy dancing, long walks, movies, playing Bridge. Seeking a male, 55+, who is easy going, with similar interests. AD#1867

CANDLE LIGHT DINNERS
Single female, caring, loving, romantic, affectionate, enjoy working out, travelling, candle light dinners. Seeking a male, 45-55, with similar interest. AD#1869

NUMBER ONE
Single mom of 1 teenage son, attractive, exciting, 5'5", Jewish, brown eyes & hair, very youthful looking. Seeking a handsome, single Jewish male, professional, traditional, established, tall, fit, kind, sincere, fun loving, with a zest for life. AD#1873

SIMPLE TWIST OF FATE
Single Jewish female, interesting, intelligent, unique, 34. Seeking a Jewish male, 35-46, for friendship, romance and trouble, if interested give me a call. AD#1876

LET'S CHAT
Single female, early 30's, attractive, fit, enjoy long walks, cycling, dining, movies. Seeking a single Jewish male, non-smoker, 30ish, no children, outgoing, fun, sensitive, caring. AD#1864

FRIENDS FIRST
Divorced female, 49, single mom, professional, warm, attractive, beautiful, blond hair, hazel eyes, non-smoker, university educated, down to earth, enjoy dining and dancing, sports, travelling. Seeking a male, 49-59, handsome, outgoing, honest, romantic, intelligent, who loves kids. AD#1949

FRIENDSHIP & COMPANIONSHIP
Professional Jewish widow, 42, have a 2yr old child, very outgoing, good sense of humour, open, enjoy movies, theater, dining & dancing, long walks. Seeking a single Jewish male, assertive, financially secure, professional, non-smoker, sincere, who does not focus on ones attributes. AD#1963

FULL OF LOVE
Single Jewish female, 18, 5'3", 115lbs, brown hair & eyes, non-smoker, honest, caring, enjoy movies, sports, dining and dancing. Seeking a male, 18-21, honest, romantic, trustworthy with similar interests. AD#1862

NIFTY 50'S
Single lady, hazel eyes, blond hair, with a love for life and a terrific sense of humour, enjoy the arts, movies, the theater, music from classical to jazz, travelling, long walks, and romantic talks. Seeking a male, kind, compassionate, self-sufficient, with a good heart and a great smile AD#1853

NOURISH MY SOUL
Single Jewish female, 51, attractive, enjoy music, fine art, outdoor activities, nature, fine food, and activities that nourish the soul. Seeking a male who is considerate, open minded, with traditional values, and similar interests. AD#1860

WINTER ROMANCE
Single Jewish female, 30ish, attractive, stylish, dark brown hair, hazel green eyes, enjoy movies, theater, roller blading, comedy clubs, music, bowling, camping. Seeking a single Jewish male, 31-43, with similar qualities and interests. AD#1857

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single female, 35, 5'4", slim, attractive, brunette, enjoy theater, movies, travelling, cottage life. Seeking an attractive male, 34-44, professional, intelligent, and a good communicator. AD#1858

SINGLE MOM
Single mom of 2 children (1Byr & 8), very active, enjoy cooking, dining & dancing, reading. Seeking a male, very understanding, with a good heart. AD#1849

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single Jewish female, 42, tall, warm, intelligent, attractive, curious, strong Jewish identity. Seeking a Jewish male, communicative, healthy, counter mench with strength and integrity, accomplished. AD#1850

ROMANTIC LADY
Single Jewish female, 43, 5'10", attractive, sophisticated, non-smoker, very romantic, enjoy sports, dining and dancing, quiet evenings, live shows. Seeking a Jewish male, 5'10"+, non-smoker, handsome, who enjoys working out, for a serious relationship or friendship. AD#1852

LOVING
Divorced Jewish female, 38, kind, caring, loving. Seeking a Jewish male, 32-43, who is attractive. AD#1816

HAPPINESS TOGETHER
Divorced female, 49, 5'6", 173lbs, professional, attractive, non-smoker, down to earth, blond hair, hazel eyes, warm, enjoy movies, dancing, dining out. Seeking a professional male, 49-60, loving, outgoing, honest, romantic, and caring. AD#1835

INDEPENDENT
Single Jewish female, 48, 5'8", professional, dark eyes, dark brown hair, outgoing, with a great sense of humour, enjoy dining out, dancing, outdoor activities, travelling. Seeking a male, professional, down to earth, sincere, who enjoys dining out and having fun in life. AD#1837

Men seeking Women

CASUAL GET TOGETHERS
Divorced Jewish male, 40's, 5'8", 136lbs, enjoy culture, art, ballet, travelling. Seeking a female who is independent, for casual get togethers. AD#1870

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Single Jewish male, 5'5", handsome, secure, athletic, enjoy tennis, swimming, jogging, cycling, skiing, theater, dancing, socializing. Seeking a female, 38-50, with similar interests. AD#1871

SOULMATE
Divorced Jewish male, 6', 240lbs, easy going, great sense of humour, enjoy sports, movies, and love to laugh. Seeking a female, 26-31, with similar interests. AD#1818

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single male, Goldsmith and an artist, enjoy musc, fine arts, sports, writing. Seeking a female, attractive, single moms OK, 26-38, with similar interests. AD#1907

BEST FRIEND AND LOVER
Single Jewish male, 5'7", 30 something, Andy Garcia looks, very attractive, impeccable dresser but a cowboy at heart, fun loving, romantic, stable, resourceful, professional. Seeking a Jewish female, late 20's early 30's, attractive, vibrant, classy and slim. AD#1823

ONCE BITTEN, TWICE SHY
Single male, 50's, financially secure, handsome, from the Thornhill area. Seeking a female, good looking, with a good sense of humour, slim, age is not important, financially secure, a picture is a must after contact is made. AD#1810

FUN LOVING
Single Jewish male, 33, easy going, fun loving, enjoy outdoor activities, movies, long walks, camping. Seeking a female, 25-38, with similar interests. AD#1777

Questions ??? 416-236-6644

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single Jewish male, 6', handsome, athletic built, love sports and keeping fit, artistic, with traditional values. Seeking a Jewish female, who is ready to make a commitment and start a family, who enjoys life and has old fashioned values. AD#1809 .

OLD FASHIONED
Single male, mid 30's, old fashioned, sensitive, stubborn, romantic, enjoy cuddling, outdoor activities, movies, camping. Seeking a female, 30-35, with similar interests. AD#1762

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single Jewish male, 36, 5'7", professional, traditional values, warm, fit, and fun. Seeking a Jewish female, late 20's to mid 30's, down to earth, creative, spontaneous, well grounded, with a good sense of humour. AD#1771

LET'S GO FOR COFFEE
Single Jewish male, 32, professional, 180lbs, self employed, own his own business, fit, enjoy all aspects of life, movies, dining and dancing, travelling, working out, motor cycling. Seeking a Jewish female, very down to earth, non-smoker, strong morals and values, clean and neat. AD#1774

LET'S CONNECT
Single male, 19, seeking a female, tall, slim, loving & caring for a meaningful relationship AD#1814

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, early 50's, down to earth, tall, slim, caring, easy going, professional, enjoy movies & quiet times. Seeking a Jewish female, 39-49, warm, sensitive, and health conscious. AD#1718

EASY TO LOOK AT
Single white male, young looking, late 50's, blue eyes, brown hair, medium built, financially secure, down to earth, great sense of humour, enjoy the outdoors. Seeking an attractive female, caring down to earth, trim figure, of any age. AD#1720

GOOD CONVERSATIONALIST
Single Jewish male, 6', slim, attractive, brown hair, blue-green eyes, have a B.A., enjoy cooking, travelling, movies, dining out. Seeking a Jewish female, 30-34, who is well read. AD#1730

LIKES LAUGHS & OUTDOORS
Divorced Jewish male, 29, brown hair, blue eyes, professional, enjoy outdoor activities. Seeking a female with good sense of humour, caring, & kind. AD#1787

CALL ME
Single male, 32, professional, fit, enjoy motor cycles, travelling, moves, working out, life. Seeking an attractive female, down to earth, fit, who also has a zest for life. AD#1733

COMPANIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 55, professional Seeking a non-smoking, Jewish female, 50-60, with traditional values, who enjoys the theater, dancing & dining. AD#1710

SEEKING NICE LADY
Single male, 18, enjoy movies, dancing. Seeking a single female with similar interests. AD#1670

MY KIDS TAUGHT ME WELL
Single male, 40, ready to get into life again. Seeking a special lady to share life with. AD#1779

TIME WAITS FOR NO ONE
Single male, 45, conservative looking, enjoy country drives, art auctions, have a business degree, stock market investor and analyzer. Seeking a lady, no need to be slim, for serious relationship. AD#1681

ROMANTIC AND CARING
Single white male, 56, self-employed, businessman, enjoy movies, music, travel, good conversation, quiet times. Seeking a female, compassionate, loving, attractive, sensitive, to be his special lady. AD#1784

To renew your ad call 416-236-6644

*** CJN Boxes for Personal Companions Wanted ads are valid for 30 (thirty) days only (from 1st publication date). Replies must be received within this time frame in order to be forwarded to the correct CJN Box #.**

Slender, savvy, sensuous SJF; adventurous spirit, diverse interests, has warmth affection, sincerity to offer fiftyish fun-loving, intelligent SJM. Photo appreciated. CJN Box # 7155.

DJF, 50, petite, slim, European background, prof., a good listener, family oriented, loving, sincere, great sense of humour, enjoys long walks, good conversation, dancing, traveling, movies & theatre, seeking gentleman, 50-58 with similar qualities and interests for lasting relationship. CJN Box 7153.

If I had 1 wish... I'd be back at summer camp. Simple pleasures, lots of laughter and romantic hideaways. If you'd like to join my fantasy, I'm female, 32, no baggage, tall, attractive, happily employed, fit and healthy. CJN Box # 7154.

Kushi Kabbalah kibbutz or Quito? Tall, attractive prof. woman seeks someone special who understands any of these words. You are tall, attractive, male 48-60, creative, playful, financially stable. I like healthful living, the arts, travel, Judaism. Your response may begin a special friendship. CJN Box # 7152.

Petite prof JF 52 w/good nature, values & a healthy lifestyle seeks a kind, stable, successful man w/similar qual. Box # 7143.

280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mah Jong group, 40's, seeks experienced 5th, Mondays, Thornhill. Shelley 905-884-6965

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Designer/brand name clothing. New, gently used. Pick up avail. 285-8315 leave message.

315 CARS FOR SALE

Turn your old car into renewed hope. Donate your used car to benefit Jewish special education and receive maximum tax credit. As an example of the incredible tax credit you may receive, consider this: An '88 Buick Regal may be worth as much as $3,775. Free towing. 416-787-1101.

330 OBITUARIES

GOLDSTEIN, Jack - on Feb. 1, 1999, late of 133 Torresdale Ave.
EISEN, Helen - on Feb. 2, 1999, late of 3705 Bathurst St.
LOEFFLER, Berta - on Feb. 3, 1999, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
VAYS, Pelageya - on Feb. 3, 1999, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
JACOBSON, Bernard - on Feb. 4, 1999.
SALOMON, Chaskel - on Feb. 4, 1999.
WOLFE, Fred - on Feb. 4, 1999, late of 333 Clark Ave. W.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

330 OBITUARIES

GOLDMAN, Freda - on Feb. 5, 1999.
BALNER, Philip - on Feb. 6, 1999.
LASKI, Sala - on Feb. 6, 1999, late of 9 Dellbank Rd.
ZLOT, Neil - on Feb. 6, 1999, late of 5 Fernwood Rd.
BERNSTEIN, Joan - on Feb. 7, 1999.
DICK, Enid - on Feb. 7, 1999, late of 3000 Bathurst St.
SHERMAN, Gertrude Gayla - on Feb. 7, 1999, late of 28 Manadon Dr.
SIVAK, Anatoly - on Feb. 7, 1999, late of 5900 Yonge St.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

PERLMAN, Lou - on Jan. 25, 1999, late of 2045 Lakeshore Blvd. W.
CHANDLER, Reva - on Jan. 29, 1999, late of 27 Nevada Ave.
ANCHEVSKY, Esther - on Jan. 30, 1999, late of 16 Eleanor Ave.
POSNER, Benjamin - on Jan. 30, 1999, late of 5 Concord Pl.
PENTURN, Norton - on Jan. 31, 1999, late of 110 Bloor St. W., #1803.
GROBER, Mel - on Feb. 1, 1999, late of 9 Woolsthorpe Cres.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

330 OBITUARIES

SERVING THE JEWISH COMMUNITY FOR OVER THREE GENERATIONS

IZENBERG GOLDBERG *Monuments*
3173 BATHURST ST.
(416) 787-0319

ZELLERMAYER, Arnold - on Jan. 30, 1999, late of 363 Woodsworth Rd.
HURWITZ, Lester - on Jan. 31, 1999, late of 5444 Yonge St., #902-A.
COHEN, Ruth - on Feb. 3, 1999, late of 3276 St. Clair Ave. E.

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
HEBREW BASIC BURIAL
TRADITIONAL GRAVESIDE SERVICE

GUDOFSKY, Fanny - on Feb. 1, 1999, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
SZORTES-FODOR, Lilly - on Feb. 1, 1999, late of 400 Walmer Rd. W., Tower #1406.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

WASSER, Rose - on Feb. 1, 1999, late of 18 Cedarcroft Blvd., #507.
SWADRON, Rose - on Feb. 2, 1999, late of 2 Buchan Crt.
VOLMAN, Arlene - on Feb. 2, 1999, late of 1039 Weston Rd.
KLEIN, Clara - on Feb. 4, 1999, late of 1 Casino Crt.
MILLER, Ethel - on Feb. 4, 1999, late of 145 Marlee Ave., #802.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

338 SHIVA CATERING

KING SOLOMON'S CATERING
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SHIVA CATERING

338 SHIVA CATERING

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243 Wilmington Ave.

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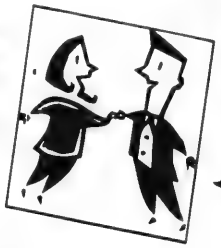

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Sports

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The Canadian Jewish news

Orthodox Baltimore bocher a basketball prodigy

By STEVE LIPMAN
New York Jewish Week

NEW YORK — Even by Tamir Goodman's standards, it's been an unusual two weeks. There's the all-day studies at a Baltimore yeshiva, some basketball after school, homework, Gemara review – oh, and the interviews with CBS Sports, Fox Sports, ESPN and all the local TV stations.

Goodman, 17, is becoming a basketball star. The high-scoring junior point guard at the Talmudical Academy (TA), an all-boys Orthodox day school, recently made a non-binding verbal commitment to play at the University of Maryland (UM). He will sign an official letter of intent in November and be eligible to play for the Terrapins – ranked number four by *USA Today* – in the 2000-2001 academic year.

It's believed he would become the first Orthodox Jew to play major college basketball.

"It's exciting," Goodman said in a telephone interview, his voice weakened by flu brought on by twice-a-day media interviews in the last two weeks.

Since he started playing organized ball two years ago, Goodman, a lanky, redheaded honor-roll student, received some 400 recruiting letters from top teams around the country. He chose Maryland because it's close to home and has an active Jewish community.

"Why not?" he says. "They want me."

Goodman will receive an athletic scholarship, and likely pursue a career in sports medicine or physical therapy. UM coaches have indicated they will respect his Sabbath observance, attempt to avoid scheduling Friday night or Saturday afternoon games, and allow him to miss games on Shabbat.

The Maryland athletic department is barred by NCAA regulations from discussing prospective players. But David Zakar, a classmate of Goodman and creator of the TA basketball team's Web site, says a shomer Shabbat player in big-time college basketball "was a matter of time."

"The fact that Maryland would consider doing this is a tribute to their open-mindedness and to his talent," says Dave Kufeld, president of the Jewish Sports Congress and a star player on the Yeshivah University basketball team in the late 1970s.

Kufeld was drafted by the NBA's Portland Trailblazers in 1980 but was cut in the pre-season.

"This is more significant than my getting drafted," he says. "It could be a tremendous kiddush Hashem [sanctification of God's name]."

Goodman would become the first known Jewish player in Division I history to wear a kippah on the court or sit out Sabbath games.

"Until now it was totally unheard of – this goes beyond Orthodox Judaism," says Kufeld, a public relations executive in Manhattan. "This could be a landmark precedent of acceptance for a wide range of special needs."

At 6-foot-3 and 155 pounds, Goodman leads the Thunder in scoring with 36 points a game. His coach, Chaim Katz, says the team is made up of "one Division I player and 11 rabbis." Goodman also paces TA in assists, rebounds and steals.

"He's an excellent athlete, a great instinctive player," says Katz, who has known Goodman since he was an eight-year-old who would come to practices and pester the coach for playing time during drills. Even then, Katz says, Goodman could shoot free throws better than older players. He had Goodman practise with his right hand tied to his pants, forcing him to become ambidextrous.

"We knew this day [of Goodman receiving recognition for his skills] would come," Katz says. "I told my brother, Tamir would be the best religious player who ever lived. They laughed at me."

Most newspaper stories identify Goodman as one of the top three high school players in Baltimore, a city renowned for producing elite players and teams.

"He looks like Howdy Doody but plays like Pete Maravich," Katz says. "He surprises people."

"He has a lot of basketball savvy. He has wonderful moves," says a *Baltimore Sun* sports writer. "You don't see many 6-foot-3 guys who can dunk."

Tamir Goodman

Goodman, who has led his team to a 39-8 record the last two years, has meant bigger crowds at games in the TA gym, an upgraded schedule for the Thunder and higher visibility for the 80-year-old school.

New York fans will be able to watch Goodman when TA plays in the annual Red Sarachek Tournament March 18-22 at Yeshivah University.

For parts of the Orthodox community, which traditionally considers competitive sports *bitul zman*, a waste of time and distraction from Torah studies, Goodman's success has earned grudging support.

"Right now, he's a very big sensation. In the more modern [Orthodox] crowd it's a big thing," says a member of Baltimore's Orthodox community, who has a son attending TA. "They're downplaying it at the school. [Tamir] wasn't in the last newsletter," he adds.

At TA, Goodman says, he has become a reluctant celebrity. Teachers stop him in the hall to discuss the last games. "All of a sudden every rabbi is a coach."

For Goodman, basketball is a form of religious expression. "God's messenger," he calls himself. "Baruch Hashem, I have a lot of talent." He spent his freshman year out of town, at a Pittsburgh yeshiva with no basketball team. "I was miserable," he says.

Now he lifts weights three times a week to add muscle, and he's planning to attend a basketball camp this summer to compete against better players. A doctor assures him he will grow to 6-foot-6. Goodman wants to be all the basketball player he can be.

"Hashem gave me the talent," he says. "I could use it or not use it. I use it."

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Tigers tame hoops foes

TORONTO — It was nail-biting time for fans of the CHAT Tigers at the recently concluded Israel Becker Basketball Tournament.

As if playing to a script, the host boys and girls teams advanced to the championship games over tough American competition.

The girls title game featured plenty of drama and put the fans at the edge of their seats as the Tigers battled a team from Ramaz High School in New York.

CHAT trailed in much of the game but as time wound down, the Tigers tied the score. Then with one second remaining, Shayna Greenwald landed a dramatic fade away jump shot to give CHAT a 46-44 victory.

In the boys final, the Tigers' awesome firepower negated the need for last-second heroics as they dispatched a team from Westchester High School in New York, 78-38.

Greenwald was named girls MVP while CHATnik Ami Warner was MVP among the boys.

Held annually at the Bathurst Jewish Centre, the tournament is named in honor of former CHAT student Israel Becker, who was killed in a car accident.

Twenty-four teams – 12 boys teams and 12 girls teams – participated in the event, including contingents from England, Montreal, Winnipeg, Hamilton, Miami and Atlanta.

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The Inside Back

Judgments back patent-holders

Two recent judgments by Israeli courts on the issue of patents mark a victory for patent-holders, while harming generic manufacturers. The question of their impact on the public remains under dispute.

The cases involved famous drugs developed by large international companies.

The medications had been under patent in Israel, but the patents expired, and a local company began selling generic copies immediately.

Since it was clear that the development of a pharmaceutical product takes years, and that significant work goes into even a generic drug, it was apparent that the Israeli company had been working on them during the period of the patent, conducting experiments and manufacturing large quantities of the products.

The Israeli company's arguments boiled down to the claim that the day the patent expires, so does the protection. Forbidding such activities, it argued, would in effect extend the patent beyond the 20-year period set by law, since it would prevent them from "hitting the ground running" when the patent expired, effectively blocking competition for another few years.

This, it reasoned, went beyond what the legislature intended, and also harmed the consumer by preventing competition, which leads to cheaper pharmaceuticals.

The international companies argued that the protection afforded by patents actually benefits consumers. Since the development of a new drug takes years as well as astronomical sums of money, companies won't do it unless they are assured of recouping their investments and making money for an extended period of time. Allowing competitors to copy the products as soon as the patents expire, shortens the period during which the inventors can benefit from their investment, thereby making the development of new medicines less profitable. As such, the consumer will have less choice and health care will suffer.

The court decided in favor of the international companies. In both judgments, the court rejected the idea that experimenting, preparing dossiers for registration, and actually manufacturing the product during the period of the patent do not violate the patent.

The court reasoned that allowing such activities to go on would create a "springboard" for the competitor to launch the product immediately upon expiry of the patent, and that creating such a springboard is in itself a violation of the patent.

Economic legal theory sees patents as a kind of state-sponsored monopoly, since one person or firm is granted the exclusive right to make money from a product. Generally speaking, monopolies are thought to be bad for consumers, since the lack of competition leads to poorer quality products and higher prices. For centuries, it has been recognized, however, that society benefits from new technology, and that without a lengthy period in which inventors can reap the profits of their inventions, they will have no incentive to create.

It is true that no company in its right mind would invest the kind of money it takes to develop a drug, if a competitor could copy it the next day and drive the price down. What was not clear under Israeli law, was whether the prohibition against exploiting the product during the life of the patent included taking the steps required to be able to sell it after the patent runs out. These decisions removed any remaining doubt.

As in many countries, the Israeli health system is in crisis. The government has been taking steps to lower the cost of drugs by limiting their prices and considering allowing the parallel import of pharmaceuticals, i.e. not just by the registered representative of the manufacturer. Sales of generic drugs have also been booming.

While the Israeli court decisions may be perceived as going against this trend, they should not be seen in this context. The court's role is not to create policy or provide social benefits, but rather to interpret the law and, in the appropriate cases, protect property-holders from infringement.

One may disagree with both the reasoning and the result of these judgments, but for many, they are seen as a declaration that Israel enforces intellectual property rights and protects their owners.

Regardless of the effect on drug prices, this would seem to be an important message to foreign investors and other people considering doing business in Israel.

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1/2 tsp vanilla extract
1/4 tsp almond extract
1 egg
1 3/4 cups flour
1/2 tsp baking powder
1/4 tsp salt
1 oz. unsweetened chocolate melted
2 tblsp poppy seeds

In large bowl of a mixer, cream together margarine and sugar until light. Add egg, vanilla and almond extracts and blend well. Combine flour, baking powder and salt. Add flour mixture to butter mixture and blend thoroughly. Divide dough in half. Beat melted chocolate into one half of the dough, and the poppy seeds into the remaining half. Wrap each half with plastic wrap and refrigerate until firm.

On floured wax paper, roll out each half dough to 9"x14". Invert white poppy seed dough onto chocolate dough and peel off wax paper from white dough. Tightly roll up dough, jelly-roll fashion, peeling off wax paper as you roll. Wrap roll with plastic wrap and refrigerate at least 1 hour, or freeze until needed.

Cut roll into 1/4" slices. Place slices on ungreased foil-lined baking sheets and bake at 350°F 5-7 minutes or until lightly browned. Transfer to racks to cool.

About Life

Dear Ella,

I really feel taken advantage of, and my feelings for a once wonderful friend are beginning to sour. Here is the story.

Stacey and I go back to grade school. I married three years ago and have a baby. Stacey has become engaged and her wedding is in May.

She asked me to be one of her bridesmaids and I was thrilled. Even though money is a bit tight right now with a new baby and new mortgage, I knew I could scrape the money together to march at her wedding. What I didn't realize is there would be an engagement party which required a gift, a shower from her new mother-in-law which requires a gift, a shower from her sister which requires a gift, and last but not least, a wedding gift.

I think this is schnorring a bit too much and there is no way I can afford all this. If I lie and say I can't make it to the showers it will make me really look bad. Do you have any suggestions?

Gifts Galore

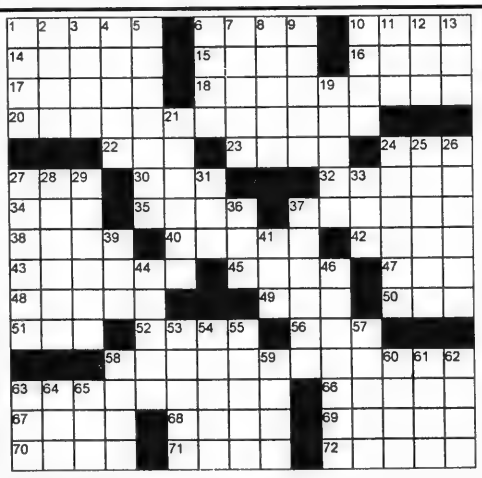
Dear Gifts Galore

I think you should take a step back and see what is really happening here. An engagement party is often thrown for a couple. The two showers will probably have different people invited. Stacey's mother-in-law to be, will invite her friends and maybe a few of Stacey's friends. As for her sister, there will be some overlap; however, most of the people at that shower will not be the same. Because of your long close friendship, you fit into the overlap crowd. Imagine how you would feel if you didn't get invited? It's sort of a catch-22.

Speak to Stacey and tell her you would love to come, but you can't afford to buy so many presents. You'd rather buy her one really special gift so she can remember you every time she sees it. Do you think Stacey will think any less of you? Of course not. I think she would just like to have you by her side. I bet many of the people, especially at her mother-in-law's shower, will be strangers to her and a comforting glance across the room from you is all that she might need that day.

Don't let a few gifts come between two long-term friends during such a happy period in Stacey's life. Be there for her and enjoy her happiness with her.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN. *But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*



The Canadian Jewish news

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

In Her Prime

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

Across

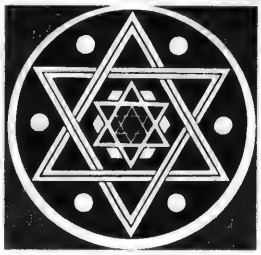
1 Used one's shekels
6 California Valley noted for wine
10 Smear, as with grease
14 Party of 18-across
15 _____ instant (immediately)
16 With 3-down, Israeli statesman
17 Send to cloud nine
18 Kiev-born, Milwaukee-bred world leader
20 PART 1 OF A QUOTE BY 18-ACROSS
22 Chicago trains
23 Actor Danny
24 Insane
27 Enjoy Aspen
30 Curvy letter
32 _____ Minister (18-across, e.g.)
34 Only three-letter element
35 "Wings" star Tim ___
37 Tel Aviv tower
38 Sholem ____, US novelist who wrote in Yiddish
40 PART 2 OF QUOTE
42 "Gone With the Wind" plantation
43 Type O, type A, and type AB
45 Physiologist Jacques
47 One of the Bobbsey twins
48 Window sill
49 John or Jane in court
50 ___ Testament (what the Pope calls the Tanach)
51 "Our Miss Brooks" star Arden
52 Would-be Esquire's exam, for short
56 Israeli mentalist Geller
58 PART 3 OF QUOTE
63 Where 18-across died, Dec. 8, 1978
66 George's NY gubernatorial victim
67 Israeli port (alt. spelling)
68 Under control
69 Yom Kippur task
70 Takes the trophy
71 Female sheep
72 Swallow houses

Down

1 Snow transport
2 ____ Alto, California
3 See 16-across
4 Night, in Naples
5 Times three
6 Coming soon
7 French actress ____ Aimee
8 _____ de Mallorca (Spanish resort city)
9 By ____ (eventually)
10 Knight's wife
11 Justice Fortas
12 Where: Latin
13 ____ Kochba
19 First letter of the Hebrew alphabet
21 Podhoretz works
24 Northern Italian metropolis, there
25 Lacking values
26 Supply's other half
27 Stallion's home
28 Chanukah month
29 Encrypted
31 ____-mo (replay speed)
33 Tell (on)
36 Deborah's "The King and I" co-star
37 Show the door
39 Selfish one
41 Twin Carew
44 Birthplace of Apollo and Artemis
46 Portrayer of 18-across in film
53 Israel, since 1948
54 Attorney-_____
55 Leitmotif
57 Seeing red
58 Streisand film of 1987
59 Iowa State's city
60 Son of Aphrodite
61 "_____ Misbehavin'"
62 Feet ten
63 "Arab and ___" (Shipler book)
64 Half of a Chana Senesh song
65 Sought office

(This week's answers are on page 34.)

Purim Sameach



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This Week

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Nursing home residents get mezuzot. *Page 15*

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Former Soviet hockey star seeking medical treatment in Israel. *Page 42*

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Adar 10, 5759
Havdalah: 6:49

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The irony that hurts most

One of the key dramatic devices in the story of Purim is irony. It weaves furtively through the narrative like an invisible stitch tying the disparate, patchwork parts of the plot, dialogue and character development into a compelling story about courage, survival, greed, jealousy and retribution.

Through its many sudden twists and Hollywood-style turns, the tense, edgy story is tightly held together by irony.

Indeed, the colorful and evocative drawing on this front page by 10-year-old Rachel Esco, depicts one of the most powerful ironies in Megillat Esther.

Haman, the villainous would-be oppressor of the Jews of Shushan is seen leading Mordechai through the streets of the city as Mordechai, wearing the royal raiments and the crown of the king, sits comfortably atop the royal steed.

Editorial

Haman, however, appears decidedly ill-at-ease leading the royal horse and its Jewish rider. To complete the humiliation, he must also advertise the king's deference toward Mordechai to the whole city by proclaiming: "This is what is done for the man whom the king decides to honor."

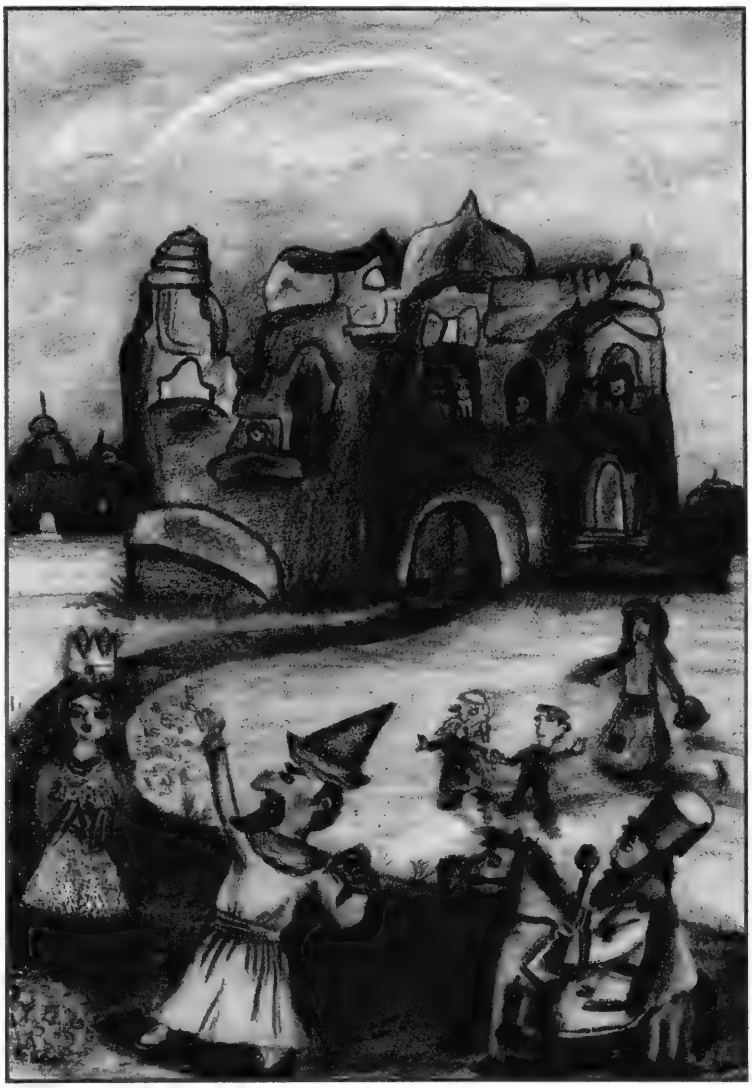
What the drawing does not convey, indeed cannot convey, is the irony that Haman himself defined the terms of his own embarrassment.

In the scene immediately preceding Rachel Esco's drawing, the king had asked Haman: "What should be done for the man whom the king wishes to honor?"

Swept up by his own vanity, Haman was incapable of imagining anyone other than himself as the object of the king's favor. Thus, he greedily and shamelessly prescribed nothing less than the maximum "royal" treatment for the honoree, even to the point of wearing the king's clothes, riding the king's horse and donning the king's crown. Typical of brazen, unchecked ambition, it defeated itself with its own excess and arrogance.

The ultimate irony for Haman, of course, was that he himself was hanged on the very gallows that he had erected in the bloodlust of his irrational, obsessive hatred for Mordechai.

Continued on page 8



HAMAN'S HUMILIATION

"And Haman took the special clothing and the horse and he arrayed Mordechai in the clothes and paraded him through the streets of the city." **Megillat Esther 6:11** ***[Drawing by Rachel Esco, 10]***

See pages 22 and 23 for the "winners" of our fifth annual Purim poster contest.

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Purim Shpiels in Brief

CANADA

Running On The Spot

OTTAWA — Canadian Jewish Council president My Sharona and Brith B'nai (BB) supremo Lawrence Change-of-Heart have announced they will vie for the seat of Gur Nicht South in the next federal election. It's not clear who will run for which party, "as long there *is* a party," the two community activists told a news conference attended by a lone reporter for BB's in-house *Jewish Spittoon*. "Besides," they added, "we hear there's a restaurant in Hull that makes a cholent to die for."

'Are We Lost?'

MONTREAL — City council has passed a resolution calling for changing the name of René Lévesque Boulevard to Rue des Rugelach. "Lévesque was okay, I guess," said Montreal Mayor Pierre "Swedish Chef" Bork-Bork-Bork. "But rugelach! As we say in French, these are *geshmacht*."

Hizzoner's Tsuris

TORONTO — Following last week's light rain showers, Mayor Lem Firstman called out the Canadian army. "Those rains!" cried the mayor. "They dampened thousands of lawns and caused those little rivulets in gutters! It was time to bring in the Hummers and Bisons." The army responded with two corporals and an umbrella for Firstman, who personally sustained moisture to his fur collar and needed to be hospitalized. The mayor arrived at Mike Harris Hospital last Thursday, and at last word, is still awaiting treatment.

ISRAEL

Last One In...

JERUSALEM — Israel's chief rabbis have finally reached agreement on one of the most contentious issues in the nation's history: From now on, each mikvah in the country will have two lifeguards, one each from the Ashkenazi and Sephardi camps. "We hoped to get people who didn't pass their auditions for *Baywatch*," said spokesperson Rabbi Shmuel Sidestroke, "but at least they come with their own noseplugs and flippers."

Exact Fare, Please

TEL AVIV — Bus drivers for Egged have reached a tentative agreement with company officials. The drivers have agreed to a one-year moratorium on rudeness, a move borrowed from the union for French waiters. "Ehhh, why not?" shrugged Yossi Yisraeli, a 20-year veteran of Egged. "This way, we build up and save the good stuff for next year. You! Get to the back!"

Outstanding sticking points between the drivers and the company remain. These include the wearing of sandals and shirts. Drivers demand them, while company officials say tourists want their drivers attired, er, casually.

Pass The Tums

EILAT — Israeli researchers have discovered that the hot sauce offered for falafel at many street corner stands actually kills most cold and flu bugs. "If you can get past the heartburn, you won't sneeze," said vendor Itzik Pipik.

WORLD

Steee-riike!

LOS ANGELES — Former baseball great Sandy Koufax injured an armed intruder in his home last Friday night. The onetime pitcher and Hall of Famer proved his hurling skills are still intact by heaving an oversized matzah ball at the man, who was arrested by local police. The intruder was unconscious for two hours; Koufax suffered a torn rotator cuff and will be on the DL for at least six weeks.

One Lump Or Two?

LONDON — Britain's chief rabbinate has given the green light for kosher scones. "Tea time will now be more complete," announced Rabbi John Waddington-Sheffield-Jones III. "Her Majesty, who makes quite the kugel, is very amused." The rabbinate will next focus on clotted cream, bangers-and-beans and other British delicacies.

'It's *What* Year?'

SOUTH PACIFIC — A Jewish U.S. Army officer whose plane was shot down by the Japanese over the Pacific Ocean during World War II has finally been found. Lt. Hymie Levine, now 75, was in good health after spending over 50 years alone on an uncharted, barren island. He did, however, build two small synagogues out of palm fronds, one Orthodox and the other Reform. Asked why he would build two synagogues, Levine said angrily, "One I went to every Shabbat, and the other I wouldn't set foot in if you paid me!"

You Can Never Leave

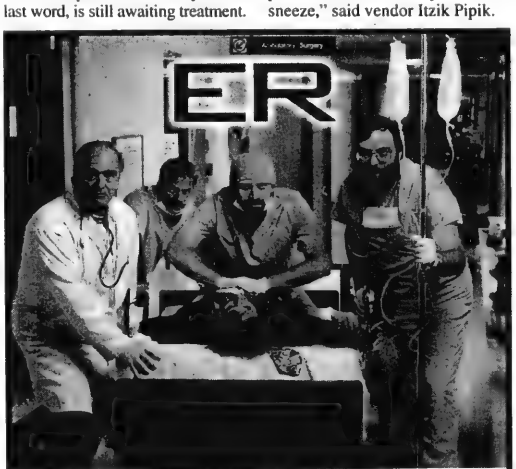
WALLA WALLA, Wash. — Irving Cohen now has the distinction of being the only Jew in this Washington state town. Two days after his arrival from New York, which he left "to get away from it all," Cohen received three reminders for his United Jewish Appeal pledge, a call from Jewish National Fund to update his tree purchases, two subscription notices for Jewish publications, a request to inspect his mezuzah and a call from his Aunt Bessie to "come for dinner, unless you want me to eat by myself. Again."

Just Another Election...

JERUSALEM — A total of 120 political parties have registered to run candidates in the May elections. There was a dramatic development just five minutes prior to the deadline for registering parties. Until then, 60 parties had been registered to run. The number doubled when 60 more signed up at the last minute. Explained the representative of the new Ze Lo Chashoov party, "We thought 120 was a nice round number, so here we are. You know, like that Yiddish expression, '*Bis hundert und zwanzig.*'"

Because the number of parties running equals the number of seats up for grabs, Prime Minister Yahoo Netanbibi has his work cut out. In fact, polls show that one candidate from each party has a good chance winning his or her seat, meaning Netanbibi will have to knit together a majority coalition from parties representing the lone Jewish immigrant from Bhutan; a group of intermarried circus performers angry about their tent allotments; several irate hat blockers, and Motti, the guy who sells orange juice at the beach.

Late last week, Netanbibi flew to Italy to consult with electoral experts. "Hey, I'm ready to invite Motti into the coalition, as long he brings juice. But the unfizzy kind," the prime minister said.



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Premier Harris takes scalpel to hospital delays

By JEFF ROSEN
News Editor

TORONTO — Ontario's provincial government today announced a groundbreaking program designed to end overcrowding in the province's hospitals.

Ontario Premier Mike Harris, standing on a gurney in one of the remaining emergency wards, said that the situation had become completely unacceptable.

To this end, he said his government would be overhauling the emergency wards.

"It's quite simple," said the prem. "Say you were born on March 25. That translates into 3-25. Well, you will now have access three times a year on the 25th of the month. And the good part of it, is that you can actually choose which month to enter."

Through this new system, Mike said that overcrowding and ambulance redirect is guaranteed to become a thing of the past.

He said that a new multi-million-dollar government body will be created to monitor the new system to ensure people are not pulling "switchies," and swapping allocation dates with their friends and neighbors.

The CJN has learned that part of this new monitoring system will involve posting armed personnel at all hospital entrances who will check all birth certificates and health cards. Those who successfully beat this armada and gain entrance to the hallowed medical institutions, will find their bathroom privileges cut off, said one nurse who preferred to remain anonymous.

Fending off criticism and bedpans tossed by hostile orderlies, Harris said that his government would not be without compassion, though.

He said that those suffering medical problems on days when hospital admission is "not a reality" will be redirected to a new centrally located government kiosk at Harbourfront to pick up a "do-it-yourself medical kit."

"You will be amazed at what this little baby will do," said Harris, who denied rumors that he harbors ambitions to be a doctor himself.

To further encourage the public to take health care into their own hands and not rely on the medical system, Harris said that anyone

Continued on page 5

Judy Bernstein, age 9

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FROM EVERYONE AT THE CJN

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Wiarton Willie was actually Velvel Wiartfogel

By BADANA PANZER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Consternation has erupted in the Jewish community at the news that Wiarton Willie, the weather-predicting groundhog, was actually born Velvel Wiartfogel.

"He changed his name when he entered the entertainment weather forecasting field," his tearful sister, Vanessa Goldenberger, told a stunned news conference.

According to Goldenberger, Wiartfogel grew up in a traditional family, in the heart of Bathurst Manor. "He went to cheder at Eitz Yoseph Beth Marmita Amerikanit," she said. "He even had a bar mitzvah. At least I think that's what it was. There was a great party, and an ice sculpture of Velvel in the centre of the head table, and carrots all over the room. Oh, and Velvel went to shul one morning and read something out of a really cool-looking scroll."

Velvel was always interested in the entertainment field, she remembered. "He used to stand out in the backyard and sing and dance and tell jokes and give pretend weather reports."

Realizing that he didn't have the physical stature that most show business personalities have, and that he was too short to be a leading man, he went to school to study weather. For a while, he worked for Vortmax Weather Consultants, a small private company.

"He used to say that they taught him everything he knew," Goldenberger sobbed.

But then fame and fortune hit. "He answered an ad to be a stand-in for Wiarton Willie. He was so good, that he soon took the top job."

She said that he really loved the job. "He used to start preparing for the big day just after Sukkot. He had a computer in his underground office, and he studied and collated reports from all over the world and through satellite. And of course, most important, he would call Great-Aunt Perele Gittele to see how her arthritis was. He used to say that that was the best predictor of all. Oops, I wasn't supposed to say that, was I?"

Reaction was swift. His manager, Walter Woodchuck, said, "Sure, I figured he was Jewish. Especially when he wore that little beanie on his head, and when he wouldn't eat one day in the fall. But hey, we don't discriminate up here in Wiarton. I figured if he wanted to announce that he was one of you chosen groundhog types, he would have."

Woodchuck pointed out that he gave Willie a respectful funeral. "We got him a first class coffin and had a really big wake for him. Everyone in town came to pay their last respects. Hey, didn't you see it in the paper? Listen, if we had known, my girl Bambi would have sent *The Canadian Jewish News* a front page photo."

After an exhaustive search, B'nai Brith failed to come up with any indication that Velvel had joined the local lodge. A spokesperson said that "Wiarton Willie would have certainly joined if there had been one. He would have been welcome. And if anyone in the town had given him any trouble, we would have been the first to make a fuss."

A Canadian Jewish Congress, Central region spokesperson claimed that they knew all along that Willie was Jewish, but, in accordance with their long-standing policy of dealing with issues quietly and behind the scenes, had kept quiet and behind the scenes.

Goldenberger was upset that her brother was buried in a non-Jewish cemetery, and wanted to have him moved to Shalom Pardes cemetery in Maple. A spokesperson there said that he wasn't sure that there were facilities for groundhogs, even Jewish ones. "I mean, being called a hog…

"If it turns out we have to make room for him, we will," the spokesperson said. "But we have to get rabbinic approval, of course."

Rabbi Shlomo Shmuel Levenstein, new president of the Fervently Frum Association of the Only Real Rabbis of Toronto, said that he would have to search the texts to check on that. "The question, of course, is whether he was really Jewish. Was his mother? And how about his great-great-great-grandmother? And did he have a bris? And who did the bris? And who catered? Was it a company under proper rabbinic supervision, or one under the paskudnyaks at COR?"

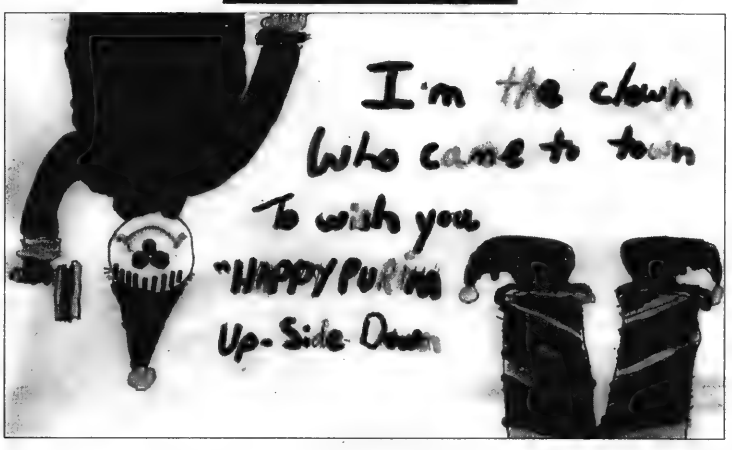
Rabbi Angus Carlton Rosengarten-Greenbaum, spiritual leader of the Ultra-Leftist Liberal Hebrew Congregation, said that his Worship Site would be proud to have Wiarton Willie in their cemetery, no matter what. "We know what it means to be left out."

Goldenberger said she was heartened by the positive reaction to her announcement and by the movement to eat carrot-filled hamantaschen in his honor.

From the editor's desk

will return next week

SEE JN



Aharon Yeres, age 9

Purim Shpiels

Kotel gets divided into 70 subsections

By JORDAN MAX
Special to The CJN

Roving CJN *reporter Jordan Max, who has just returned from a whirlwind tour of the Middle East, filed the following briefs:*

JERUSALEM — After a mammoth debate in the Knesset, and following the threat of withdrawal from virtually every coalition party in the government, an 11th hour agreement was finally reached to divide up the Kotel to reflect the diverse religious perspectives of the Jewish people.

Accordingly, the Kotel will now be divided into approximately 70 subsections of varying proportional widths to accommodate mixed worship, Reform, Conservative (traditional and liberal sub-sections), secular Israelis (facing the falafel stand), atheists (virtual space only), agnostics (in Tel Aviv), religious Zionists, religious anti-Zionists, tourists (Jewish and non-Jewish), Very Important Machers (VIMS), vegans and vegetarians. However, details on whether the proportional division would be based on world population or based on actual users still remains in dispute.

***

TEL AVIV — El Al, Israel's national airline, announced that it was creating its first frequent flyer plan, called Protektzia. Under the plan, frequent flyers who are mothers-in-law will be rewarded by designating them as co-pilots, inviting them into the cockpit to give pilots free unsolicited eitzes (advice) on flying and parallel parking the aircraft, and by using their favorite recipes for in-flight meals.

***

TEHRAN — The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the government of Iran formally announced this week that the CIS would be providing technical assistance to build a series of nuclear reactors for Iran, to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. The plan was immediately hailed by Amnesty International, the Flat Earth Society, Peace Now and Israel's Meretz party as a welcome advent to world peace.

HAVANA — In a stunning move, Cuban President Fidel Castro visited a Havana synagogue for the first time since the revolution. He was overheard to remark that it was his first time in synagogue since his bar mitzvah, which placed him on par with a substantial portion of the world's Jewish population. He alluded to his childhood discovery that he was not a kohen or levi as the primary cause of his early teenage rebellion, which eventually led to his current occupation.

***

TIBERIAS — Kibbutz Dagim scientists announced that they have now bred and developed a gefilte fish. They explained that this was done through genetically splicing together four different types of fish, carrot and onion genes, and then raising the boneless fish in special brine ponds.

Kibbutz officials expressed confidence that, once patented, the fish would be a real time-saver for harried Jewish housewives preparing for Shabbat and yamim tovim.

***

JERUSALEM — With the final tally just in from the Israeli elections for the Knesset, it appears that a record 60 parties received two seats each. The challenge will be for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was elected by the second run-off through direct election, to put together a stable coalition government within the next 60 days and nights. The prime-minister-elect immediately took off to Italy to seek advice from its prime minister on holding together viable coalition governments.

Rabbinical student has a real (computer) bug

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

JERUSALEM — Reuven Fizzort is convinced he's a computer. The 24-year-old Calgary-born Masorti (Conservative) rabbinical student is suffering from Y2K syndrome and expects to crash on Jan. 1, 2000.

Canadian-born psychiatrist Marla Shirley, a former University of Toronto professor, has examined Fizzort and says he must be kept away from (real) computers until he has undergone treatment and can be reassessed.

Fizzort managed to access a modem – he insisted it was part of his fingernail – for an exclusive e-mail interview, during which he strongly recommended *The CJN* return to the use of typewriters and Linotype before the end of the year.

Shirley, an expert on delusions, has never seen a similar case.

Seated on her desk in her office in Droriata (a Jerusalem suburb near the Kotel), she maintained the condition is not contagious, but took a lengthy pause to reboot herself and apply fresh lipstick to her monitor.

Fizzort's condition has attracted much attention in the Israeli media. Last week, security guards were posted outside his room in a private psychiatric facility in Jerusalem.

Rumor had it, fringe elements of the religious right were planning a kidnap attempt in the hope Fizzort would not be cured and would bring down the whole Masorti movement with him.

Hospital delays cut

Continued from page 3

not using their total annual allocation will be rewarded with a tax cut of $5.

Opposition came swift from all sides.

Leaders of the province's other political parties both denounced the plan as an attack on the education system. The NDP said that those unable to count may have problems determining which day to report to a hospital.

The Liberals promised to look into the entire mess if they are elected in the next election, but refused to be drawn into a debate whether they would scrap the plan.

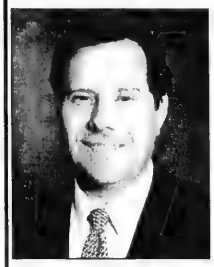
Meanwhile the Jewish community was divided on the issue. Orthodox leaders said that it was halachically unacceptable, while Reform movement spokespeople said since rules are changing all the time, they could not oppose change for change's sake. Conservative leaders said there were good and bad points to the plan.

However at B'nai Brith Canada, leaders were "up in arms" and vowed to take their fight to the highest levels.

It's a travesty, said their spokesperson, using the Gregorian calendar. Jewish people should have the right to base their hospital visits on the lunar or Jewish calendar.

Canadian Jewish Congress leaders quickly held their own press conference in a nearby surgery room. They promised to study the issue to lobby all the right people to ensure fairness for all.

GOODMAN AND CARR



Martin J. Rochwerg

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Mr. Rochwerg has extensive experience in representing businesses and ownership groups in Canada and internationally. He is named by LEXPERT, an independent guide to leading practitioners in Canada, as among the most frequently recommended estate planning lawyers in the country. He is the chairperson for Central Canada, a member of the International Estate Planning Committee and a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. He is president of the Estate Planning Council of Toronto, a member of the National Executive of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners, the Canadian Bar Association, the Canadian Tax Foundation and the International Fiscal Association, and has been a special instructor in Estate Planning at Osgoode Hall Law School since 1980.

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Sephardic Kehilla Centre gets ready to open mikvah

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — The sages tell us that we should beautify the mitzvot, that we should make observing the laws of the Torah as esthetically pleasing as possible.

That is exactly what the Sephardic Kehilla Centre and design architect Richie Idels have done with the centre's new mikvah.

The mikvah will open officially on March 17, with a program including speakers, a video on the mitzvah of using the mikvah, an opportunity to tour, and lots of food.

It will be available for use the next evening, March 18.

Rabbi Amram Assayag, spiritual leader of the Sephardic Kehilla Centre and chief rabbi of the Sephardic Rabbinate of Ontario, took *The CJN* on a tour of the new facility.

The mikvah itself, the pool where immersion takes place, is a scene of eastern elegance. The marble and tile walls, in warm beiges and tan, surround a scrupulously clean pool, which boasts not one but two filters.

Over the mikvah is a dome, with a blue mosaic that was, Rabbi Assayag said, imported from Italy and put together piece by piece.

Scene of eastern elegance

There are five fully equipped bathrooms in which to prepare for immersion, all decorated with beige textured tile, as well as a room with a shower and a steam room.

"Steam is very popular with Sephardi women," Rabbi Assayag said.

Great care has also been taken with maintaining security, he explained. There will be a special access route through the parking garage, access from the garage directly into the mikvah area, and a camera outside the reception room.

These precautions also ensure *tzniut*, modesty, the rabbi said, as going to the mikvah is considered very private. *Tzniut* will also be maintained by having users exit through a different hallway than the one used by those coming in.

A special touch is the bride's room. Rabbi Assayag explained that it is a Sephardi custom that a bride going to the mikvah before her wedding is escorted by female relations and friends, who party with her when she is finished.

"This makes it even more special and significant for the bride," he said, "not only that it is a party, but that she has to take time out in the middle of all the hectic preparations to go."

There is no other mikvah in the city that has facilities to observe this custom, he said.

Rabbi Assayag said he has given special instructions for the staff to try as hard as possible to avoid making the mikvah an all-evening affair. "In some mikvahs, you have to wait two or three hours. That is very hard for women, to leave their kids when there is homework and [there are] other needs, and when they themselves are tired. We want it to be as swift and smooth as possible."

Taharat hamishpachah, the laws of family purity, mandate that a husband and wife may not have sexual relations during menstruation or for seven days afterwards, and before immersing in a mikvah. The woman must be completely clean before going into the mikvah.

Using a mikvah is not like taking a bath, the rabbi said. Part of the water in the mikvah is rainwater, and immersing is "like going into a well of living water. The rabbis say that any impurity (not just menstruation, but any impurity, for men too) can only disappear if one immerses totally in a space where the impurity cannot exist."

Rabbi Assayag stressed that the Sephardic Kehilla Centre mikvah is not only for Sephardi women, but everyone is welcome.

For more information on the mikvah, call the synagogue at 905-669-7654.

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Greater Toronto Area

Education minister visits two Jewish schools

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — He didn't say yes and he didn't say no, but last week's visit by Ontario Education Minister Dave Johnson to two Jewish day schools has left officials of Canadian Jewish Congress hopeful that government funding is not a dead issue.

Johnson spent a little over one hour touring the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) and She'arim, a school for children with special needs. Children from Zareinu, a school for developmentally delayed youngsters, were bused to CHAT to greet the minister.

Johnson said he was extremely moved by the children from Zareinu. "You can't help but be affected," he said. "Coming here was helpful to me."

Congress officials said the invitation to the minister to visit the schools was aimed at sensitizing him to the situation faced in the Jewish school system. Following his visit, however, Johnson declined to make any funding promises. "I can't make any commitment in terms of special education," he said.

The minister said he would encourage discussions between the ministries of health, education and community and social service (Comsoc) with a view to considering health services for children in independent schools. "Certainly I'd be prepared to follow up in that direction," he said.

Funding education costs "is not on the [government's] agenda," he said. "What happens in the future is hard to predict. I really need to focus my energies on the public system. There's so much work to be done."

Approximately 90,000 students attend independent religious schools in Ontario, 11,000 of them in Jewish systems. Independent schools receive no government funding, while Roman Catholic schools receive full government support as a result of a bargain reached at Confederation.

Following a failed legal challenge to obtain equal funding, Congress, along with the Ontario Jewish Association for Equity in Education (OJAEE), stepped up a political lobbying campaign.

At the same time, a grass roots parents movement has been attempting to raise the issue's profile in the Jewish community and to mobilize parent activism.

Henry Koschitzky, chair of OJAEE, a Congress commmittee, said "it's important for us to show the government the type of work we're doing, that we have a first class educational institution [despite] the conditions under which we have to do our work."

CHAT, he pointed out, was originally designed as an elementary school for 450 students. Today it houses 900 high school students, many of whom study in portables.

Stephen Freedhoff, past president of CHAT, said some of the school facilities, such as the chemistry lab, pale in comparison to those in the public system.

"As taxpayers, it's always bothered us. Many other provinces fund this type of school... why not us?"

British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Quebec all fund independent schools, as do 65 countries around the world, OJAEE stated in a news release.

Tuition at CHAT averages $7,000 a year, while parents of the 68 children at She'arim face a top tuition fee of $12,650 per year. Of Shearim's $875,000 annual budget, $360,000 comes from tuition, $117,000 from the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto and the remainder is raised from donations, said She'arim president Gerry Goldberg.

Approximately 1,000 students in the Jewish day school system require access to health support services, OJAEE states. Among the services that are delivered free of charge to students in the public system, are speech language pathology, communication disorders therapy, nursing care and occupational therapy.

Dave Johnson meets Zareinu students. **[Randy Zelcer photo]**

"There is no reason [the government] shouldn't go forward with health services," said Keith Landy, chair of Congress' Ontario region.

The minister's comments on education funding were "consistent with what we've been hearing from the government," Landy said. "We acknowledge that with the tremendous changes brought to the school system, they don't want to deal with this in this mandate.

"If they're re-elected, that excuse won't be satisfactory. At that point, there will be no reason why it shouldn't be on their agenda.

"No one in the government has said it is inconsistent with their philosophy of fair funding for every student," he added.

Johnson acknowledged he "understood the arguments... I understand they see an inequity."

But, "there are many inequities in the world. We can't solve all the problems overnight," he said.

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Dry Bones
PESSIMISTS HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT AFTER PEACE WITH THE ARAB WORLD
WE'D HAVE A VICIOUS "KULTURKAMPF" BETWEEN OUR SECULAR AND RELIGIOUS JEWS
WELL WE PROVED THOSE PESSIMISTS WRONG!
WE'RE NOT WAITING FOR PEACE WITH THE ARAB WORLD!

The irony that hurts most

Continued from page 1

In the very first chapter of the Megillah, we have the foreshadowing of irony's crucial role in the emotion-charged events of the unfolding story. Vashti's banishment for having refused the king's will is intended, not only as a personal punishment, but also as a deterrent to all the wives of the king's realm, to ensure that "they all treat their husbands with respect, high and low alike." How deeply cutting then, the irony, of Haman's own wife's remarks to him at the end of chapter 6: "If Mordechai is Jewish…you will not defeat him; you will fall to your ruination."

Irony is the fulcrum on which all the critical events of the story of Purim are balanced. One inescapably concludes that its use is not merely literary but educational, intended to enable the readers to better understand that the ebb and flow of history is not always apparent on its surface. There are dimensions and repercussions far below the surface.

We, the Jewish people, throughout all the shining and dark days of our history, have always lived, certain that there are purposes we cannot always know and mysteries that we can only sometimes sense. But we have always taught that our life on earth is for seeking them out.

The story of Purim reinforces that certainty.

The survival of the diaspora community that lived in Achashverosh's kingdom was a result, not of serendipity nor of default, but of individual courage and collective concerted effort. The Megillah is quite explicit in emphasizing this point. Not fewer than five times in the narrative before the date set for the slaughter of the kingdom's Jews, does the Megillah use a form of the word *lehakel*, to gather together. The operative element of the term is the concept of *together*, the idea of union.

And at the most climactic moment of the story we read: "The Jews assembled *together*…to stretch out their hands against those who sought to harm them, *and no one could prevail against them*…" (Our emphasis) This, then, was the final irony of the story. The Jews were dispersed through 127 different lands of the kingdom, yet only through their resolve and commitment *to stand together* could they and did they prevail against the evil-doers intent on their destruction.

How terribly bitter and cruel the irony in some circles today, both in Israel and the Diaspora, that we, the Jewish people, have forgotten that fundamentally important message of Purim.

How terribly frightening and worrisome the development, in some circles today, both in Israel and the Diaspora, that we, the Jewish people, are ignoring Purim's singular, most powerful lesson: that the great strength and the full flowering of the Jewish people can only be realized when we stand together, not apart; when we are united, not tearing at each other's throat; when we look for binding common traits, not when we find startling, even upsetting differences; when we seek reasons to forgive, not when we seize upon reasons to condemn.

This is the irony that hurts most.

At the end of the story of Purim, we read that Mordechai "sought the good of his people and was a spokesman for peace among all his kinfolk." The rabbis did not intend this passage to be merely a description of the man. They surely intended it to be also a prescription for all men and all women. And by making it the concluding sentence, they surely also intended it be the last, most important thought we must carry in our hearts as we leave the synagogue after fulfilling the mitzvah of hearing the Megillah.

WISDOM OF THE AGES
"And the Jews felt a sense of light, celebration, happiness and worth."
(Megillat Esther)

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Used other sources to vet PA schools

A letter to the editor (*CJN*, Feb. 12) criticizes the fact that the interview with me in *The CJN* of Jan. 29 neglected to mention that our news agency uses Itamar Marcus at the Centre for Monitoring Peace as an important source for coverage of Palestinian schools. Indeed we do, and we pay Marcus for the service of his agency.

However, our news agency also relies on contracted staff and other resources that allow us to cover Palestinian schools and refugee camps. For that reason, we have hired Palestinian TV crews and Israeli journalists to conduct interviews of Palestinian educators and Palestinian Authority officials for the past five years.

In short, news agencies are never reliant on only one source of information in the preparation of news material.

The Centre for Monitoring Peace is to be credited for translating Palestinian textbooks and Palestinian Authority curricula. Yet it is our job as newspeople to see if these texts are actually being taught, and we have taken the time to witness their use in Palestinian schools.

David Bedein, MSW
Bureau Chief
Israel Resource News Agency

Says views on circumcision remain suspect

Prof. Margaret Somerville gives an eloquent response (*CJN*, Feb. 4), to Dr. Joseph Berger's letter to the editor (*CJN*, Jan. 7), on circumcision. Unfortuantely, she says a lot of nothing, and one could still make troubling interpretations of her position from her closing paragraph.

All she really has to do is say a few words: "Medical ethicists have no business in religious matters."

Until she states this publicly, her opinions remain suspect, and concerned Jews like Berger will continue to believe that any opinion opposing circumcision has a hidden anti-Semitic agenda.

J. Joel Rosenberg, MD
Toronto

Letter from the editor

The front page of *The CJN* last week evoked a strong response among certain readers. I received some very strongly worded phone calls, some polite, some hostile. In one instance a hate message was left for me on our office telephone system.

The CJN was also denounced from at least one synagogue pulpit of which I am aware.

The angry response was triggered by the fact that we published only one photo on the cover of last week's issue, namely that of the 50,000-strong counter-demonstration in Jerusalem and not a photo of the 250,000-strong main demonstration. We were accused of bias and flagrant discrimination.

The callers with whom I spoke were not assuaged by my denials of bias. Nor were they persuaded that we did not discriminate against religious Jews by the fact that we highlighted the main rally in the blue banner at the foot of the front page and in the caption that accompanied the photo.

Nor were the callers moved at all by the reason that we published only the one photo. By deadline 11:30 a.m. Monday morning, we had received two photos of the Jerusalem rallies, one of each demonstration.

In my judgment, only one of the photos, that of the counter-demonstration, met our news and color criteria for publication on the front page. The photo of the main demonstration of course satisfied our standards for news criteria but was far below even our minimal color and esthetic criteria.

I have reproduced that latter photo in the accompanying space for readers to draw their own conclusions about its photoworthiness.

Precisely to avoid accusations of bias, and precisely to comply with the canons of ethical journalism, we did include the two very prominent references to the main demonstration on the front page, accompanying the photo of the counter-demonstration.

But to my chagrin and pain, these two front page references were not sufficient to prove the objectivity of *The CJN*'s news coverage. Also to my chagrin and pain, none of our accusers attempted to ascertain the reasons for our decisions before levelling the accusation of bias and discriminatory treatment.

The CJN takes great pride in and spares no effort to ensure the accuracy, reliability and objectivity of its news coverage. We have set a very high standard for ourselves. It will never be compromised.

The editor.

Israel Sun Photo

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Perspectives

The Synagogue in Tegucigalpa

By FRANCI WILLIAMS
Special to The CJN

The Jewish community in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, has been striving for years to keep the Jewish culture alive.

Now this unique community needs support from world Jewry because in November, its synagogue was destroyed by Hurricane Mitch.

After years of praying in different locations, the community had only recently secured a permanent venue for Shabbat and holiday services.

For the past two years, the congregation had poured its heart and money into the new synagogue.

But now it is completely destroyed, submerged under mud and water, with all its Judaica lost except for a sefer Torah which was salvaged and is now being repaired in New York.

The Jewish community of Tegucigalpa is very small and is shrinking, because there is a high rate of intermarriage and significant emigration to the United States and Israel.

They are a group of dedicated Jews who manifest enormous strength, determination and dedication to Judaism against great odds. Thus the preservation of the community requires perseverance and a commitment by its members to devote time and attention to Jewish issues.

And they have succeeded. On one level, they are a constituted, legal, non-profit community with elected officials, and on another, they are an extended family related by their love of Jewish life.

They have conducted services, led completely by their own members, and they are fortunate in having participants who have a good Jewish education.

Before procuring a permanent venue, they had held the services in a hotel. They never knew which room would be available to them from one week to the next.

As the hotel became busier, the congregation eventually ended up using the hotel bedrooms for their sanctuary. The hotel, however, had not charged for the use of the rooms.

Two years ago, with 1½ days to go before the High Holy Days, the hotel told the community there were no available rooms.

People had to scramble madly to make last minute arrangements.

The High Holy Day crisis was the turning point for the community.

Members ended up having services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in Rosario Hernandez and David Loste's house.

The following week when they met for services, Loste asked how many people felt that they could no longer go without a permanent synagogue?

When he put the matter to a vote, the response was unanimous. Members began their search for a permanent venue with two definite pledges of support – one was from a businessman in the community and the other was from the Bank of Israel.

They were finally on their way after years of stress and strain.

The very last payment on the shul was recently made by Loste, just before he left for a UN position in Ethiopia.

It was a well-deserved triumph and everyone shared feelings of pride and security.

But in late fall Hurricane Mitch struck the Central American country of Honduras leaving a trail of death and destruction.

The Tegucigalpa synagogue was one of many properties decimated by Mitch.

The Jewish community has fortunately received donations of Judaica from other Latin American communities (especially the Costa Rican and Mexican Jewish communities). But it needs money to rebuild.

Children at the community-supported shelter.

The Tegucigalpa Jews, besides raising money for the rebuilding of their synagogue, have started a fund for Jewish families who suffered as a result of the hurricane.

They also support a shelter for those people who lost their homes and possessions.

They are being housed temporarily in a school called the State of Israel. (Schools in Honduras are named in honor of countries that have shown support for Hondurans.)

The Jewish community is in desperate need of books that can be used for bar and bat mitzvah instruction as well as to teach Jewish heritage subjects to the children.There are about 15 children of all ages.

The community also requires books on conversion to help the women who marry Jewish men convert.

The gentile women who marry Honduran Jewish men tend to convert, while Jewish women who marry Honduran men generally convert to Christianity.

I must admit I fell in love with this community. I immediately felt at home. By the time I left, I felt as if I had been there for years and that I had been visiting family.

The community exemplified the concept of one universal Jewish family.

The warmth, humor and hospitality of its members were unbounded. We were taken out for dinner, invited to a Chanukah party, and we even attended the wedding of the community's president.

It was the first fully Jewish traditional wedding here in 20 years, with a rabbi flown in from San Salvador.

Everyone we met in this small community had a story, a unique history to share with us.

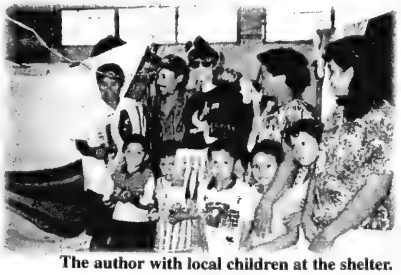
And they were all very affectionate. We revelled in hugs and kisses.

Meeting the Jews of Tegucigalpa was a wonderful experience that filled us with gratitude for being able to spend time with them.

We felt proud to be able to help them with a gift from their extended Jewish family in Toronto.

Franci Williams lives in Toronto.

The author stands in the cleaned-up shul.



The author with local children at the shelter.

Photos on the left, top to bottom: Charles Moses and a makeshift chanukiah, local children receiving gifts, the "State of Israel" school, and a Chanukah party celebration.
[Photos by Charles Moses]

Opinions

Funding larger social needs

I would like to return to a topic I broached several columns ago in regard to a Jewish communal reaction to the larger social issues facing Canadian society.

The column was given the headline, "Act in the Face of This Need," and discussed the deep feeling I have that our organized community needs to take action to ease the distress of many thousands of homeless, addicted and abused fellow Canadians.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

I received some wonderful feedback, both positive and negative, from my suggestion that federations in Canada should make room on their agenda for these needs.

On the one hand, I was given many examples of where institutions have acted: Out of the Cold, sponsored by a coalition of Toronto synagogues, other Jewish institutions and area churches; coat and blanket drives (one in my own synagogue); and contributions to community advocacy and support groups through Mitzvah Days and other forms of giving.

I mentioned several in my original column and I am sure there are many others.

I also received some critical comments, which I can boil down to: "We also support, as individuals, a lot of charities like United Way, but our gifts to the Combined Jewish Appeal are meant to enhance Jewish lives."

It was also pointed out to me that Jews support orchestras, galleries, theatres and recital halls, and universities across our country.

It is a point well-taken, but it wasn't my point. I was talking about a response that would represent the will of our entire community, expressed through the federations of Canada.

For years we have supported combined campaigns through our local federations which allocate money to our schools, community centres, family service agencies, arts and cultural organizations, and a long list of programs vital to our communal welfare.

The money also goes to relief of overseas communities in countries where Jewish lives are at risk, and for many years, to Israel – first for its upbuilding, then for rescue and immigration resettlement, as well as for social welfare causes there.

(It is a measure of the distressed relationships between Israel and North American Jewry that the New York City Federation-UJA has taken out full-page ads in the *New York Times* trumpeting its support of Israel-based Conservative and Reform programs. I take it that people are beginning to re-think their financial commitment to the state that would delegitimize them.)

But my concern here is not that argument. My concern is that while our communal institutions are always in need of federated dollars, we can surely find some space on our agenda to allow a concerted approach to larger social needs. Here is one way it could happen. I am sure there are many others.

In the past, our communities have raised millions for special campaigns, the most outstanding being Operation Exodus, for resettlement of Jews leaving the former Soviet Union.

At that time there were voices raised in doubt that our regular campaigns could withstand the power of such a campaign – surely people would just divide their standard gifts and the local campaign would suffer irreparable damage. It didn't happen. Operation Exodus raised millions in addition to our annual campaign targets.

Now there are all kinds of pressures on our charitable giving, but we, the most affluent Jewish community in history, still keep giving. I believe that we could do the same thing through a special fund to address our local communities' most pressing social needs.

In Toronto, for example, homelessness seems to be a major blight – a combination of draconian governmental attitudes towards the poor and a climate that kills. In Vancouver, there is a drug and AIDS epidemic taking over 300 lives per year and crippling thousands in our downtown east core.

I don't know what our other major urban centres would identify as their crisis points, but I am sure there is, in each community, visible distress.

I propose that in each community as a part of the regular annual Combined Jewish Appeal campaign, there be a special appeal for a fund set up to marry Jewish dollars to wider societal needs.

We don't have to set up new social agencies. There are many groups already working with whom we could partner. No one would be asked to shift dollars from their regular gifts to non-Jewish causes. But with the success of Operation Exodus, we know that we can make the case for additional giving to help our neighbors.

We can have a Jewish response to poverty, drugs, illness, madness and death on our streets. Just as we, as Jews, have enriched our country in so many ways, we can do it again. Surely we owe our children, who will live with the problems we ignore, this gift.

Choosing Shabbat over Peres

Perhaps because of what I do, I have always admired the great speech. A well-crafted speech that uplifts and inspires the listener is a thing of true beauty.

I have heard some excellent speeches in my time. Putting aside the rather superb address my 18-year-old son David delivered in tribute to his father at the 1998 JNF Negev Dinner, the best speech I ever heard was given at the Hebrew University Faculty Club to a comparatively small group of individuals attending a Canada-Israel law conference.

Bruce Elman in Edmonton

After an informal luncheon, Shimon Peres, then foreign minister, spoke about the prospects for a "new Middle East." His address was articulate and his delivery was impeccable. And his words – indeed, his dreams – were awe-inspiring. On that day, he spoke not just on behalf of the Medinat Yisrael (the State of Israel) but on behalf of am Yisrael – the people of Israel.

I have been present at other speeches delivered by Peres. When I heard he would be in Edmonton on March 19, I was naturally excited at the possibility of hearing him again. I looked at my calendar and discovered that March 19 was a Friday. There must be some mistake, I thought. How can Shimon Peres speak on a Friday night – on Shabbat. But as I found out, there was no mistake. Peres will be speaking on Shabbat Vayikra at a dinner event sponsored by Junior Achievement of Edmonton.

One cannot fault Junior Achievement for this. They made the offer to Peres, not knowing the problem his speaking on Shabbat would cause for members of the community. Peres accepted the offer, either personally or through his agents. He could have declined, but he did not.

His acceptance of the invitation to speak on Shabbat shows a lack of derech eretz – commonly understood to mean "sensitivity" – towards the Jewish community of Edmonton. Some members of the Jewish community would consider themselves bound by Halachah not to attend while others, even though they may not keep all the laws of Shabbat, would be uncomfortable attending.

After all, they have to travel to and from the event (it is not as if they would be driving to shul to pray with their community). The event includes a dinner, but it is not, of course, a Shabbat dinner. They are not sharing Shabbat dinner with their family. They are not in synagogue for davening.

For many Jews – both Orthodox and liberal – attending this on Friday evening would not only desecrate the Shabbat, it would destroy it. It is insensitive for Peres to speak at a time when Jews will have to choose between either hearing him or observing Shabbat. (Nor does my view of this change merely because Peres has agreed to help dedicate the community's new Talmud Torah school on the Friday afternoon.)

I know Peres is not an Orthodox Jew. This, too, does not alter my view that it is inappropriate for him to give a paid public address on Shabbat. His actions send a message that is "OK" for Jews to do this.

This is the primary message that is conveyed to non-Jews who may not understand the diversity of religious adherence which exists within the Jewish community. They may wonder, if Peres was not reticent about speaking on Friday evening, why any other Jew should be reluctant to do so, or, indeed, why Jews should even be uncomfortable about attending the event. Peres is insensitive in not understanding the ramifications of his actions on Jews in the Diaspora, particularly in small cities such as Edmonton.

Finally, there is at least one more difficulty associated with Peres' speaking on Shabbat. What message does his action send to our youth about a whole array of issues – the significance of Shabbat, the importance of community unity, the relationship between Israel, its leaders and the Diaspora, and even the seriousness with which we adhere to the basic principles of Jewish communal life such as derech eretz? Peres' speaking on Shabbat, however, is just the most visible example of a recurring problem.

When I was a youngster, the shul in Sydney used to distribute *World Over Magazine* to all the children in the Hebrew school. I remember how impressed I was reading that Gov. Abraham Ribbicoff took his oath of office wearing a kippah. And later, I was proud that Sandy Koufax would not pitch on Yom Kippur. It is important for leaders of the Jewish community, leaders of the general community who are Jewish, and prominent Jews generally, to understand that their actions have serious repercussions for members of their community – both individually and collectively. It is important for these people to adopt the principle of derech eretz.

So, on March 19, I will be at Congregation Beth Shalom turning Friday night into Shabbat. I'll welcome the Shabbat by singing L'cha Dodi. I'll have dinner with family, with my friends and fellow congregants. And I'll listen to words of Torah from our guest, Rabbi Elana Zaiman, because on Shabbat it is more important to hear her words than those of Shimon Peres.

Land of Milk and Honey?

The question in the title of this column was written on Tu b'Shvat, and naturally my mind turns to the land of Israel and its agricultural potential. Every reader of the Torah knows that when the spies sent by Moses to report on the condition of the Promised Land returned, 10 of them came back with a negative report. Still, they admitted, the land was flowing with milk and honey, and they brought back with them some of its fruit.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

In subsequent centuries, and to this day, the expression "a land flowing with milk and honey" has signified the ultimate wealth of the land, like nectar and ambrosia in the Greek tradition. "Milk" stood for ample herds of animals, and "honey" for an amplitude of flowering plants from which bees extracted their sweet products.

But already some years ago, a leading ecologist in Israel, Noga Hareuveni, came to the conclusion that the traditional interpretation of the biblical text was open to another understanding. According to him, the spies underlined the negative nature of their report by stating that the land was overrun by wild animals and that honey production similarly was not controlled by prudent beekeepers. A race of huge people inhabited the countryside, they said, and their reference to milk and honey simply underlined the wild condition of the land.

But whatever the early understanding of the text, "milk and honey" came to mean the wealth of the country. Its fauna, and especially its flora, were once indeed extraordinarily rich, and Hareuveni set himself to create a modern enclave which would represent plants, flowers and products that the soil once yielded to its inhabitants. He established a park that has come to be known as Neot Kedumim, literally "ancient pastures."

Located on Route 443 near Modi'in and near the Ben Shemen forests, Neot Kedumim is today the symbol of Israel's search for ecological balance and preservation. A former president of the state, Yitzhak Navon, is the chair of the project and has lent his reputation to the spread of an idea that more and more Israelis are beginning to appreciate and embrace.

In former days, when my wife and I used to lead regular yearly tours to Israel, we never failed to visit Neot Kedumim and became acquainted with Hareuveni and his lovely expanding gardens. It was easy to be infected with his enthusiasm, and in the years since then, his idea has captured the imagination of many young people, both in Israel and abroad.

Somehow, Tu b'Shvat brings all this back to my mind. Judaism teaches that the treasures we have been granted by nature are a sacred trust to be preserved to the best of our abilities. It fans out from the Promised Land to every place where humans dwell. To me, Tu b'Shvat is the birthday of modern ecology.

The Kirshner File

First-rate documentary looks at Arab-Israeli conflict

Television, its vacuous programs and its Jerry Springeresque personalities notwithstanding, can be an exceedingly enlightening and educational medium. In this respect, I can think of no finer an example than last month's five-hour, two-part documentary, *The 50 Years War: Israel and the Arabs*, a tour d'horizon presented by that examplar of American public broadcasting, PBS.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Produced in cooperation with the BBC, *The 50 Years War* was thoughtful, balanced and riveting, combining compelling narrative, graphic film footage and revealing interviews with Israeli and Arab decision-makers.

The first topic to be covered was the 1948 War of Independence, which resulted in the deaths of 6,000 Israeli Jews, a catastrophic toll considering Israel's population at the time.

It's clear that the Arabs expected victory. "We thought it would be a pushover," said an Egyptian, Adel Salin, King Farouk's cousin. As it was, the Egyptian army advanced as far as Ashdod before being stopped in its tracks by the Israelis.

Yitzhak Navon, Israel's former president, suggested that the tide only turned after Israel received a supply of weapons from Czechoslovakia. The United States withheld arms from Israel, despite President Harry Truman's recognition of the nascent state. George Marshall, the U.S. secretary of state, was strongly opposed to Jewish statehood, and accused Truman of pandering to Jews.

In a new revelation, a prominent Palestinian broadcaster, Hazem Nusseibeh, disclosed that the Arab side knowingly broadcast a false report claiming that Jewish fighters had raped Arab women during the Deir Yassin massacre. This, he admitted, was "our biggest mistake," since it was an important factor in the exodus of Palestinians from their towns and villages in Israel.

In the early 1950s, Israel's prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, hoping to reach a peaceful accommodation with Egypt, tried to arrange a meeting with Gamal Abdel Nasser. Despite some hesitancy, Nasser authorized a senior Egyptian diplomat, Abdel Sadek, to conduct talks with an Israeli representative in Paris. From Israel's vantage point, the negotiations proved somewhat fruitful: Nasser toned down the barrage of anti-Israel propaganda and reined in Palestinian fedayeen in Gaza. But, as Sadek acnowledged, Nasser could not bring himself to enter into peaceful relations with Israel.

Amid these developments, Czechoslovakia, a Soviet client state, signed a massive arms deal with Egypt at Moscow's behest. As a result, the Arab-Israeli dispute became an integral component of the Cold War.

The 1956 Sinai Campaign, as Israel's war of collusion with France and Britain is usually called, gave Israel a 10-year respite. But in May 1967, the Soviet Union, the great ally of the Arabs, let loose a genie which sparked the Six Day War.

As an ex-Soviet diplomat recounted, Moscow, in a calamitous act of mischief-making, informed Nasser that Israel was massing troops on its northern border and preparing an attack against Syria.

After personally investigating the matter, the Egyptian chief of staff found nothing amiss. The Soviet ambassador to Israel, meanwhile, roused Levi Eshkol, Israel's prime minister, out of his bed in the middle of the night to accuse Israel of fomenting trouble. Eshkol, still in his pajamas, offered to take the envoy to the Syrian border, but he declined the invitation.

Now, more than 30 years after the event, the former Soviet diplomat confessed that Moscow's cynical maneuvers were designed to set off a war and alter the balance of power in the region in favor of the Arabs.

Shams Badran, the Egyptian minister of war during this tense period, said that Soviet rumor-mongering forced Nasser to send troops to the Sinai Peninsula and block the Straits of Tiran, flagrant acts of war which prompted Israel to mobilize.

The former Egyptian chief of staff claimed that Nasser did not want a war with Israel, but stumbled into it under domestic pressure and in the name of Arab solidarity.

Interestingly enough, the United States and the Soviet Union respectively urged Israel and Egypt not to strike first. The American president, Lyndon Johnson, doubted whether Israel was in imminent danger, and warned Eshkol not to pre-empt. Robert McNamara, the U.S. secretary of defence, believed that Israel would win a war within seven days.

As the tension mounted, Ezer Weizman, the Israeli chief of operations, advised Eshkol to strike. "You have the best Jewish army since King David," he said, in one of his typically blustery statements.

When it finally launched its offensive on June 5, Israel had left only 12 aircraft behind to defend its airspace. In a frantic warning, Jordan warned Egypt that Israeli jets were homing in on its airfields, but the Egyptians were unable to decipher the coded message!

McNamara said that the Soviet Union came militarily close to helping Syria fend off Israel's blitzkreig on the Golan Heights. Washington urged Israel to halt its attack, but Eshkol coyly ignored the admonition, his widow recalls.

Israel, we learn, was ready to withdraw from the West Bank and the Sinai in exchange for Egypt's recognition of its existence, but Nasser balked. According to Badran, he could not be seen to be negotiating with Israel, the enemy of the Arab world.

No sooner had the dust of the Six Day War settled than Israel was engaged in a guerrilla war with the PLO in the Jordan Valley. Initially, Jordan encouraged the Palestinians, a Jordanian general said. The Jordanians had second thoughts about their provocative alliance with the PLO, as militant Palestinians, spearheaded by George Habash of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, clamored for King Hussein's overthrow and masterminded a series of airplane hijackings with regional implications.

With civil war having broken out in Jordan, Syria dispatched a tank battalion to northern Jordan. Gen. Mustafa Tlass, the Syrian defence minister, claimed that Syria's intervention was benign, merely aimed at protecting Palestinians rather than invading Jordanian territory. King Hussein, willing to accept assistance from "any quarter" in his hour of

Gamal Abdel Nasser

duress, was relieved when the Israeli air force warded off the Syrians.

Being grateful for Israel's help, King Hussein, on the eve of the Yom Kippur War, warned Golda Meir, the premier, of Egypt's and Syria's intentions to regain the land they had lost in 1967. Not fully convinced that his information was correct, she disastrously failed to mobilize the reserves.

The 50 Years War also dealt with Anwar Sadat's historic trip to Jerusalem in 1977, the subsequent Camp David summit which produced Israel's peace treaty with Egypt, and Shimon Peres's 1987 attempt, nipped in the bud by Yitzhak Shamir, to co-opt Jordan into the circle of peace.

The Palestinian uprising in the territories, universally known as the intifadah, was analyzed at some depth, as was Washington's herculean efforts to bring Israel and the Palestinians to the negotiating table after the 1991 Gulf War.

The Oslo peace process, as well as Jordan's rapprochement with Israel,were the subjects of the final hour of this excellent documentary. Among those shedding light on these developments were the late Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, the former U.S. secretary of state, Warren Christopher, and two Palestinian negotiators, Abu Alla and Abu Mazen.

In short, *The 50 Years War* was TV at its finest.

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Discovering oneself

By LISA ABRAMOVITZ

Guest Voices

I grew up in a Jewish home in suburban north Toronto, an experience that has defined me both culturally and geographically.

My childhood was happy, and I consider myself lucky to have parents who were positive role models in my formative years. The values I learned from them were instrumental in shaping and influencing me later in life.

From my father, I learned persistence, and I benefited from his passion for life. From my mother, I understood and appreciated the act of charity and giving back to the community. Armed with these valuable lessons, I came into my own and discovered my true self at 25.

In 1989, I was able to fulfil a dream when I travelled abroad alone. After many wonderful, eye-opening and culturally rich experiences, I returned to Canada a veteran of the world. My wide-eyed idealism transformed into responsibility, and I became actively involved in global social and environmental causes. So powerful was my desire that I pursued graduate work for the next three years in areas that would help me further understand these issues.

Now as 1999 unfolds, I've been taking stock of my life to date: my travel experiences abroad, my exposure to academic ideas and my desire to constantly challenge myself. I pose questions that beg to be answered. What lessons have I learned? What path do I now take?

Over the years, I've stretched my mind, and now I struggle to find a physical and emotional place in the Jewish community of my youth. But the personal inventory of my life has left me feeling somewhat estranged from friends who married high school sweethearts, had children and planted their roots five minutes from their childhood homes. This is not my destiny.

To compound matters, my mother relentlessly searches out new suitors for me. But in her attempt to play matchmaker, she only focuses on the fact I am now 35 and still single. She does not see the type of person I have become: determined, free-spirited and passionate about the larger world around me.

My life can no longer be contained within the cultural and geographical boundaries of the world I grew up in. And in my attempt to date, I go out in the hopes of seducing fate. I have my latte. We talk. I reflect. He listens.

But what I actually hear is how different I sound from what family and friends define as "typically" Jewish. I constantly tell suitors I could be just as happy living in a mud-floor, thatched hut as they would be living in a modest bungalow in the 'burbs.

To this they reply: "Good luck."

Perhaps, I think afterwards, I have been too strong in my convictions. But I come home feeling exasperated, and I wonder if I am perceived by others as a square peg trying to fit into a round hole. Could I be clinging to the desire to roll up my sleeves and make the world a better place? Or am I simply fighting the domestic, suburban lifestyle that has eluded me for so long?

I'm starting to realize that parading around with a non-conforming appearance may simply reflect a well-roundedness, so to speak, a worldliness, though in my quest for personal reconciliation, I still would like to find my destiny.

The next time my mother sets me up on a date, I'm hoping he will at least fit into my ever-changing and evolving world.

Lisa Abramovitz is a young adult who lives in Toronto.

Time to enjoy Purim treats

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

When Jews observe the most joyous holiday of the calendar next week, they'll be doing a lot of their celebrating through the preparing, eating and of course, sharing of food. So today, some food for thought about Purim.

No food is more identified with Purim than hamantaschen. Last year, I introduced you to hamantaschen for the adventurous, like cream cheese hamantaschen **[http://www.eskimo.com/~jefffree/recipes/hamacrch.htm]** and beef-filled hamantaschen **[http://dinnercoop.cs.cmu.edu/dinnercoop/Recipes/jody/FlayshigeHamantashen.html]**.

If you want to play it safe, you can find over a dozen more traditional recipes at the Jewish-food Hamantaschen archives **[http://www.eskimo.com/~jefffree/recipes/hamindex.htm]**. By the way, if you're travelling in Israel, don't be surprised if you get some blank stares when you ask for hamantaschen when you really want "oznei haman" **[http://israeliculture.tqn.com/library/weekly/aa030998.htm#haman]**.

One of the central mitzvot and joys of Purim is to send mishloach manot, a minimum of two items of food to one person (Esther 9:22) **[http://www1.snunit.k12.il/kodesh/bible/mastr009.html]**. Rabbi Yehudah Prero suggests that mishloach manot represents something much more than sending goodies but is actually a Gift of Unity **[http://www.torah.org/learning/yomtov/purim/5757/vol2no29.html]**. Our happiness on Purim is to be expressed through festive feasts – which not everyone can afford. But because we do not want "to embarrass the poor, the rich give gifts to the poor, and the poor give gifts to the rich. All the members of the nation of Israel give indiscriminately to their brothers and sisters so all can celebrate Purim properly, without any shame."

Of course, many people go way beyond the minimum when sending out mishloach manot. There are many commercial sites that will prepare and deliver your goodies for you. But I like the Beit HaChatulim site, which not only has suggestions for what to put in your basket, but tips about deciding who gets what: "A" lists plates for special families, "B" lists plates for others **[http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/1259/purim.htm]**. You can find more tips and treats at Jewish Family **[http://www.jewishfamily.com/scripts/newjfl/paper/Article.asp?articleid=843]**.

Purim concludes with the festive meal, Seudat Purim **[http://users.aol.com/rabbiyd/purim.html]**. You may have your traditional menu, but if you want to try something a bit different this Purim, why not go back to the source: Persian food. How's this for a meal? Tangy tangerine chicken with some crusty spicy rice **[http://www.jewishfamily.com/scripts/newjfl/paper/Article.asp?articleid=843]**; Purim ravioli (with spinach, chicken breast and pasta) **[http://www.cyberkitchen.com/recipes/Purim_Raviolli.htm]**; Ba'ba beh tamur (Iraqi pastries with almond or date filling) **[http://www.cyber-kitchen.com/recipes/Purim_Iraqi_Filled_Pastries.htm]** topped off by homemade halvah **[http://food.epicurious.com/run/recipe/view?id=40004]**.

If you are looking for yet more on Purim beyond food, I recommend Temple B'nai Shalom's Purim Pages **[http://www.shamash.org/reform/uahc/congs/va/va004/purim.html]**, Maven **[http://www.maven.co.il/subjects/idx127.htm]** and Jewish Communication Network **[http://www.jcn18.com/holiday/purim/index.htm]**.

Finally, I nearly choked on my hamantash when I came across "Latke vs. Hamantash: A Materialist-Feminist Analysis." **[http://users.uniserve.com/~hostrov/latkes.html]**. It is penned by the erudite Robin Leidner of University of Pennsylvania's Department of Sociology, who examines which food is more liberating for women, latkes or hamantaschen. Leidner rejects any suggestion that hamantaschen have "been part of the oppressive apparatus upholding the most retrograde patriarchal elements of Judaism" when she concludes that "for women, it is clear that hamantaschen offer far more scope for self-realization, egalitarian relations, and social progress than do latkes."

I'm glad Leidner removed the hamantash from her cheek long enough to firmly plant her tongue there.

Happy Purim and bon appétit!

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a television producer in Toronto with an interest in the Internet. He can be reached at [mdm@inforamp.net].

Jewish Life

A journalist's life

***"Arthur Koestler The Homeless Mind,"* by David Cesarani (Random House, $54.95).**

A generation or so ago, the name and work of Arthur Koestler (1905-1983) were well known. He was regarded as an outstanding journalist and chronicler of his times. He wrote half a dozen novels, several volumes of autobiography, a series of original books on science, and dozens of elegantly phrased and stimulating essays on a variety of subjects.

Books
Bernard Baskin

Born in Budapest, he experienced a wealth of adventure in his early years. He was, in turn, an ardent member of a Zionist duelling fraternity in Vienna, a street vendor of lemonade in Haifa, an editor of a weekly in Cairo, a worker on a kibbutz in the Galilee, a member of the North Pole expedition of the Graf Zeppelin, a science writer and foreign correspondent for the liberal Ullstein publications in Berlin, and an active member of the German Communist party, which he had joined in 1931, two years before Hitler came to power, and for which he had become an important agent and propagandist.

Disillusioned with communism, he wrote a famous indictment of Stalin's Russia based on the Moscow trials. *Darkness at Noon* became one of the most influential, widely read, and widely translated political novels of the time. The morally concerned protagonist Rubashov, an old Bolshevik, finally confesses in prison, to crimes that he did not commit, as a last logical act of loyalty to the party.

Koestler reported the Spanish Civil War and was taken prisoner by Franco, narrowly escaping death. He returned to Palestine as a newspaperman in 1945 and again in 1948, and wrote a novel about Jewish settlement, *Thieves in the Night* (1946), and a historical study, *Promise and Fulfilment: Palestine* (1917-1949). The controversial epilogue of *Promise and Fulfilment* gives all Jews, after the establishment of the state, a "historic" choice between immigration to Israel or assimilation to the non-Jewish world.

His book *The Thirteenth Tribe* (1976), concerned the history and legacy of the Khazars, a tribe from the Caucasus that attained considerable regional power in the seventh to ninth centuries, and adopted Judaism before going into terminal decline in the 11th century, and fading out of history.

Koestler tries to prove that the majority of Jews stemmed from an obscure Caucasian tribe with no connection to the Patriarchs or to ancient Israel. The book was slaughtered by knowledgeable reviewers and not a single Jewish historian has given the slightest credence to Koestler's assertions.

In the second half of his life, he wrote a number of original but highly controversial books about science which include *The Sleepwalkers* (1959), *The Act of Creation* (1964) and *The Ghost in the Machine* (1967).

In 1983, he and his relatively youthful and healthy third wife committed suicide together when he could no longer cope with his terminal illness – Parkinson disease. This act, in which it appeared that he determined the fate of his wife, was widely denounced and lessened his reputation.

For the author, Koestler was a Jew "who was never given a chance to belong anywhere, a deracinated intellectual whose roots were treated with a kind of cultural weed killer. His Jewish identity was that of a member of a stereotyped minority, alternatively viewed with exaggerated respect or cosmic contempt.

"In the years during which he grew to maturity, as much to his ethnic as to his family background, his life was propelled and ruined by a never-ending quest for a satisfying identity and a home."

David Cesarani is a professor of modern Jewish history at Southampton University in England. His mammoth re-assessment of Koestler's life is the many-sided story of a fascinating, brilliant but conflicted personality against the background of a tumultuous century.

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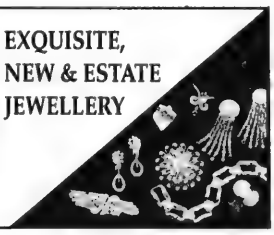

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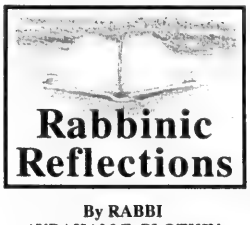

Rabbinic Reflections

Looking below the surface

By RABBI AVRAHAM E. PLOTKIN

We live today in a superficial world, a world where people are judged by externals. Whether it is the way we size up our spouses, leaders, employees, employers or even ourselves, society teaches us to look primarily at the external presentation.

As Jews, however, we know not to judge a book by its cover. The wise King Solomon, in his popular *Aishet Chayil* poem, describes the virtues of a woman of valor so eloquently: "Charm is deceptive and beauty is naught, a God-fearing woman is the one to be praised." We are taught by the Torah to look past the surface and find the "inner" qualities of a person.

Perhaps one of the reasons for today's high divorce rate is that contemporary relationships are based almost exclusively on external considerations. We look for external qualities and instant gratification instead of searching for inner qualities that endure the test of time.

At a Jewish wedding, just before the bride and groom march off to their chupah, there is an ancient custom observed, dating back to the biblical Isaac and Rebecca, called the bedecken. The groom, escorted by his parents and community leaders, goes to the bride in her chamber and places a veil over her face. One profound reason given for this custom, is to indicate that the groom is not primarily interested in her external physical beauty. Beauty is something that will fade in time, but if the groom is also attracted to the girl's inner spiritual quality, he is attracted to something he will never lose.

When Esther, the heroine of the Purim story, entered the royal chambers of King Achashverosh unannounced, to convince him to annul his decree against the Jews, she was clearly risking her life for the sake of her people. Nobody was allowed to enter the king's chambers without the king's explicit permission.

Yet, one would think that if she was trying to find favor in the eyes of the king, she would work out at an expensive royal health club, go for a royal makeover, visit Saks Fifth Avenue for an outfit and Bloomingdales for some jewelry, and only then see the king.

What does Esther do? Instead of relying on her physical beauty, she fasts and prays with all of her Jewish brethren for three consecutive days, asking HaShem to grant her success in her important mission. One could imagine the physical state she was in at the conclusion of a three-day fast and what she looked like. What was she thinking? Was she relying on a miracle? Doesn't Jewish tradition teach us not to rely on miracles or to place our life in danger?

Perhaps we can explain that Esther knew exactly what she was doing. She knew that the true charm of a Jewish woman is not her physical charm but her soul, her spirituality and inner beauty. Esther knew that after fasting and praying for three days, her true charm would shine through and reach the heart of King Achashverosh.

This is a wonderful lesson to all of us living in this Hollywood society that worships the body and all that's external. We have to start looking deeper than the surface and judge people for their inner qualities, spirituality and soul.

May this deeper approach be the catalyst for HaShem to judge our people for our inner qualities that have endured the ages, so that we merit the coming of Mashiach speedily in our days.

Happy Purim!

Rabbi Plotkin is the spiritual leader and executive director of Chabad Lubavitch of Markham.

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CORRECTION

In the Camp Supplement in our issue of Feb. 11, 1999, the Camp Director of

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Agunah Get Days planned

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — March 4 and 18 have been declared Agunah Get Days, to facilitate the Jewish divorce process for reluctant or recalcitrant husbands – before Passover.

A news release from New York-based L'maan B'nos Yisrael International, under whose auspices Agunah Get Days are run, stated, "We cannot sit comfortably at our seder, saying *kulanu benei chorin* (we are all free), when so many of our Jewish daughters are denied their basic right of freedom to remarry because they are agunot."

Under Jewish law, a woman cannot remarry without a get. Should she remarry civilly without obtaining a get, children of the subsequent marriage are considered mamzerim (illegitimate) and may only marry another mamzer or a convert.

Marilyn Mattie Klein, a New Yorker who came up with the idea for agunah get days (two of which have already been held), started L'maan B'nos Yisrael last year to help agunot. She has been happily married for 25 years, and was moved to tears by the pleas of agunot who wanted her daughter to pray for them under the chupah. (According to Jewish tradition, a bride's prayers find their way directly to God.)

"People have to understand that if they have the blessings others don't, they are the ones in the position to help," she said in a phone interview.

The volunteer-run organization, which is supported by well over a dozen Orthodox organizations, sponsored two agunah get days last year. An anonymous donor is providing funding for the sofer (scribe).

"We will arrange the get nicely, respectfully, with dignity," said Klein. "We appreciate the fact [the husbands] are now doing the right thing, and they're treated accordingly, in a positive manner. We want people to feel comfortable coming to us."

At Klein's request, Rabbi Mordechai Tendler wrote a prayer for agunot. There are versions appropriate for reciting under the chupah, at candlelighting time, and together with psalms or other prayers.

"We need God's help," said Klein, whose Canadian contacts thus far include Montreal's Vaad Ha'ir Beth Din and Rabbi Reuven Bulka of Ottawa's Machzikei Hadas Congregation.

L'Maan B'nos Yisrael is also contacting rebbitzens to ask that they organize agunah help centres in their synagogues.

The organization has a policy of not releasing statistics, rather focusing on the importance of each individual case. "We're getting many [gittin], thank God," said Klein, who noted that one success resulted from a husband seeing an article in *The CJN*.

For the past several years, vigils have been held in several Canadian cities on the eve of the Fast of Esther to increase awareness of the plight of agunot. This year, Montreal Women's Federation is holding a study session on Purim morning, March 2, to be led by Norma Joseph.

National Council of Jewish Women has invited all Jewish organizations to participate in a dawn-to-dusk fast for agunot on International Women's Day, March 8.

L'maan B'nos Yisrael can be contacted at 718-338-0833.

MUSEUM VISIT

USDS junior kindergarten students Jacquline Levy and Austin Tobe from the Bathurst campus are seen at the Bathurst Jewish Centre's Children Museum last month.

MINYANIM IN THE GTA
WEEK OF FEB. 26-MARCH 4/'99

Synagogue	Address & Tel.	Fri. Night	Shabbat	Sun. A.M.	Daily A.M.	Daily P.M.
Adath Israel (C)	37 Southbourne Ave. (416) 635-5340	5:45 PM	9:00 AM	8:00 & 9:00 AM	7:00 & 7:45 AM	6:05 PM
Anshei Minsk (O)	10-12 St. Andrews St. (416) 595-5723	5:52 PM	9:15 AM	9:15 AM	7:15 AM	5:05 PM
Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am (C)	55 Yeomans Rd. (416) 633-5500	6:00 PM	9:00 AM	8:30 AM	7:00 & 8:00 AM	6:00 PM
Beth Radom (C)	18 Reiner Rd. (416) 636-3451	4:45 PM	8:45 AM	9:00 AM	8:00 AM	4:45 PM
Jewish Russian Community Centre (O)	18 Rockford Rd. (416) 665-9600	5:44 PM	9:30 AM	9:00 AM	7:00 AM 9:00 AM	5:05PM
Kehillat Shaarei Torah (O)	2640 Bayview Ave. (416) 229-2600	5:44 PM	9:15 AM	9:00 AM	7:00 AM	----------
Sephardic Kehilla Centre [Abir Yaacob] (O)	7026 Bathurst St. (905) 669-7654	5:44 PM	8:45 AM	8:00 AM	6:45 AM	5:05 PM
Temple Emanu-El (R)	120 Old Colony Rd. (416) 449-3880	8:30 PM	10:30 AM	8:30 AM	7:30 AM	----------
Temple Kol Ami (R)	36 Atkinson Ave. (905) 709-2620	7:30 PM	10:30 AM	----------	----------	----------

This is not a comprehensive listing of the synagogues in the Greater Toronto area. The information is provided by the Vaad Harabonim of Toronto and the Toronto Board of Rabbis. The Vaad and the Board will periodically revise the listings. For statutory holidays, please call the Synagogue for any changes in times.

Greater Toronto Area

Jewish nursing home residents get mezuzot

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Lincoln Place nursing home's Jewish residents now have mezuzot on their doors, thanks to donations by their families and by the home's administration.

It is part of Lincoln Place's attempt to "make the environment more Jewishly hospitable," explained programs' manager Nancy Ferareza. The mezuzot were put up last week in every room where at least one of the residents is Jewish, and on the front door and various other places around the home.

While Lincoln Place always had a sizable proportion of Jewish residents, that number has been increasing in the last four or five years, said Ferareza. Three-quarters of the home's 260 residents are now Jewish, she said.

Rabbi Ronald Weiss, director of chaplaincy services for Jewish Family & Child Service, said that his office was contacted by the administration to suggest ways to enhance the lives of the Jewish residents. The food is kosher, religious services, led by volunteers, are held on Shabbat and yom tov, and now, Rabbi Mark Breslow is on site during the week.

While putting up mezuzot may seem like a small thing, Rabbi Weiss said, in fact it is very significant. "It says to a person coming along that this is a Jewish home," he said. "It is as much cultural as religious."

The mezuzot are only a small part of Jewish programming at Lincoln Place. Penny Edwards, Jewish programming coordinator, said that there is a symbolic Shabbat program every Friday afternoon, which includes candlelighting, kiddush and challah.

Once a week, a Jewish Hour may include a discussion about holidays, a Yiddish video, Israeli folk dancing, or Jewish trivia. Staff members bring in artifacts to make a mini-museum, said second-floor recreation therapist Rebecca Sheen, such as a havdalah candle or a spice box. "Everyone sits around and reminisces about how things used to be," she said.

Rabbi Breslow gives a Torah class once a week, as well. Holidays are celebrated with great enthusiasm,he said. On Chanukah, a menorah is lit in the smoking room, and electric ones are lit on each floor. A masquerade ball and a festive meal highlight Purim, said Sheen.

Ferareza noted that the religious needs of the non-Jewish residents are also served. There is a Roman Catholic mass once a week, for instance, and a Christian chaplain is in place.

Rabbi Weiss said the 167 mezuzot represent "a momentous commitment on the part of the home, not just financially, but the idea of putting them up where they hadn't ever been before."

Lincoln Place residents Anne Levine (far left), Residents Council president Rose Richmond and Rabbi Ronald Weiss, director, chaplaincy services, Jewish Family & Child Service, watch Rabbi Mark Breslow affix a mezuzah to the doorpost of Sophie Siegel's room. [Leila Speisman photo]

Bathurst Jewish Centre

J.C.C. MACCABI YOUTH GAMES
For Jewish athletes, 13-16 years
August 15-20,1999 Rochester, New York
Tryout Schedule

Bloor JCC

Boys' Basketball	Sun. Mar.21 & 28 8:00pm-10:00pm
Girls' Basketball	Sun. Mar.21 & 28 6:00pm-8:00pm
Boys' Soccer	Thurs. Mar.4 8:00pm-10:30pm Wed. Mar.10 7:30pm-10:30pm
Boys' Volleyball	Sun. Mar.7 & 14 8:00pm-9:30pm
Girls' Volleyball	Sun. Mar.7 & 14 6:00pm-7:30pm
Meetings: Karate, Swimming, Tennis, Track (Boys' & Girls')	Sun. Mar.7 10:00am-11:00am
Meetings: Boys' Baseball, Girls' Softball	Sun. Mar.7 11:00am-12:00pm
Meeting: Boys' & Girls' Golf	Tues. Mar.9 7:00pm-8:00pm

Since the maximum Toronto contingent is 100 athletes, it is possible that some of the above sports or gender/age groups may not be represented at the Games. Not withstanding a fair tryout format, the final decision for inclusion on the team is at the discretion of the coaches and committee.
There is a one time $ 5.00 administration fee for tryouts and/or meetings.
Visit our web site at: www.bjc.on.ca or www.bloorjcc.on.ca

All tryouts and meetings take place at the Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst Street (416)636-1880 ext.#374

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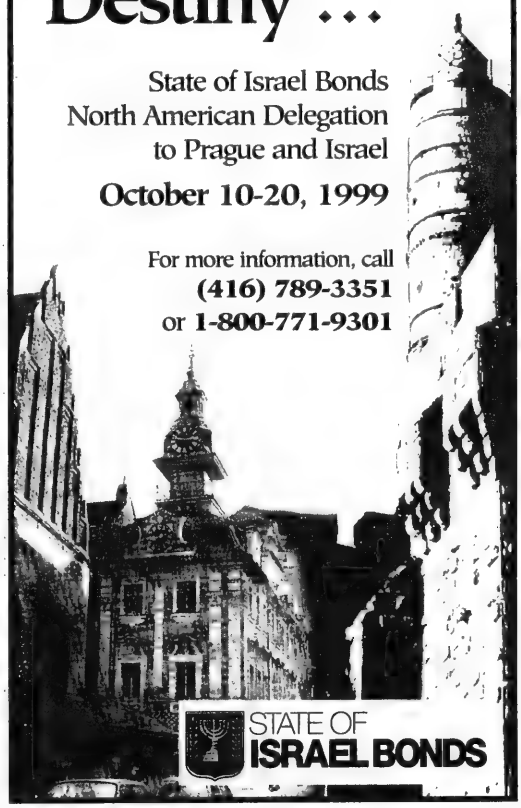

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Jewish, Rwandan survivors explore healing process

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The scars inflicted by unspeakable tragedies have brought together two different communities trying to explore healing.

In the second of a series of dialogues, Jewish Holocaust survivors commiserated last week with survivors of Rwanda's 1994 genocide. The two sides, with little in common save for the horror they experienced, shared their sorrow, but also explored how to take important initial steps toward opening up and dealing with pain.

The session, held at the Lipa Green building, drew about a dozen mainly young Rwandans, about half of whom survived the 1994 bloodbath in which over a million moderate Hutus and Tutsis were butchered by Hutu extremists in just over three months.

Comparisons of the genocide to the Holocaust are frequent. Judging by their reticence to open up and share their pain, the Rwandans seem to be where Holocaust survivors were in the first few years after World War II, when either they remained silent or no one was willing to listen.

Facilitator Alan Bardikoff, a psychologist who specializes in trauma and coping, said he believes that often, talking to other survivors of terrible events can be therapeutic. "People don't heal in isolation," he said. "Sometimes, we just need people."

Begun last autumn, the joint sessions were intended to foster dialogue, understanding and support between the two communities, said Carole Ann Reed, education director at the Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre. Central issues include whether it's better to speak about the past or avoid painful memories.

Common ground found

The two sides are still feeling their way, but common ground was shown in questions posed by the Rwandans – questions that are often asked by Jewish non-survivors.

One wondered how Holocaust survivors coped and even went on to become productive, relatively well-adjusted people.

"It helped to be numb for a while," responded survivor Judy Cohen. "It helped to do what everyone else was doing: working, raising children, just living. Eventually, the pain subsides. It wasn't all darkness."

She encouraged the Rwandan survivors "to go on talking about it, but to go on living too."

Anita Ekstein, a child survivor of the Holocaust, said she "forced" herself not to think about her ordeal and never talked about it outside her immediate family until 1991, when a conference for child survivors was held.

The Rwandans, it seemed, aren't nearly at the point yet where they will soon hold conferences. Because their wounds are still fresh, they're still groping to find the language to describe the horrors that engulfed their country.

One Rwandan participant wondered aloud whether remembering the genocide and holding memorials for the dead would impede the healing process.

Evariste Sibomana, a Rwandan survivor, said he "promised never to cry for anything other than what I should have cried for." He spent six months in prison for "sympathizing with the enemy," an experienced he described as "too graphic to explain."

He complained of the ignorance about the events in his country. Often, he said, people don't even know where Rwanda is. "People are supposed to know what's going on, but they don't."

Leo Kabalisa, an activist in Toronto's 300-member Rwandan community, said there are pointed cultural and gender differences among his people: "Men cry, but in private. In public, they want to show they are strong."

One Holocaust survivor said she only began to heal when she started to volunteer at the Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre.

A young Rwandan woman remarked that while in exile in neighboring Burundi, "nothing was said. Discussion was taboo."

Bardikoff observed that the Holocaust and the Rwandan genocide "share many similarities, and just as many differences."

The two groups have pledged to keep talking.

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Greater Toronto Area

Leo Baeck celebrates 25th anniversary

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Leo Baeck Day School, which has grown from 100 students to 725, is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

A gala dinner reception with a silent auction and entertainment, to be held March 25 at Le Parc, is a highlight of the anniversary celebrations, which also include other events.

The alumni of the only Reform Jewish day school in Canada are invited to attend a memorabilia reunion on May 30 at the school's main campus, at 36 Atkinson Ave., in Thornhill . The other campus is located at Holy Blossom Temple.

The inaugural presentation of the school's new award for excellence in Jewish education will take place at the gala. The award's first recipient will be Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut, who was a pupil of Dr. Leo Baeck in Berlin.

Rabbi Plaut, the rabbi emeritus of Holy Blossom Temple, was one of the early advocates of a Reform day school named in Baeck's honor. The award will be presented by Prof. Michael Brown, director of York University's Centre for Jewish Studies.

According to education director Zita Gardner and current school president Mark Shiner, there is no mystery as to why the school, one of the oldest and largest in the Reform movement, has doubled its enrolment in the past seven years.

"Our parents are committed to Judaism and a lot of them are worried about what's happening in the public schools," Gardner said. "They like the attention given to their children in a vigorous program and they think our school is the place to be."

The school's combined staff of 70, is made up of 60 teachers. One-third of the day is spent on Hebrew arts, including the study of Torah and Israel; one-third on English language arts; and in grades 1 to 5, one-third on math, science and social studies, Gardner noted.

She said the spirit of the anniversary year was evident as early as last September, when the students and staff all showed up on the first day of classes wearing anniversary-T shirts

To mark this milestone, UJA Federation teamed up with the school in December to send 19 staffers on a two-week tour of Israel, led by Rabbi Dow Marmur.

Gardner spoke of another anniversary event, a recent Shabbat service and dinner at Temple Emanu-El, attended by 800 people. She said Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld recalled that Leo Baeck's first classes were held on the premises while Rabbi Plaut spoke about Baeck's vision for Reform day schools.

During the past seven years, one-third of the school's graduates have gone on to attend the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, Gardner said.

The school goes from kindergarten to Grade 8 at the main campus and up to Grade 5 at Holy Blossom.

However, that campus will include Grade 6 next year, because there is a "resurgence" of young couples moving into that area, Gardner said.

A compact disc of the school's student choir will be released during the year, she added.

Andrea Rifkin and Loren Kruger are co-chairs of the 25th anniversary events while Tom Unger is chair of the gala. For more information about the gala, call (905) 477-9022, extension 228.

The Leo Baeck students created colorful place mats for the guests at the Out of the Cold program at Temple Har Zion. Seen (top row, from left) Raphael Aronowicz, Amy Flaster, Etai Shulman; (bottom row, from left) Michelle Granatstein and Lauren Reich.

chazak

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Volunteers lend comforting hand at hospice program

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Karen Fenwick

Alan Simons

TORONTO — Karen Fenwick is used to being asked, "How can you do it?"

The question refers to her volunteer work with the Jewish Hospice Program. The 42-year-old, married mother of four spends about two hours a week with a terminally ill patient, providing companionship and practical assistance.

"It's one of the most rewarding things I've ever done," she says.

Despite a busy schedule including other community commitments, Fenwick has found enormous fulfilment in volunteering with the hospice program.

She practises dentistry in her spare time, she jokes, referring to her two-day-a-week work schedule.

Since the hospice program began in 1993, lay volunteers like Fenwick have made up part of a team that includes a social worker from Jewish Family & Child Service (JF&CS); Rabbi Ronald Weiss, Toronto's JF&CS-based director of chaplaincy; and physicians specializing in palliative care and pain control.

The program itself is a joint initiative of five organizations: JF&CS, UJA Federation, Mount Sinai Hospital, Circle of Care and Baycrest. They serve clients of all ages.

Client families appreciate the support, says Sheila Walker of JF&CS, who coordinates the program. Often there is a "tremendous sense of relief" on the part of the caregiver when the volunteer arrives and they can run errands or just have a break.

Walker sees the volunteers, who have each undergone careful screening and eight intensive training sessions, as "somewhere between a guardian angel and a professional. They're devoted, compassionate and very intelligent."

Qualities sought in volunteers include emotional maturity and an ability to listen without feeling the need to offer solutions, says the program's coordinator of volunteers, Susan Samila of Circle of Care. She also runs a bereavement support program.

Fenwick joined the program almost three years ago after seeing a *CJN* ad. Her youngest child had entered full-day school, and she was looking for something meaningful to do with her time.

Different clients have different needs, she has found. One client needed social support because her friends had "jumped ship," Fenwick recalls. "We were her friends until she died."

'There's someone else who needs you'

Another wanted certain types of meals, and Fenwick cooked for her.

For her, the client's death is the hardest part, particularly if they have gotten to know each other well. "You mourn," she says. "[But] you heal, and there's someone else who needs you, so you move on."

Alan Simons, a native of London, England who immigrated here 32 years ago, commends the program coordinators and team members for the support they give volunteers.

Like Fenwick, Simons makes time for the hospice despite other commitments. "They don't seem to happen at the same time," he says.

The chief financial officer of an investment banking company, Simons, 58, was recently named Ontario's honorary consul general for the Republic of Rwanda.

Volunteering with terminally ill people gives him much satisfaction. He says it even brings joy, attributable to the client-volunteer connection and the knowledge that he's helping someone.

Simons' first introduction to the

Continued on page 19

Amazing Purim Schtick

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(סוף פון פריערדיקן נומער)

דאָס יידישע פאָלקס־ליד האָט אויך אַ סך געזונגען וועגן ליבעס־געפילן. דורכן ליד איז באַשיינט געוואָרן די ליבע פון דער מאַמען צום קינד, און פון קינד צו דער מאַמען; דער טאַטע איז מיט ליבשאַפט און כבוד באַזונגען געוואָרן; אַ בחור האָט דורכן ליד גע־שאָנקען זיין ליבע צום מיידל; יידישע יום־טובים זיינען מיט ליב־שאַפט פּראָקלאַמירט געוואָרן אין לידער; און יידישע מאַרטירערס און קדושים זיינען אין ליד פאַראייביקט געוואָרן; דאָס פאָלק ישראל האָט דורכן ליד אויסגעדריקט זיין ליבע צום לאַנד פון ישראל און צום גאָט פון ישראל.

געאָגראַפיש נעמט דער יידישער ניגון אַריין אַ זייער ברייטן שטח. כמעט אין יעדן וועלט־טייל, אין צענדליקער מדינות, האָט דער גלות־ייד, צוזאַמען מיט זיין בידנעם איינגעטום, אויפגעפּאַקט אַ פּעקל מיט לידער, וואָס זיינען אים געווען נויטיק אָנצוהייבן אַ ניי לעבן. חוץ דעם פאָלקס־ליד פון עמך־מענטש, האָט עס איינגע־שלאָסן ליטורגישע מעלאָדיעס, רעליגיעזע פּיוטים, חסידישע ניגונים און אַפילו טענער פון די אַרומיקע שכנים צוגעפּאַסטע צום יידישן ליד. נישט נאָר האָט דער ייד מיטגעטראָגן דאָס ליד מיט זיך, ער האָט עס אויך איבערגעגעבן צום אונטערוואַקסנדיקן דור, כדי דער נייער ייד זאָל עס נוצן ווען דאָס ליד וועט אים אַמבעסטן העלפן.

אַ לאַנגע קייט פון שאַפערס פון יידישע פאָלקס־לידער זיינען באַרימט געוואָרן אין אונדזער געשיכטע. אין דער גלות־עפּאָכע פון יידישן פאָלק און, לאָמיר דאָ צוגעבן, אין דער איצטיקער צייט פון מלכות ישראל זיינען אויפגעקומען יידיש־העברייאישע דיכטערס, וואָס האָבן געשאַפן לידער, כדי אויסצודריקן זייערע געפילן פאַר דער תקופה און פאַרן מצב פון יידישן פאָלק אין זייער צייט. פון גרויסן יידישן פּאָעט אין מיטלאַלטער, יהודה הלוי, דיכטער שלמה גבירול, חיים נחמן ביאַליק, אברהם גאָלדפאַדען, מאָרים ראָ־זענפעלד, אברהם רייזען, איצק מאַנגער, ביז מרדכי געבירטיק, הירש גליק, יוסף פּאַפּיערניקאָוו, פּרץ מיראַנסקי, ציט זיך דער גע־זאַנג איבער הונדערטער דורות. זייערע לידער און די לידער פון אַ גאָר גרויסער צאָל אַנדערע יידישע דיכטערס און פּאָעטן, שפּיגלען אָפּ אַ לעבנס־תקופה צו וועלכער זיי זיינען געווען עדות. דעריבער האָבן זיי געקענט אַזוי עלאָקווענט, אַזוי רידנדיק באַשרייבן און באַ־זינגען די ליידן און פריידן, דעם צער און מאַרטירערטום, דעם גלויבן און בטחון, די בענקשאַפט און די טרוימען, די ליבשאַפט און האַס, דעם טרייסט און די האָפענונגען פאַר אַ בעסערער צוקונפט, מיט וועלכע דאָס יידישע פאָלק האָט זיך געראַנגלט פאַר זיין עקזיסטענץ.

די דאָזיקע עקזיסטענץ איז אָבער פיל מאָל געשטעלט געוואָרן אין אַ סכנה במשך דער לאַנגער יידישער געשיכטע. פון די ביבלישע יאָרן ביז היינט צו טאָג איז דער ייד אַלס מענטש און פאָלק געווען אויסגעשטעלט אויף דער געפאַר פון אונטערגאַנג. מיר זיינען די עדות פון דעם לעצטן חורבן, אין די יאָרן צווישן 1939-1945, ווען דער היטלער־רעזשים האָט זיך אונטערגענומען צו פאַרטיליקן דאָס גאַנצע פאָלק ישראל מיט זיין קולטור און אַוודאי מיט זיין ניגון. עס איז אים, חלילה וחס, שיער נישט געלונגען. זעקס מיליאָן פון אונ־דזער פאָלק זיינען אומגעקומען. גרויסע טיילן פון אונדזער קולטור זיינען פאַרניכטעט געוואָרן. עס זיינען פאַרשטומט געוואָרן מיליאָ־נען קולות, וואָס וואָלטן היינט געזונגען אונדזערע לידער. עס זיינען איבערגעהאַקט געוואָרן שעפערישע לעבנס פון דיכטערס, וואָס וואָלטן געשאַפן נייע לידער פאַרן יידישן פאָלק.

אַ גרויסער טייל פון אונדז איז אָבער געבליבן און מיר זיינען די, וואָס דאַרפן ווייטער טראָגן די מעלאָדיע פון יידישן ניגון; די וואָס דאַרפן שאַפן נייע לידער וועגן אונדזער חורבן און וועגן אונדזער נצחון איבערן נאַציזם. אונדזער דור איז דער, וואָס דאַרף זינגען וועגן אַ נייער יידישער מלוכה, וועגן אַ ניי היימלאַנד פאַרן יידישן פאָלק; וועגן אַ נייער שיבת־ציון באַוועגונג, אין וועלכער אַלע יידן דאַרפן אָנטייל נעמען, אויב נישט דורך פּערזענלעכער עליה, איז דורך באַזינגען די העלדנטאַטן פון דער נייער יידישער אַרמיי און דורך צוגעבן מוט דעם ישראלדיקן בירגער, וואָס קעמפט פאַר זיין פרייהייט אויף פאַרשיידענע אופנים. אַזוי ווי די דורות פאַר אונדז, זיינען דאָ צווישן אונדז פאַרבליבענע כוחות פון פריער און נייע אונ־טערוואַקסנדיקע כוחות, וואָס קענען דאָס אַלץ אויסזינגען אין זייערע דיכטונגען און מעלאָדיעס. דורך זיי וועט דער יידישער ניגון, וואָס איז שוין איבער פינף טויזנט יאָר אַלט, ווייטער זיך ציען אין דער יידישער וועלט און העלפן דעם יידישן פאָלק אין אַלע זיינע וואַנדערונגען.

Touch and humor are part of volunteers' tools at hospice

Continued from page 18

hospice program came several years ago. As a divorced father of three children (who were then in their 20s and late teens), he entered into a relationship with a woman who had had a bout with breast cancer.

When it metastasized and he contacted the hospice program, a team swung into action on short notice, earning Simons' immediate respect.

He married Pam four days before her death and agreed to become a volunteer after a chance meeting with Walker.

Now, six clients later, he speaks to new recruits as part of the volunteer training program.

He tells them of the intrinsic value of life and the importance of hope – for freedom from pain, an extension of life and "a good death."

Touch and humor are also important, he believes. Sometimes he just sits and holds a client's hand.

"In our religion, traditionally, one should not die alone," he says. "We joke, we smile. Humor is so important."

'Learn about life'

Simons says his volunteer work has brought a new spiritual aspect to his life. It has also made him think about his own mortality. "Certainly I would like to die at home when my time comes, with lots of people around me who are happy and joking and talking to me and treating me like I'm alive."

Working with terminally ill people, "you learn a lot about life and a lot about individuals."

The work isn't for everyone, he admits, but he insists volunteers get back more than they give.

Fenwick couldn't agree more. "It has changed me profoundly," she says. "I'm not the same person I was when I started. You have to look into yourself. You have to deal with...what's important in life.

"You really have to soul-search. It makes you leave superficiality behind, see beyond the surface. It leads you into many areas of spirituality."

On a more mundane level, Fenwick has begun to see the importance of taking better care of herself and now works out regularly.

"I have a very complete life," she says, "and that fulfils me."

(For further information, prospective clients should call Sheila Walker at 416-638-7800; prospective volunteers, Susan Samila at 416-635-2860.)

CHAG SAME'ACH

TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY FOODS FOR 2 TO 200
SAMPLE MENUS TO CHOOSE FROM . . .

MENU #1

Sweet & Sour Meat Balls
Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls
Roast Chicken
Lockshen Pudding
Potato Pudding
Carrots Tzimmes
New Dills, Cole Slaw
Banana Cake
Sponge Cake
Macaroons
Seder Plate

$225.00 for 10 people

MENU #2

Gefilte Fish & Horseradish
Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls
Roast Chicken
Roast Brisket of Beef
Apple Farfel Pudding
Pan Roast Potatoes
Carrots Tzimmes
New Dills, Cole Slaw
Lemon Roll
Chocolate Cake
Macaroons
Seder Plate

$250.00 for 10 people

MENU #3
LOW FAT MENU

Gefilte Fish & Horseradish
Cabbage Borsht
Whole Roast Turkey (precarved) or Baked Chicken Breast
Farfel & Mushrooms
Candied Yams
Ratatouille
Cucumber Salad
Fresh Fruit Salad
Cookies
Seder Plate

Only 20g Fat per person

$285.00 for 10 people

TRY SOME OF OUR ADDITIONAL MENU SELECTIONS

MEAT DISHES

Chopped Liver
Veal Roast
Flunken in Borsht
Roast Duck
Meat Loaf
Lemon Chicken Breast
Baked Chicken Breast
BBQ Chicken Wings
Honey Garlic Wings
Chicken Fingers
Knishes
Kishke

VEGETABLE DISHES

Moroccan Stew
Vegetarian Loaf
Matzo Lasagna
Grilled Vegetables
Stir Fry Vegetables
Apple Farfel Pudding
Farfel & Mushrooms
Latkes
Green Beans Almondine
Broccoli & Mushrooms
Handmade Noodles

SALADS

Tossed Salad
Cucumber Salad
Caesar or Chef Salad
Fresh Fruit Salad

DESSERTS

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Banana Cake
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Macaroons
Passover Cookies
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What's New

By Miriam Herman

CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR YAD VASHEM
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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, March 1, is deadline for March 11 issue; and Monday, March 8, is deadline for March 18. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

PURIM FESTIVITIES

SATURDAY, FEB. 27

Zareinu multimedia Trivia event, 8:30 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. $25. Proceeds to benefit Zareinu Educational Centre. **Tamar** 254-1211.

SUNDAY, FEB. 28

Ashkenaz: A Festival of New Yiddish Culture, **Bloor Jewish Community Centre** and **Downtown Jewish Community Council** Carnival, a medieval-style fair, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Bloor JCC. 924-6211.

Beit Rayim Synagogue and Hebrew School Carnival 12:30-3 p.m., 9711 Bayview Ave., games, face painting, crafts, juggler, music, prizes, 905-770-7639.

Junior UJA/Bathurst Jewish Centre Extravaganza, family fun, games, crafts, performers, Kosherland, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 4588 Bathurst St. 636-1880, ext. 229

Congregation Keshet Shalom Potluck Party with Purim story presentation, 7 p.m., Bloor Jewish Community Centre. 925-1408.

Or Haemet & Sephardic Kehila Centre Carnival, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., 7026 Bathurst St.

Beth Tzedec Carnival 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., DooDoo the clown, face painting, games. Megillah reading Monday, March 1, 6:15 p.m., followed by A Taste of Magic with **Bob Chamberlain**, and Tuesday, March 2 at Shacharit service 7:15 a.m.

Adath Israel Congregational School Carnival, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., games, DJ, draw, rides.

Beth Sholom Brotherhood and **Sisterhood** Carnival, for kids of all ages, games, magic, prize for each child in costume, noon to 3 p.m.

Temple Sinai Carnival, games, mini-golf, bouncer, fun, special tot area, 10 a.m. to noon.

Kamin Synagogue of Associated Hebrew Schools Carnival, Mandell Entertainment, AHS Choir conducted by **Yehuda Gilden**, 300 Atkinson Ave. noon to 3 p.m.

Jewish Latin Association costume party. 7 p.m., Sephardic Kehila Centre. **Debbie** 905-889-0020 or **Espi** 905-886-7935.

MONDAY, MARCH 1

Anshe Minsk Synagogue Megillah reading 6:45 p.m., party 7:30 p.m., with **Ronnie Wiseman,** "King of Jewish Reggae," and his band Kedusha. 10 St. Andrew St. (Kensington Market) 595-5723.

Ohr Somayach Night of Jewish Humor, comedian **Marc Weiner**, MC **Michael Lebovic**, 9 p.m., Comedywood, 800 Steeles Ave. W., Thornhill. For ages 18 and over. $10 advance, $15 at door. 905-886-5730.

Beach Hebrew Institute Children's Carnival 7 p.m., followed by reading of the Megillah, 109 Kenilworth Ave.

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue Carnival 4:30 p.m., Seudah 6 p.m., for the whole family, costume parade, entertainment, dancing, music by **Mickey Lewin,** meal. Members $18/adults, children $6, non-members $22/adults, children $10. No tickets at door.

Thursday, Feb. 25

LOVE AND FAMILY

In honor of storytelling and Valentine month, **Helen Porter** relates stories of Love and Family, 2 p.m., Forest Hill Place, 645 Castlefield Ave. Reserve. **Marlene** or **Susan** 785-1511.

MARTINI MADNESS

Thursday Night Out with Jordana, 8 p.m., Vivo Restaurant, 756 Mount Pleasant Rd. $5 or clothing donation at door. All proceeds go to Jewish Family & Child Service. Age group 25-45. **Jordana** 927-9818.

Saturday, Feb. 27

A YUK YUK'S EVENING

A Yuk Yuk's evening of stand-up comedy presented by Shaar Shalom Brotherhood and Sisterhood, Saturday, Feb. 27, 8 p.m. at the synagogue, 2 Simonston Blvd., Thornhill. $18 in advance, $20 at door. 905-889-4975.

Sunday, Feb. 28

COMICAL MUSICAL

Shaar Shalom Youth Drama Group presents *Jonah, A "Whale" of a Musical*, based on the original biblical tale, written by **Elliot Hurst,** directed by **Tamara Broday,** 7 p.m., 2

Continued on page 21

SEPHARDIC KEHILA CENTRE
&
OR HAEMET SEPHARDIC SCHOOL
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Rose Stahl and family

would like to extend their appreciation for the many expressions of sympathy during the loss of her brother

Harold Smith ז"ל

Adath Israel Congregation
Tel Aviv University:
Canadian Friends and Overseas Program
Adath Israel Synagogue
invite you to attend a lecture
Dr. Yossi Shain
Chairman, Department of Political Science
Tel Aviv University
Redefining our Jewish Identity
The Impact on Israeli-Diaspora Relations
Thursday, March 4, 1999 at 8:00 p.m.
Adath Israel Synagogue
37 Southbourne Avenue, North York
All Welcome, No admission charge!

What's New

Continued from page 20

Simonston Blvd., Thornhill. All proceeds go towards tzedakah. $5 or 4 for $18. 440-4649.

AFTERNOON CONCERT

Koffler Centre of the Arts and Du-Maurier concert, pianist **Antonin Kubalek**, 3 p.m. 4588 Bathurst St. $10. seniors/students $8. 636-1880, ext. 230.

BOOK READING

Author **Vera Schiff** reads from her book *Theresienstadt – The Town the Nazis Gave to the Jews*, 3 p.m., Indigo Book and Music Store, 8705 Yonge St., Richmond Hill.

Tuesday, March 2

BB FRENCH LODGE

B'nai Brith French-speaking Lodge La Fraternité meeting, 8 p.m. 15 Hove St. Topic: Jewish-Catholic Relations. 255-6086.

Thursday, March 4

OUR JEWISH IDENTITY

Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University, Canadian Overseas Student Program-Tel Aviv University, and Adath Israel Synagogue lecture by **Yossi Shain** of Tel Aviv University, on Redefining Our Jewish Identity – The Impact on Israeli-Diaspora Relations, 8 p.m. at the synagogue.

CAMP GESHER

Camp Gesher open house, 7:30 p.m., Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. **Shaul** and **Yonatan** 633-2511.

FEMINISM OR FAIRNESS

National Council of Jewish Women,Toronto Section, presents **Rachael Turkienicz** speaking on Eve and Lilith: Feminism or Fairness, 8 p.m., Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. Members $8, non-members $10.

IF YOU BUILD IT

David Azrieli developer of the first enclosed shopping mall in Israel speaks on If You Build It, It Is Not A Dream, at a meeting of the Canada-Israel Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 8 p.m., Novotel Hotel, 3 Park Home Ave. Members $20, non-members $35. 410-7273.

And What Else Is New

SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

Prof. Janice Stein, scholar-in-residence at Temple Sinai the weekend of March 6 and 7, speaks on Fifty Years of Arab/Israeli Conflict Saturday, March 6, and on The Way Forward: After Wye Plantation.

MARCH INTO SPRING

United Synagogue Day School Parents' Association March Into Spring Fashion Show and Boutique Night,Tuesday, March 9, at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue. Boutiques 7 p.m., fashions 8 p.m. General admission $18, patrons $36, children $10.

FOR SINGLES

Beth Tikvah Progressive Singles (35-55) lecture and discussion, Sunday, March 7, 8 p.m. **Chana Sargon** speaks on The Biblical Perspective – What Makes a Relationship Between Women and Men. $5. RSVP 221-3433.

DISCOVERY SEMINAR

Who Wrote the Torah – Man or God? Hear the Real Story Behind the Hidden Codes in the Torah!, Saturday, March 6, 8 p.m., and Sunday, March 7, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aish HaTorah, 949 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill. $59. 905-764-1818.

GOOD GRIEF

Kolel: A Centre for Liberal Learning sponsors Good Grief with **Deborah Morris Coryell** of the Shiva Foundation March 4 and 5.

Thursday, March 4, Yahrzeit Shiur, 7:30 p.m., B'nai Brith Building, 15 Hove St. No charge. Co-sponsored by Bereaved Jewish Families and the Commission for Jewish Culture of B'nai Brith Canada.

Friday, March 5, The Art of Losing: Wellness and Worseness: Integrating Life's Losses, 9:15 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lipa Green Building, Room 420/421. $40. Co-sponsored with Jewish Hospice Program.

Pre-register by March 1. 905-709-1900, ext. 222. In memory of **Marsha Goldstein Quiles.**

SWING THE NITE AWAY

National Council of Jewish Women, Toronto Section presents Swing the Nite Away with the music of the Rick Levine Band, Saturday, March 6, 7:30 p.m., Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. Members $10 person, $18 couple, non-members, $12 person, $20 couple, patrons $50 couple (tax receipt and two tickets). 633-5100.

WHAT IS TALMUD?

Downtown Jewish Learning Council classes, What Is Talmud?, for those who have never studied Talmud or are at a beginner level, Wednesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 8 p.m. at Bloor Jewish Community Centre. Instructor **Rabbi Michael Skobac**, educational director, Jews for Judaism. $40. Information/registration 924-6211.

HOSPITAL CHAPEL

Mount Sinai Hospital's Minchah services, Monday through Thursday, 1 p.m., in the chapel, main floor. For information on Megillah readings for patients March 1 and 2, call 586-8567, ext. 1.

STEPFAMILY NETWORK

The Jewish Stepfamily Network invites interested stepparents to a pot luck dinner, Saturday, March 6, 7:30 p.m. Network, talk about issues, have fun. 783-7404.

HOST FAMILIES

Beit Halochem Canada, Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel, is looking for host families, co-host families and volunteers to participate in this year's two-week group visit in late spring. **Annette** 905-886-1463 or **Hanna** 905-881-5352 or **Linda** 905-731-4412.

JUDAISM AS A STATE

The Shoshana Shier Distinguished Visiting Professor in Jewish Studies **Dan Avon** of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem lectures on Judaism as a State, Wednesdays, March 3, Israel; March 10, Zion; March 17, Babel. All lectures 8 p.m., Sidney Smith Hall, Room 1087, 100 St. George St. 978-5301.

MIZRACHI LECTURE

The Mizrachi Outstanding Jewish Personality lecture features **Rabbi Berel Wein** speaking on Judaism and Israel in the Balance, Monday, March 8, 8:15 p.m. $18 in advance, $25 at door, 630-9266.

HEBREW CLASSES

Conversational Hebrew made fun and easy with **Yael Lev** (Ulpan method). Daytime or evening, four different levels. Special Hebrew and Heritage classes for parents with children in Hebrew schools. Spring session starts the week of March 1 at various locations. Register with Yael, 225-6151.

SINGLES SCENE

Purim masquerade dance party, 30s/40+, Saturday, March 6, 8 p.m. $10 in advance, $15 at door, at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. Reserve. 633-3838.

Trivia Night, all singles, Saturday, March 27, 8 p.m. at Beth Emeth. Bring Your Own Brain. $10. Tickets at door.

Upcoming events, Comedy-wood, Beach Volleyball. for details **Rhonda** 905-731-9441.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups. **Pat Lieberman** 638-7800, ext. 215.

Today's Women: Making It Happen, begins March 8; How Teenagers Challenge Us, begins March 1; Looking Ahead for recently separated and divorced persons, begins March 9; Anger Management for Women, begins March 23.

CORRECTION

The phone number listed for Marv's Walking/Hiking Group Sunday mornings (Feb. 18 edition) should have been **416-790-8098.**

FOR SENIORS

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club: Israel trip March 7-24, all inclusive, nine full days of touring; Aug. 25, morning cruise then a matinee performance of *Move Over Mrs. Markham* at the Gryphon Theatre; Oct. 12, *West Side Story.* at Stratford. **Lena** 785-5773. Golden Book donations go to Laniado Hospital in Israel. **Dorothy Bloomfield** 787-1526.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Feb. 25, Thornhill Square; Tuesday, March 2, Take Charge of Your Life lecture by **Leonard Rubinstein**, 10 a.m.; March 7, dance with live band; March 17, Shuffle off to Buffalo. April 14, 28, Casino Rama. Phone regarding Atlantic City and Las Vegas trips. 395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Feb. 25, lecture, Escape of the Jews from the Spanish Inquisition by **Schura Vorona**; March 4, bingo; March 6, Purim dance, call **Malka Colla** 630-5771; March 11, sing-along with **Mickey Lewin**; March 18, video. All activities in Hebrew, English and Yiddish. All those 55 plus are invited to join the membership. **Jerry Bengall**, president, 905-707-7334.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

Purim celebration, Wednesday, March 3, 10 a.m. to noon, invited guests include kindergartens from Associated Hebrew School and Jewish Russian Community Centre; Branksome Hall Junior School Choir; Jolly the Clown.

Series with **Barry Seltzer**, Sex and the Law, Pitfalls and Scams, Die Laughing, Tuesdays March 2, 9, 16, 10 a.m. **Bookie Kwart**.

Low Vision Support Group, **Maria Leizel Albino** from Women Entrepreneurs in Advanced Technology speaks on Visual Aids for the New Millennium, Tuesday, March 2, 1:15-2:30 p.m.

Arthritis Management Clinic, with **Bev Tobe,** individual assessments, Thursday, March 4, 1-4 p.m. Make appointment at Wellness Desk, ext. 131.

Memory, Aging and the Brain with **Brian Levine** of the Rotman Institute, Baycrest Centre, Thursday, March 4, 1:15-2:15 p.m.

Kosher meals for Passover for residents/patients in care facilities and the general public. Order by March 24. **Sonia Krass** ext. 114.

Israeli Club Etrog meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays for movies, sing-alongs, lectures, bingo, dances. March 2 is a Purim party. **Anna**.

Movie, *The Wedding Singer*, Sunday, Feb. 28, 2:30 p.m.

BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

Seniors Club: Thursday, March 4 , 2 p.m.,Purim celebration, international songs and dances of **Tanya Granovski** accompanied by **Paul Mathew**; Also, March 4, 4:30-7:30 p.m., following Purim party, free income tax clinic for seniors by graduate students from University of Toronto Joseph L. Rotman School of Management, by appointment only, register by March 2, For information, call **Judy**.

Spring Craft Show, 1-4 p.m., Sunday, March 21. Interested vendors can now register for the early bird special fee before Sunday, March 8.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24

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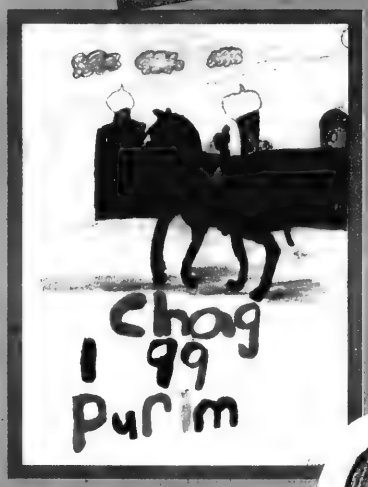
Jeremy Matlow, age 10

Jessica Pludwinski, age 7



Sam Spiegel, age 8

Sara Tova Yeres, age 11

Jessica Ste

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Hillary Pressman, age 8

Dana Morenstein, age 10

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Blustein,Frances
Brock, Elissa
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Budd, Nathan
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Clement, Sarah
Cohen, Adina
Croldin, Avi
Dayan, Simon
Dorfman, Tristan
Dubrofsky, Lisa
Dyman,Sarah Rifka
Enchin, Margot
Erdos, Charlie
Esco, Jordana
Finkelstein, Andrea
Fishbein, Jessica
Frankel, Craig
Fuchs, Ilan
Garner, Rebecca
Gerlock, Shawna
German, Emma
Glaser, Emma
Glazer, Zachary
Goldberg, Emma
Gottlieb,Steve
Green, Lindsay
Greenberg, Gillian
Grossman, Michael
Gurman, Karen
Gurman, Karen
Held, Ryan
Helfer, Maxwell
Herzog, Daniel
Hoffman, Jaclyn
Isman,Miriam Rochelle
Katz, Talia
Kearse, Tiffany
Klein, Jesse
Kligman, Stephanie
Kligman, Stephanie
Knecht, Robby
Kravetsky, David
Krebs, Daniel
Langer, Joey
Langer, Philip
Lederfein, Guy
Lesniak, Michael
Libman, Kevin
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Mahler, Amy
Majnemer, Eddie
Marcus, Joel
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Nashen, Blair
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Perry Giselle,
Pinsky, Ryan
Propp, Roni
Reinglas, Jessica
Remer, Sean
Richman, Matthew
Rosen, Marissa
Rosenberg, Eli
Rosenberg, Matthew
Ross, Leytal
Roth, Chana
Roth, Chaya
Rouniak, Erica
Rubin, Emily
Rubinfeld, Alissa
Schrier, Phillip
Schwebel, Shoshana
Serebryanski, Zalman
Shlafman, Daniel
Sienna, Noam
Silvertown, Hayley
Smith, Iscah
Stemeroff, Noahalia,
Tanen, Atara
Taub, Michelle
Vizel, Hilary
Vomberg,Paul
Waisgrus, Shaun
Waldman, Eric
Wesfield, Dana
Zefrani, Natalie
Zucker, Stephanie

Leah Shainbach, age 6 ½

Batya Berman, age 6 ½

Jessica Steen, age 9

The Canadian Jewish news

en, age 9

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Mon., March 8 -Music, 7:30 p.m.
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Venue: The Poor Alex Theatre, 296 Brunswick Ave. (South-West corner of Brunswick & Bloor)
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***Seating is limited*

Racist Web site removed

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A Calgary-based Internet Service Provider (ISP) has removed a racist Web site that promoted Aryan nationalism and called for racial segregation.

CadVision, a major provider of access to the Internet in the Calgary area, removed the Web site of The Society for the Segregation of the Races (SSR) after CadVision was contacted by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre (SWC). Letters from the SWC pointed out that SSR's credo reflected "an expression of the Nazi ideology, a set of beliefs that led to the wanton murder of millions of Gypsies, Poles, Jews and Ukrainians during World War II."

Sol Littman, Canadian representative of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, described the site as "pure Hitler racism."

A preliminary conversation with CadVision's manager led to a defensive reaction in which the executive defended freedom of expression and in which he argued that CadVision was not concerned with the site's contents, Littman said.

Shortly afterwards, "without informing us, CadVision pulled the plug on this guy," he said. "He then took his business to the United States."

Littman said a 21-year-old Calgary student was responsible for the site's contents. The Web site featured Nazi colors, swastikas and other racist elements. The site also provided links to various white supremacist groups in Canada and the United States, including the Heritage Front, Freedom Site, Stormfront and Knights of Freedom.

Calls to CadVision were not returned by press time.

Teachers head back to court over paid religious leave

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Jewish teachers in Winnipeg's public school system, who are fighting for paid religious leave on the High Holy Days, have won a legal round.

Last March, a Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench judge threw the Charter of Rights challenge of 66 Jewish teachers in Winnipeg's public school system out of court, arguing that paid religious leave was a matter for arbitration or for the collective bargaining process.

The teachers, through the Manitoba Teacher's Society, appealed. On Feb. 10, the Manitoba Court of Appeal sent the case back to the Court of Queen's Bench.

The four school divisions named in the court challenge are Winnipeg School Division No.1, Assiniboine South, Seven Oaks and Fort Garry.

The teachers want to be able to take off Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur with pay when they fall on weekdays. Currently, Winnipeg 1 allows employees two days off for religious leave, and Fort Garry and Assiniboine South allow one religious day off with pay a year. Seven Oaks requires teachers taking religious leave to share the cost of a substitute.

Thus far, the four-year fight has cost the teachers $150,000 in legal fees. Mel Myers, the teachers' lawyer, hopes that the case can be heard in Court of Queen's Bench before the end of the current school year on June 30.

Sharon Home expanding

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The Sharon Home Jewish seniors' residence, is moving forward with plans to open a satellite location in south Winnipeg.

The north Winnipeg Jewish institution has purchased 6.23 acres of land for about $775,000. Construction of the new building is scheduled to begin some time in July, says Audrey Arlinsky, Sharon Home's president and CEO.

The Kanee Centre of the Sharon Home in north Winnipeg currently has 229 residents. The board is looking to have a south Winnipeg presence because a majority of the Jewish population now lives south. The plans call for a seniors' campus incorporating an independent living complex and personal care home, and community outreach services to assist seniors to stay in their homes as long as possible.

"The average age of our residents is 87," Arlinsky says. "The level of care required is getting higher. We are not admitting many lighter care cases. The goal is to keep them in their homes as long as they can manage with help."

The first phase of the $13 million project (which also includes renovations to the existing four-storey structure) will consist of a two-storey personal care home with 72 private rooms divided into four clusters of nine rooms on each floor. Each cluster will have a small lounge at the end of the corridor, while each grouping of 18 rooms will have a dining/activity room, a lounge overlooking a central courtyard, a spa room for bathing and a resident care centre.

The design for the Sharon Home South, which will be ready for display as of March 1, will feature a central fireside lounge, multi-purpose room/synagogue, hair salon, adult day program area and a family room. A garden will surround the outside.

SINGLES EVENTS
Singles Events is an advertising feature of *The Canadian Jewish News*
Deadline is Wednesday, 4:00 p.m., 8 days preceding issue date.
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The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries they may have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.

Beth Tikvah Progressive Singles 35-55 Weekend Getaway, March 5-7 at Briar's Country Club (Jackson's Point), dble accom., 5 meals, social activities, dinner dance, welcome reception, winter sports, $230 + tax & gratuities. 221-3433 ex 352.

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Features

Canadian Jew connects with Cuban community

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Sydney Fisher

TORONTO — Sydney Fisher remembers his first trip to Cuba very well.

It was January 1989 and like thousands of Canadians he was planning a winter vacation under the tropical sun.

As a favor to others, he agreed to take a dozen prayer books from his synagogue, the Adath Israel, and pass them along to a shul in Havana.

Finding the Havana synagogue was an adventure in itself. Speaking no Spanish and unfamiliar with the city, Fisher was stymied by its tucked-away location in the old, rundown part of town. Even cab drivers hadn't heard of it.

Eventually he found the shul and completed his mission.

For Fisher, that first trip was an eye-opener. The Cuban Jewish population of 1,200 (1,000 of them living in Havana), he learned, were conscious of their heritage but they lived in dire poverty.

"They had nothing," he recalled. "The conditions I saw the first time were unbelievable. And yet, they carried on with twice-daily minyans."

Touched by the plight of the Jews he met, Fisher dipped into his own pocket and purchased dozens of loaves of bread, 100 lbs. of butter, pasta, milk and other staples at a store that accepted only foreign currency.

Word of his presence spread within the community. Young Cuban Jews sought him out and peppered him with questions about the Jewish people, the Jewish community in Canada and Israel.

Living in Cuba, where overt religious observance was considered unpatriotic, they had little knowledge of the rest of ther Jewish world, Fisher said. The synagogue was populated mostly by the seniors who had immigrated to Cuba decades before, while the young people were far from pious.

By the time he left, four of the young Jews he met decided to form a casual study group to discuss various aspects of Jewish life and Jewish history.

Fisher returned that May with Spanish-language educational materials and helped get the study group on its feet.

Since those first trips, Fisher has visited Cuba twice a year like clockwork, in January and May. Over the years, he's become one of the community's main benefactors, purchasing for Havanah's Adath Israel Synagogue big ticket items like an oven, a freezer, a television, a VCR, dishes and an air conditioning unit.

On each visit he loads up his suitcase with other necessities, like underwear, shirts and socks, which he gives to the Adath Israel to be distributed to the impoverished elderly worshippers.

A pharmacist by occupation, Fisher fills his suitcases with drugs as well, having brought, he estimates, about 500 lbs. in the last three years.

The pharmaceuticals, including antibiotics, asthma sprays and heart drugs, have been donated by Leslie Dan of Novopharm and Barry Sherman of Apotex.

Fisher's nephew, Ian Fisher, who distributes reading glasses across Southern Ontario, provides six dozen pairs of glasses each time his uncle visits Cuba.

For the impoverished Cuban Jews, the gifts make a huge difference. The level of poverty in Cuba is staggering, Fisher said, worse than 10 years ago.

A doctor earns the equivalent of $20 U.S. a month, a teacher half

Continued on page 26

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Fisher connects with Cuba

Continued from page 25

that. One can of tuna cost $2.50 in hard currency.

Meat is rationed, with 12 oz. allotted per person per month – if you have hard currency. Milk is restricted to children under seven. Most people subsist on a diet of rice and black beans, supplemented with bananas, cabbage and tomatoes.

With the recent liberalization of Cuban life, kosher meat has become available. Shchitah is permitted (although the shochet is not, halachically speaking, Jewish) and the meat is distributed on three Tuesdays a month at the Adath Israel. That meat can be purchased for pesos, he said.

Fisher is not the only one helping the Cuban community. Panamanian Jews provide assistance while his synagogue donates $250 to the Adath Israel in Havana.

For years, Canadian Jewish Congress has sent $35,000 of Passover products to the community.

The Joint Distribution Committee (the Joint) also assists Cuban Jews. It subsidizes the visits of Rabbi Shmuel Steinhandler from Mexico.

He spends three weeks in Havana three or four times a year instructing in the Jewish religion. Two young Argentine teachers, also under auspices of the Joint, visit Cuba three or four times a year as well.

For Fisher, helping his fellow Jews in Cuba is axiomatic. "There are people there with the same names as the people in Toronto.

"It could have been us living in Cuba. We can't be so smug because we live in one of the best communities in the world," he said.

Since his initial visit, Fisher has learned Spanish so he can converse more easily with the locals. He's also become knowledgeable in Cuban Jewish history.

Jews began arriving in Cuba in large numbers after the turn of the century. The first wave were Americans who had participated in the Spanish-American War. They were followed by Turkish Jews who immigrated during and after World War I.

The largest wave of immigrants came from Eastern Europe in the 1920s and '30s. By the 1950s the community had reached 15,000 in number and was prospering. Many Jews had become merchants and some owned small factories.

The '50s saw a building boom. The Adath Israel, with 550 seats, was constructed as a three-storey structure that included a 100-seat chapel and a social hall.

This boy and his mother came to Havana from the town of Camaguay to celebrate his bar mitzvah. Camaguay has 60 Jewish people.

The Beth Sholom, built in the middle class Vedada area, had 1,000 seats, a community centre, a day school, a kosher restaurant and a small theatre. The Centro Sepharad was also erected in Vedada.

The Communist revolution changed Jewish life. Within a few years of Castro's ascension to power, 14,000 of the island's Jews left for the United States or Latin America, including all the community's rabbis. About 1,000 remained in Havana and a small community of 200 lived in Santiago de Cuba.

The level of Jewish identification dropped under the Communists, who frowned on religious observance but did not persecute Jews. Intermarriage was common and few of today's young Jews can point to two Jewish parents, Fisher said.

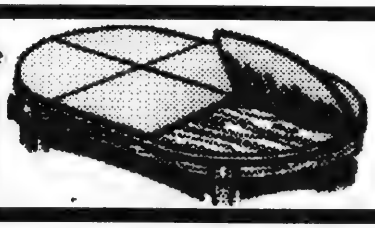
Nevertheless, identification with the Jewish past remained. Over the years, the Jewish study group grew to 163 members. In the last seven years, 275 Jews, mostly in their 20s and 30s, made aliyah to Israel.

Even Castro has taken notice of the community. Last December, the Cuban leader visited the Adath Israel and spent three hours at a Chanukah party.

Nevertheless, the plight of the community's older members remains dire. Seniors subsist on pensions of $3 to $4 a month.

Adath Israel still gets two minyans a day, and 60 people (mostly seniors) might attend services, but in part it's because participants receive a breakfast of a small roll, butter and coffee, Fisher said.

Beth Shalom Synagogue in 1956. The shul is now in desparate need of repairs.



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On Campus

Benmergui slams intolerance of Israel's haredi extremists

By SIMONE JOSEPH
Special to The CJN

TORONTO—

Calling the Diaspora "dumbly silent," Ralph Benmergui urged Canadian Jews to be more critical of Israel.

The host of two CBC Newsworld shows, *Benmergui Live* and *Not Just the News*, recently spoke at Ryerson Polytechnic University, as part of a speakers series presented by Jewish Campus Services.

Benmergui said one of his biggest worries is the intolerance of Israel's haredi extremists. "I don't like their vision ... it's not tolerant. It's not even tolerant of other Jews, let alone Arabs."

Having travelled to Israel eight years ago with his mother, Benmergui recalled sitting in an old synagogue in Jerusalem and being stared at by a young Orthodox man, standing directly in front of him.

Benmergui felt that the man was trying to intimidate him in an effort to make him leave the synagogue because he wasn't Orthodox, he said. "The racism of Jew against Jew in Israel is astounding."

Jews in the Diaspora have every right to discuss and criticize Israeli affairs, but often the mentality among Israeli Jews is: "You don't live here, so shut up," Benmergui said.

He criticized Israel's political system, saying there are "small factions or parties which hold enormous sway over governments."

He also denounced the violence in that country. "You can't keep killing people and have it all be called moral relativism. You know [the argument] it's okay to blow that guy's head off on the cell phone because he's a bastard."

In an interview after the talk, Benmergui said he deplores the use of violence as a way of resolving disputes in the Middle East.

"You end up in a blood feud. You end up with an eye for an eye [mentality] until the whole world becomes blind. You can't just keep killing for killing."

Benmergui, a Sephardi Jew (he's from Morocco), also spoke about working in "the waspish culture at the CBC."

He said, "Being the Jew is like being the odd one out." He joked that the annual Chanukah party at the CBC usually consists of "all the Jews scampering up to the 10th floor for some latkes."

Benmergui, whose two shows air at 11 a.m. and noon, said he is not a workaholic and his main priority is his children.

"If you really want to get noticed [in television] you go on in the morning or evening," he said.

But Benmergui said he made the decision to have afternoon shows because he wanted to spend more time with his children.

And he said he certainly doesn't regret that decision, noting that he gets "an inordinate amount of joy" out of making sandwiches for his children.

Jewish Campus Services plans student arts festival

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto (JCS) is sponsoring its second annual student arts festival.

Coloring Ourselves: A Festival of Jewish Student Creativity will feature a variety of creative art forms during a three-day festival at the Poor Alex Theatre, on the southwest corner of Brunswick Avenue and Bloor Street, from March 7 to 9.

This year's theme is What's on your mind? All participants are Jewish students, although the content of the work is not necessarily Jewish per se.

The festival will kick off on Sunday afternoon with opening ceremonies at 5:30. The visual arts gallery, featuring some 30 works, will be open from 4 p.m.

Other forms of creative expression will be presented at 7:30 each night: March 7, a screening of short films, lasting about 70 minutes; Mar. 8, a musical presentation; and Mar. 9, theatre, dance, storytelling, poetry and prose.

"To see so many Jews from so many different backgrounds and streams coming together and working in harmony and with a sense of purpose has been very exciting for me," said Yoni Stanleigh, a fourth-year University of Toronto student and one of 24 volunteers working on the project.

Tickets are $7, $5 for students for one-time admission. Advance tickets for extra nights are $3.

For further information, contact Tamar Kagan, festival director and JCS arts and culture coordinator, at 878-9658. For tickets, call Jewish Campus Services at 785-1465.

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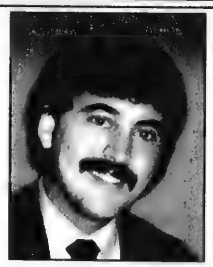

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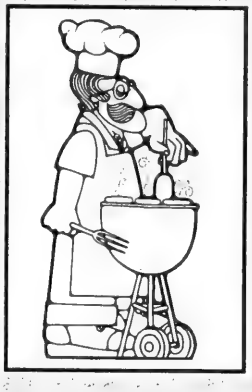

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Israel steers clear of Kurdish question: analyst

By ZE'EV SCHIFF
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

The standing order of every Israeli defence minister since the country forged strategic and security ties with Turkey has been to stay out of the Turkish-Greek conflict and to be especially careful to steer clear of Turkey's internal dispute with the Kurdish community.

Ankara accepted the Israeli position on the Greek issue, but the Turks occasionally made efforts to obtain advice from Israel on fighting terrorism and protecting borders by sophisticated means. In responding to such requests, Israel was extremely careful to ensure that its advice did not go beyond purely professional aspects or have any bearing on the Kurds' struggle for autonomy.

Washington recommended that Israel assist the Turks with professional advice on how best to seal their border with Iraq, which squads of the PKK (Kurdistan Workers party) routinely crossed in order to launch attacks in which thousands of civilians died. On one occasion, IDF officers went to Turkey to survey ways to seal the border, but this was an isolated case.

Nevertheless, in the Kurdish organization, only the PKK under Abdullah Ocalan hurled baseless accusations at Israel. At one point, the PKK maintained two training bases in the Lebanese Beka'a, which is under Syrian control. It currently has bases in Saddam Hussein's Iraq. The PKK also has ongoing ties with a number of Damascus-based Palestinian "rejectionist" groups. It is the only Kurdish organization on the U.S. State Department's list of terrorist organizations.

PKK accusations against Israel, and more specifically against the Mossad intelligence agency, predate Ocalan's kidnapping in Kenya. After being detained by the Italians in Rome and before moving on to Kenya, Ocalan, in an interview with *Jane's Intelligence Review*, said he believed the Mossad was tracking him in the service of Turkish intelligence. After he was seized in Kenya, allegations of Israeli involvement escalated, finally bringing about the Berlin attack.

Ocalan, however, failed to mention that Syria had expelled him in the wake of Turkish pressure, after he had found refuge in Damascus for years. He said he left Syria after he reached the conclusion that a war between Turkey and Syria was liable to erupt because of him.

As for the incident in Berlin, a preliminary investigation shows that once the Kurdish demonstrators burst into the facility, some brandishing axes, the security guards had no choice but to open fire on them. In the meantime, extra guards are being sent to a number of countries in order to beef up security at Israeli legations.

* * *

Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan had been tracked by western intelligence since he left Syria last fall, including during a previously undisclosed stay in Iran.

Apparently his capture in Italy last November set in motion a series of events that eventually led to his arrest in Nairobi and his imprisonment in Turkey. The apprehension of Ocalan touched off a wave of violent protests throughout Europe this month.

Italian intelligence received preliminary warning of Ocalan's arrival at Rome's international airport last November. The Italians were notified that Ocalan was on his way to Italy, and was not in Russia as claimed by sources in the PKK, the Kurdish rebel group.

After leaving Syria last fall Ocalan went to Iran through the intervention of Syrian intelligence. From Tehran, the Italians were told, Ocalan wanted to get to Italy and then disappear into the large Kurdish community in Europe.

The advice given to the Italians was that it would be best to arrest Ocalan on his arrival, and not to let him get away. That is exactly what happened at Rome Airport in November.

From this course of events it is now clear that Ocalan's itinerary was known to those following him from when he left Syria – and possibly earlier.

One can surmise that Ocalan's entourage was riddled with leaks. From the moment he was arrested in Rome it was clear that it would be difficult, if not impossible, for him to evade surveillance.

Ocalan is now awaiting trial in Turkey. The leadership vacuum at the top of the PKK is being filled by two men: Morat Karailan as head of the military wing and Kamil Baik as head of the political wing.

Even after the shooting at the Israeli consulate in Berlin last Wednesday, where three Kurdish demonstrators were killed by Israeli security officers, the Mossad does not regard the PKK as an enemy. In addition, contrary to previous reports, the Mossad did not send a warning to the Kurdish independence organization.

Turkish intelligence, on the other hand, does regard Ocalan as a serious threat. U.S. intelligence services regard the PKK as a terrorist threat, as do the Germans, though not to the extent that the Americans do.

Even before Ocalan left Syria, where he had been sheltered for several years with many of his closest aides, the PKK issued false information about his whereabouts. One rumor said Ocalan went from Syria to Iraq after winning Saddam Hussein's patronage. But it quickly became clear that the rumor was misinformation, aimed at hiding Ocalan's true plans to leave Syria when it became clear the Turks might attack Syria if they didn't give him up to Istanbul.

Ocalan expected the Russians to provide him a haven, as they did in the past for Kurdish leader Mustafa Barazani. But his hopes were dashed when Russian Prime Minister Yvgeny Primakov turned him down. Syria then negotiated with Tehran on Ocalan's behalf, and Ocalan went to Iran, until he decided to go to western Europe, where he felt he could find shelter among his supporters.

When arrested in Rome, Ocalan told the representative of Italian intelligence that he wanted Italy to serve as an intermediary in negotiations with Turkey to put an end to the 12-year-old war between Turkey and the Kurdish guerrillas. He asked that Washington and the European Union also be approached in his name with the request they pressure Ankara to negotiate with him.

But his requests for negotiations fell on deaf ears in Turkey, where Ankara was angered by Italian refusals to turn Ocalan over. At the same time, the Italians asked the Germans if they would be prepared to give Ocalan haven,but Germany said no. From that point, it became clear Ocalan could not stay long in Italy.

But the villa prepared for him outside Rome was already under the surveillance of more than one intelligence service, and Ocalan had no chance to evade them.

The Greeks, considered Turkey's opponents, offered him a way out of Rome, through Nairobi. But it became apparent that the Greeks and Kenyans have other priorities more important than granting Ocalan sanctuary, thereby offending the United States.

The charges that the Mossad was involved in the capture are part of a disinformation campaign meant to draw attention away from those responsible for Ocalan's capture. He never was defined as a threat, despite his connections to the Palestinian rejectionists and Syrian intelligence.

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Conference explores meaning of modern Orthodoxy

By DEBRA NUSSBAUM COHEN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — A sense of community. That was the overriding feeling among some 1,500 modern Orthodox Jews who gathered here for a conference over the Presidents Day weekend.

Organized by the nascent group Edah, the goal of the conference was to rearticulate just what it means to be a modern Orthodox Jew today.

This event, which drew twice as many people as expected, came at a time when many adherents of modern Orthodoxy are struggling to define their movement's philosophy.

"I'm joyous," said Beth Wohlgelernter, a New Yorker who manages a start-up high technology firm and was a member of the Edah-conference-planning committee.

"I feel like we were all wandering in the desert for 40 years, but now I have a community again," she said, while surveying the crowded hotel ballroom as she waited for the group's spiritual mentor, Rabbi Saul Berman, to begin his keynote address.

The conference, titled Orthodoxy Encounters a Changing World, attracted participants from as far away as California, North Carolina and Canada.

Other hallmarks of the conference were the prominence of women as plenary lecturers and teachers, the gathering's central focus on "women's issues," and nearly equal time was devoted to exploring Jewish texts and Orthodox legal and communal policy issues.

"There's no better place than this conference to find people who are inspiring us to engage the world while we stick to our modern Orthodox traditions," said Rabbi Gershon Sonnenschein, who came from Springfield, Mass., with 14 people from Congregation Kadimah, the synagogue he leads.

"Just being together with this many people is very empowering," he said.

The conference was also an opportunity for participants, particularly those in many of the dozens of sessions, to engage in a critique of modern Orthodoxy's failings.

"To be a modern Orthodox Jew today is often to feel lonely, to be without a community in which to ask ideological questions," said Rabbi Daniel Lehmann, who was ordained at Yeshiva University and is now headmaster of the pluralistic New Jewish High School, in Waltham, Mass.

Even with the strong feelings of community, the participants' views were not monolithic.

Respectful disagreement on such issues as the right balance between modernity and traditional Jewish priorities, and on the appropriate ritual roles for women, was heard in many workshop sessions.

The diversity of dress provided an obvious illustration of the ideological span found at the conference.

Some women covered every strand of their hair with wigs and scarves, while most left their heads uncovered. Some wore long sleeves and long skirts, others wore shorter skirts, and other women wore slacks.

Most of the men wore colorful shirts and knitted kipot, though some were dressed in the more somber attire of dark suits, white shirts and black kipot common in the fervently Orthodox community.

A multiplicity of visions for the movement was also evident as participants bandied about alternatives to the term "modern Orthodoxy."

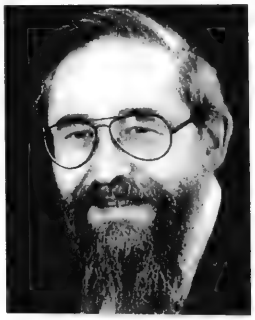
In his presentation on Assessments of, and Visions for, Modern Orthodoxy, Rabbi Lehmann disavowed the term "centrist Orthodoxy," a label that has gained currency in recent years, among Orthodox Jews who feel that the modifier "modern" is, well, too modern.

Rabbi Lehmann offered as alternatives the terms "open Orthodoxy," "progressive Orthodoxy" and "post-modern Orthodoxy." He also jokingly suggested "bourgeois Orthodoxy."

Attending this session, Eli Leitner of New York City, suggested the term "heterodox Orthodoxy."

"The fact that we're not comfortable with the names points to the need for ideological clarification" in the movement, said Rabbi Lehmann.

Many committed to a modern Orthodox integration of religious and secular life have in recent years felt delegitimized by the Haredim, or fervently Orthodox, who view the religious and secular worlds as essentially incompatible.



Rabbi Saul Berman

A longtime hallmark of modern Orthodoxy – a willingness to have dialogue and work with non-Orthodox Jews – has been eroded in recent years, as the movement's institutions, like the Orthodox Union and Rabbinical Council of America, and a growing number of their constituents, have withdrawn from such endeavors on national and local levels.

It has left those who remain committed to such cooperation feeling isolated.

Rabbi Sonnenschein sits down monthly with one Reform and two Conservative rabbis in Springfield for a regular dialogue. He said he is the only one of three Orthodox rabbis in town willing to do so.

Out of those meetings, he said, has emerged a plan to jointly promote Shabbat Across America (it takes place March 12), a program under the auspices of the National Jewish Outreach Project, and to conclude it with a joint Havdalah service at the local Jewish Community Center.

The feeling of delegitimization is played out not only on the institutional and leadership level, said some of those attending the conference, but also in a personal way.

York University student Dassi Rutman, one of about 200 university students who attended the conference, said she was hoping that she would "feel more secure with my identity" as a modern Orthodox Jew.

"I'm modern Orthodox, but I feel the pressures from people around me, friends who are moving to the right," said Rutman. She is one of the only people in her community who wears pants, she said. "It's hard keeping your ideals when people around you feel it's wrong."

In his keynote address, Rabbi Berman, Edah's director, said modern Orthodoxy is a religious path defined by "maximum integration with society" whose adherents "simultaneously affirm a passionate total commitment to Halachah.

"We have chosen the more difficult path" than those on the right-wing side of Orthodoxy, who choose "maximum withdrawal and maximum isolation" from general society.

But it is in the dialectic between two seemingly antagonistic value systems that modern Orthodoxy can make a contribution to both personal and communal life, he said.

"There are moments of conflict

Continued on page 31

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The Week in Israel

Feb. 15

• Israeli jets struck a suspected Hezbollah base in the second straight day of attacks in south Lebanon. The air strike followed an attack by Hezbollah against an IDF outpost. *(Later in the week the human rights group B'tselem announced it would expand its coverage into south Lebanon.)*

Feb. 16

• Israeli, Jordanian, Egyptian and Palestinian officials met in Amman to discuss a common front against drug smuggling.

• Yad Vashem provided Switzerland with a list of more than one million Jews killed during the Holocaust. The move is designed to help Swiss banks identify and repay World War II-era dormant accounts.

Feb. 17

• A dispute erupted with the Palestinian Authority (PA) over control of the Al-Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem. The Jerusalem mufti appointed by the PA in 1994 wants to open a new office at the mosque, which Israel says would violate the peace accords.

• Israel announced it is seeking ways to improve trade with Jordan.

Feb. 18

• Israel police are investigating Ariel Sharon on charges of bribery arising from allegations that he bribed a former general, Avigdor Ben-Gal, to give false testimony in a 1997 libel trial that he lost against *Ha'aretz.*

• In response to the massive protests last week in Jerusalem, there was a sharp increase in the number of Israelis registering with the Reform movement, according to the Reform leaders in Israel.

Feb. 19

• The Interior Ministry announced it was taking special measures to respond to an anticipated rise in immigration from the former Soviet Union.

• Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is pressing for the establishment of a six-to-eight-person committee to try to find ways to resolve tensions between the haredi community and the Supreme Court.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Israel Election Notebook

May 17

• A dovish former university professor who was Israel's ambassador to Madrid, Shlomo Ben-Ami, has won the top spot in the Labor party's primary elections. He is followed by: Dr. Yossi Beilin, an architect of the Oslo agreements; Matan Vilnai, the former deputy chief of staff; Avraham Burg, chair of the Jewish Agency; Uzi Baram, a long-serving politician and onetime cabinet minister; Daliah Itzik, an influential Knesset member; Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, a former general and cabinet minister; and Haim Ramon, a onetime Histadrut chair, who threatened to join the new centre party, but stayed on in Labor.

• A Labor party rally took an unexpected turn when the party's sole Ethiopian legislator, Adisu Massala, grabbed the microphone and accused the party of racism. Massala claimed that ballot tampering from the party's primary earlier in the week had cost him the place on Labor's roster of Knesset candidates that had beeen reserved for an immigrant representative. Massala accused Labor officials of selling him out and giving the slot to a representative of the Russian immigrant community, a larger voting bloc than the Ethiopian community. Labor leader Ehud Barak ordered a recount of the primary ballots.

• In the contest for Yisrael b'Aliyah's Knesset list, all of the current party MKs who ran, won top spots. Two candidates of Ethiopian background made it onto the list, but in positions considered unlikely to result in Knesset membership.

Shlomo Mula, one of the two Ethiopian candidates, explained that in Yisrael b'Aliyah "we have no need for predesignated slotting on the list for immigrants, because everyone is an immigrant."

Mula said that in the wake of Massala's bitter disappointment over not having obtained a realistic spot on the Labor list, all of the Ethiopian votes could end up going to Yisrael b'Aliyah.

MK Adisu Massala addresses a Labor Party gathering, as leader Ehud Barak looks on. [Israel Sun photo]

Conference explores meaning of modern Orthodoxy

Continued from page 30

between faith and reason in the life of a Jew," but "both are God's gifts and we need to receive them both.

"We don't have to give up universality to retain our sense of particularism."

The unique role of the modern Orthodox is that they are religious Jews who view working in the world as a positive religious value.

"Being engaged in building and in healing, in manufacturing and in helping, in raising children and in mediating conflicts, is a vital aspect of fulfillment of the mitzvah of Imitatio Dei,"or acting in the way God wants, Rabbi Berman said.

"We have a message to bring to American society – that in work there can be holiness. If you bring the right kavanah (intent), we can transform the mundane into the sacred."

"We need to invite all of Jewry to join with us in this quest for holiness in the secular world," he said, as his listeners gave him a standing ovation.

What's the next step for Edah, a two-year old organization still defining its role in the modern Orthodox community?

"The issues raised here need to be addressed further," Judy Adler-Sheer, Edah's executive director, said in an interview.

Edah plans to set up chat rooms through its web site (www.edah.org) where people can continue their discussions, and possibly organize smaller conferences in cities around the country, she said.

"There are some large communal soul searching issues ahead of us. The challenge is to create a way to do that, to maintain a sense of community."

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Charles Bronfman to head new communal "super agency"

UJA, CJF and UIA merge

By JULIA GOLDMAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — When it comes to risky start-ups, Charles Bronfman has an all-star record.

In 1968, the distillery fortune heir helped bring baseball's National League to Montreal by providing financial backing for the Expos when a major partner pulled out of an already foundering franchise at the last minute. Bronfman, a baseball fan, was the team's first chair.

Now the Montreal native is bringing his team-building experience to the 9-month-old partnership of the United Jewish Appeal, Council of Jewish Federations and United Israel Appeal, which are in the midst of a merger. These organizations represent North American Jewry's primary fundraising and service-providing agencies.

Bronfman, 67, was nominated last week to serve as the first chairman of the board of the partnership, currently called the UJA Federations of North America.

The merger is slated for completion in April, and Bronfman's nomination will have to be ratified at that time.

The federations and national organizations that make up the partnership are responsible for raising money and providing services for Jewish needs around the world. This week the partnership reported that its 1998 campaign has raised a record $743.6 million to date and is projected to close at around $759 million.

Charles Bronfman

In recent years, the UJA-federation system has seen an increasing number of Jewish charitable dollars go to private foundations, such as those run by Bronfman and his family. So the selection of Bronfman to head the reconstituted federation system is being viewed by some as a major victory in the battle to bring these two worlds back together.

But Bronfman points out that he and his wife Andrea, have always worked with the organized Jewish community.

"I know pretty well who the players are," he said, referring to executives of the major federations and the presidents of the partnership's constituent agencies. "I have a pretty good understanding of the whos, the whats and the wheres."

Bronfman's involvement with the Jewish community may have been prompted by the charitable example set by his father Samuel. His older brother Edgar, is also a well-known philanthropist and president of the World Jewish Congress.

Charles' Jewish activism began in his late teens. At 17, he started "covering cards" for the UJA campaign in Montreal. As an adult, he was the city's federation campaign chair, sat on the executive committee, and served as president. He is currently the honorary president of the United Israel Appeal of Canada.

In the early 1980s, Bronfman served on the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency for Israel, and most recently he took on volunteer positions at the National Jewish Centre for Learning and Leadership (CLAL), which he now chairs.

Last fall, Bronfman was the international chair of the partnership's 1998 General Assembly, which attracted 5,000 people to Jerusalem, where it was held for the first time.

It was there that Bronfman announced his own partnership with Wall Street magnate Michael Steinhardt in launching Birthright Israel, which in the year 2000 is expected to offer every Jew in the world between the ages of 15 and 26 an educational trip to Israel. Bronfman and his wife had already joined with Steinhardt in the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education in 1997.

The Birthright program builds on one of Bronfman's initiatives, Israel Experience Inc., a clearinghouse for teen Israel trips founded in 1993 by the Charles and Andrea Bronfman Foundation, the UJA, CJF, the Jewish Agency, the Jewish Educational Service of North America and the Jewish Community Centres Association of America.

Bronfman made his first visit to Israel in 1958, the same year that construction was completed on the Seagram building, a skyscraper on Park Avenue, designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Philip Johnson.

Today, he and his wife maintain a home in Jerusalem, along with residences in New York and Palm Beach, Fla.

Great believer in Jewish continuity

Strengthening the bonds between North American and Israeli Jews is one of Bronfman's longtime passions.

He recalls how his extended family gave him a special present for his 60th birthday: the Bronfman Mifgashim Centre in Jerusalem, where Israeli and Diaspora youth can have encounters that Bronfman hopes will lead to long-term connections.

Bronfman was a great believer in Jewish continuity before the term was widely used.

Today, the idea of continuity has been replaced by renaissance, a major theme of the new partnership's mission, one that Bronfman sees as essential for inspiring the Jewish community, and for recruiting new blood and new ideas into the organization.

"What do we say to young, affluent, Americanized people," he asks, to let them know there could be "something more in their life that may be missing?

"Maybe Jewish renaissance would be great for all of us," he says. But he believes that achieving this and strengthening the unity of the Jewish people will take "a different kind of organization."

The game plan for that new entity is already in the works: a set of merger documents has been sent out to the local federations for their approval.

The merger will put community fundraising in the hands of the local federations and will give them a majority voice in running the mammoth organization.

At the same time, a consulting firm is going out into the communities to determine "what they want from this new structure."

The report, Bronfman said, might serve as the basis for the entity's strategic plan.

"We have to take it seriously, because our owners are talking."

But Bronfman anticipates a curve ball or two in melding the agencies, which for a century have cooperated closely, but functioned separately.

"It's that human question that's so important," he said, and one that he and the two other leaders of the entity – one volunteer and one professional – must attend to as soon as they are named.

Leaders are meant to take risks, Bronfman said, and the biggest risk the new entity's leaders face "is to get people on the same side, to blend together a group of both lay and professionals who want to go in the same direction" without holding one another back.

More than anything else, however, Bronfman sees providing inspiration as the new entity's main job. Bronfman himself is clearly inspired.

"I think this is the golden age of the Jewish world," he said, "and I think it's now our duty, responsibility and enormous pleasure" to see to it that "that golden age goes on for a long time."

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Yeltsin voices support for Syria

By DANIEL SOBELMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Russian President Boris Yeltsin promised that Moscow "will cooperate with Syria to protect the balance of power and stability" in the Middle East, said Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al Shara.

Yeltsin's words of support were included in his message of congratulations to Syrian President Hafez al-Assad on his recent 99.9 percent electoral victory. This message was given to Shara during his visit to Moscow earlier this month, according to a recent report by the Syrian newspaper *al Thawra.*

The newspaper pointed out that Shara met with his foreign ministry counterpart, Igor Ivanov, as well as Russian Defence Minister Igor Sergiev.

According to the report, Shara said that "military-technology cooperation" between the two countries is "perfectly natural."

He spoke at a joint press conference with Ivanov in Moscow. The Russian foreign minister said that the two countries have established a committee to discuss Syria's $12 billion (US) debt to Russia for previous arms deals.

The vast majority of Syrian military equipment is Soviet-built.

Shara said that the flow of arms from Russia to Syria is picking up, "to rates we knew in the past," which was a reference to how the huge Syrian financial debt to Russia had slowed down sales.

Health

Parents are most important sex educators, says expert

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — Parents are the most important sex educators, says a specialist in sexual health.

Children who learn about sex from their parents have the best chance of developing an inner sense of being in control and becoming sexually healthy, Jeff Bamford said at a meeting sponsored by the Leo Baeck Day School Parents' Association.

"Sex education is part of a wholesome life that a child is living," she said.

When teaching children about sex, she said, parents must trust that their children will take the knowledge and use it wisely. "Keep the doors of communication open. Start talking to them when they are young, and remain interested in their lives."

Children need honest facts, she said, and they need to hear them often. "Giving children correct information [when they are] young is easier than getting them to unlearn the fairy tales we sometimes tell them out of embarrassment."

It is not harmful to tell children too much, she said, because what they do not understand "will go over their head."

Sex education encompasses far more than sex, said Bamford. "If helping men and women to become more equal is important to you, you can help make social changes by the way you raise your children.

"Try to help your son and daughter grow up so they can follow personal interests and choose any job."

Offer young children a variety of toys and activities, she said. "Tea parties and hockey games can be fun for children of both sexes."

She also advised parents not to separate household chores into men's and women's work. "If a father asks his son to help fold the laundry and the son says that it is girl's work, the father can say, 'It's boy's work when you and I do it.'"

Essential, she said, is to teach boys to respect girls as people. "We must also teach girls to be clear about what they want and what they don't want, and how to make that clear to other people. Your home is the small world that eventually will make those important changes in the bigger world."

Baycrest gets major donations

TORONTO — The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) has given $325,000 to the Baycrest Centre campaign to support new educational facilities at the Rotman Research Institute.

The major focus of research at the Rotman Institute, which is part of Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, is on changes to memory and frontal lobe functions of the brain as a result of normal aging and in the presence of brain dysfunctions such as stroke, Alzheimer disease and other dementias.

The CIBC donation will be used to retrofit the current Jewish Home for the Aged at Baycrest Centre with new classroom and lecture facilities for the Rotman Institute. The space will become available in 2000, after residents in the home are moved to the new Apotex Centre, Jewish Home for the Aged, on Baycrest campus.

"CIBC is committed to the wellness of the communities it serves," says Steve McNair, senior vice-president of CIBC's Greater Toronto Area Region. "We are very pleased to partner with the Baycrest Centre, a world-renowned organization known for its contribution to geriatric care and research."

"The dissemination of knowledge and sharing of ideas is critical to our research. The CIBC gift will help to create much needed additional space for scientists to meet, discuss and present date," says Dr. Donald Stuss, vice-president of research at Baycrest and director of the Rotman Research Institute.

* * * * * *

TORONTO — Hongkong Bank of Canada (HSBC) will provide a $100,000 endowment for the Rotman Research Institute's annual International Research Conference. Interest from the endowment will be used to contribute to a stable base of funding for the annual conference.

The Rotman Research Institute of the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care holds the annual conference, which attracts top neuroscientists from around the world who discuss the latest advances in understanding and treating brain disorders such as Alzheimer disease and other dementias.

"With HSBC's generous gift, we now have the beginning of a financial base to support this annual international conference," says Dr. Donald Stuss, vice-president of research at Baycrest and director of the Rotman Research Institute.

The ninth Annual Rotman Research Institute Conference runs March 24-26 in Toronto.

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Family Matters
by
John Syrtash, B.A. (Hon.), LL.B.

Split pensions, spousal support and "double dipping"

What happens if spouses "split" the pension of one spouse and then later, either of them seeks spousal support?

With certain exceptions, pensions are usually valuated as a lump sum amount in present day cash (valued as of the date of separation), which is then split or "equalized" between the parties. Usually Courts will not order that the pension be split when a party retires; too many problems can arise as a result. What if the pensioned party dies, remarries or switches jobs? What if the terms of the pension do not allow a "split"? It is onerous to set up Trusts whereby the pensioned party becomes responsible for "receiving" and passing on the other spouse's share. Two estranged spouses also lack sufficient faith in each other for that to happen. Moreover, the purpose of family law is to effect a separation of the parties, not to keep them tied to each other until retirement and beyond.

Court assesses pensioner's net worth

What normally happens in these cases, then, is that the Court determines a current lump sum amount, i.e. a cash value, often with the assistance of an Actuary. Tax and inflation factors — as well as the pensioner's age and many other factors — play into this calculation. But at the end of the day, the Court arrives at a single number for the pension's future value in current dollars.

When a Judge adopts such a figure, say $150,000 (not unusual for a teacher, police officer or other public servant after very lengthy service), the Judge allocates that figure as part of the pensioner's "net family property" as of the date of separation (i.e. the growth of one's net worth during the marriage). Assuming that the non-pensioned spouse has no net worth of her own, the Court could award her one half of that amount, or $75,000 (assuming that the pensioner had no debts on that date or assets with which he came into the marriage). There are certain other amounts the pensioner can "deduct" or "exclude" from his net family property, but we'll deal with that issue in greater depth another time.

The pitfalls of "double dipping"

Now, if the pensioned party retires, should he again be obliged to "split" part of his pension by paying spousal support *from the very same pension that he already divided with his spouse* in the form of a lump sum property settlement?

This problem is called "double dipping" and as Canada ages, the issue will come up frequently. In order to prevent "double recovery", Judge Czutrin ruled as follows in a case called *Shadbolt* (1997), 32 R.F.L. (4th) 253 (Ont. Gen. Div.): *spousal support should only be payable from that portion of a pension that has not already been split* (i.e. formed part of an equalization payment). The paying spouse therfore gets a credit for what he's already paid.

As Ottawa lawyer Barbara Thompson notes in her paper on *"Pensions"*, delivered January 29, 1999 to the Canadian Bar Association's Family Law Institute, a number of cases have already adopted Judge Czutrin's reasoning. The problem will be how to calculate the credit in the absense of legislation or clear directions from the Courts.

John Syrtash is a partner and family law lawyer with the Toronto firm of Basman Smith. Neither B'nai Brith Canada, Basman Smith or John Syrtash is liable for any consequences arising from anyone's reliance on this material, which is presented as general information and not as a legal opinion. John Syrtash can be reached at (416) 365-0300, ext. 22.

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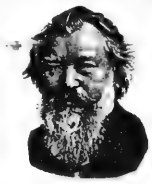

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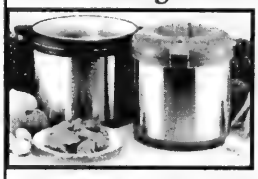

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The Maximum Dimension

Making math fun for kids

By JOE SERGE
Arts Editor

Max Maven is on a mission to conquer a popular kids' phobia. It's not spiders, heights or creepy, crawly bugs. Max wants to conquer math phobia.

To that end, he created *The Maximum Dimension*, a wacky TV show that uses puzzles, games and mystery to show kids math can be fun.

"The show is not so much to teach mathematics, that's not what we're trying to do," Max said from his home in Los Angeles recently. "We want to conquer math phobia. We're hoping, at the very least, that kids won't want to leave the room when math comes on. We hope to encourage kids not to turn off from math, that it's not horrible to experience numbers."

Maximum Dimension is a funky half-hour show built around different concepts each week like sports, architecture, time, computers, etc. The idea is to show kids just how much a part of everything math is.

Max hosts the show with two curious teenagers, Jennifer (Allison Heiberg) and Zach (Kevin Robson), and two animated computer components, Braque (Stephen Ouimette) and Pi (Margot Kidder).

The show is set in a castle high atop a mountain (in reality, Saskatoon). One of the more intriguing rooms is the Matrix. Similar to a "Holodeck Suite" on *Star Trek*, it can simulate various historical or fictional characters and places.

Max Maven

"The show is fun to watch and includes a lot of surprise factors. The world is filled with mysterious stuff we take for granted. The show is an exploration of that. It is also silly and foolish, as it is geared to kids."

Max realizes he faces a hard task trying to tell kids that math can be fun. "Math is a cerebral activity, it has to do with perception. That might be the trouble; kids don't perceive it correctly. To them it sounds like a foreign language."

Although he is quick not to blame educators for the phobia kids face with math today, he says math has become confusing for both student and teacher. "Math has a bad reputation. It is difficult for educators to interface with math."

He thinks that maybe kids don't understand math because their parents also don't relate to it. "My father is an astrophysicist and I grew up in a household rich in intellectual pursuits. I was introduced to recreational math at an early age."

He says there is very little different between the math whiz Max on the show and Max in real life. "The Max on the show is an elaboration of me; hopefully, I'm not as fixated as he is. He is enamored by mathematics. I also have a genuine interest in mathematics and an appreciation of math in the world around me."

Besides being a math whiz, Max is also a magician and a mentalist, doing mind readings on stage in clubs worldwide. "Theatrical magic is based on many principles, it is more than sleight of hand. Magic also contains psychology. To create an illusion, say of a woman being levitated, in addition to the technology you need to enhance a person's psychology to believe the woman is being levitated."

Max borrows from his nightclub experience and uses such math games and puzzles as the centrepiece of his TV show. He's also no stranger to television; he's starred in a series in Taiwan, hosted a talk show in England and guest starred on *Mork and Mindy* and *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*.

"I started having discussions with people on doing a math show dealing with kids," he said, pointing out he minored in early childhood education at university. It took about six years before he got the show, which debuted on TVO last year, on the air. It is currently airing on TVO Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

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A feminist fighter par excellence

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Feisty feminist and prize-winning newspaper columnist Michele Landsberg was once given a piece of advice by her conformist mother. "Little ladies," she said, "don't ever talk back."

Landsberg has flouted her mother's admonition with a vengeance. In the Hebrew tradition of Tikun Olam, Landsberg burns with a desire "to fix things" and improve the world.

Never shy to speak out, she has committed herself to an array of causes and spoken out on behalf of the afflicted, be they victims of violence, poverty or bureaucratic callousness.

On March 3 at 9 p.m., less than a week before International Women's Day, this pugnacious yet sensitive rebel with a cause, is profiled by Vision TV in an excellent one-hour documentary by Donna Davey entitled *Michele Landsberg: Iron in her Soul*.

The film not only focuses on her life, but on the issues which have driven her passion for social justice: human rights, education, immigrants and women.

She was born in Toronto and came from a long line of Russian Jews who, while not very religiously observant, had a prophetic approach to being Jewish.

Her mother, now in her 90s, wanted Landsberg to be a "perfect, beautiful woman." Her father, a frustrated salesman, imparted a love for the written word and a mental toughness to his impressionable daughter.

Recalling her childhood, Landsberg says that Toronto in the 1940s was a city where open anti-Semitism was commonplace and completely accepted. A teacher, she remembers with a certain bitterness, referred to her and two other Jewish students as "heathens."

A member of a Zionist youth group, Landsberg spent a year on a kibbutz in Israel, her first major political commitment. A guard tried to rape her, alienating Landsberg from a country in which she thought she would feel at home.

The first woman in her family to attend university, Landsberg graduated from the University of Toronto in 1962. Thanks to an interest in poetry, she landed a job with *The Globe and Mail*, which launched her career in journalism.

Landsberg has since written for *Chatelaine* magazine and, currently, she turns out a twice-weekly, avidly-read column for *The Toronto Star*, a vehicle for her ideas.

Through her involvement with the New Democratic Party (NDP), she met her husband, Stephen Lewis. They have had three children, and they talk about her with unfeigned love and admiration.

Lewis, who was the Ontario NDP leader and Canada's ambassador to the United Nations, speaks glowingly of his wife, describing her as his "ideological anchor" and life-long companion.

Feminists like Gloria Steinem and Judy Rebick also provide thumbnail assessments.

Landsberg's terrifying bout with breast cancer in 1994, and the strength and solace she found in gardening, is perhaps the most moving segment.

It drives home the point that Michele Landsberg, who has touched hearts and made a difference, is a fighter par excellence.

Michele Landsberg [Doug Forster photo]

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Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL RAISES IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

Nominated for seven Academy Awards, **Roberto Benigni's** *Life is Beautiful* will almost certainly come away a winner during the Oscar ceremonies this month, possibly as best foreign picture, or even best picture. Benigni also received nominations for best director, best actor and best screenplay.

Life Is Beautiful has won critical acclaim in Israel, Europe and North America. In doing so, it has also raised some pointed questions about art and the Holocaust.

Two or three decades ago, few artists dared to touch the Holocaust (**Elie Wiesel** being a notable exception). It was considered infertile ground for art, a no-man's land of forbidden emotions and pain too deep for artists to explore.

"No poetry after Auschwitz," was philosopher **Theodor Adorno's** famed maxim, implying that most vocabularies and normal modes of artistic expression were inappropriate when applied against the most atrocious genocide of history.

The Holocaust stepped over the threshold of popular culture sometime in the 1970s with the popular television series, *Holocaust* and books like **Helen Epstein's** pioneering *Children of the Holocaust*. Since then, the Holocaust has become an increasingly common theme in art, represented in novels and films like *Sophie's Choice*, *Fugitive Pieces* and *Schindler's List*.

A comedy that replaces pain and terror with romance and wit, *Life Is Beautiful* seems to remove one more stricture about how the Holocaust may be depicted in art. **Jeffrey Shandler**, a New York University professor who has written a book about the Holocaust and television, asserts that the Holocaust has become part of the moral landscape of western culture and that everyone has a right to respond to it in ways that may be unexpected.

"We shouldn't assume that there are approaches to representing the Holocaust that are inherently untenable – for example, that you can't have a comic, playful approach to the subject, as in the case of *Life Is Beautiful*," Shandler said in a recent interview.

"Instead, it's valuable to discuss how such presentations work on their own terms."

A Catholic, Benigni was asked if he felt that playing a Jew in a concentration camp required special daring. "The Holocaust belongs to everyone," he said. "I am a man, and therefore it belongs to me."

Whereas many in our community may still feel protective and somewhat possessive of the Shoah, we have been astonishingly successful in raising awareness about it in the wider culture. Writers and film directors are bound to find their own perspectives on it.

* * *

Purim Carnival: Ashkenaz, the Bloor JCC and the Downtown Jewish Community Council present a Purim Carnival on Feb. 29, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Bloor JCC, 750 Spadina Ave.

This medieval-style fair offers court fools and sages, a cranky Esther, a cunning Zeresh and a slinky Vashti. Admission ($4 child or $10 family) includes music, games, plenty of Purim shticks and hamantaschen. The public is asked to bring non-perishable food for the Food Bank Depot.

"No kvetching, wear something fetching!" 924-6211.

* * *

Free Tickets: Jewish Music Toronto is giving away up to 94 tickets to a March 7 concert featuring the Amadeus String Quartet, to patrons who donate $25 or more per ticket to the United Jewish Welfare Fund.

The concert, at the Glenn Gould Studio at 250 Front St., features violinist **Moshe Hammer** heading a 12-piece string ensemble that performs works by **Milton Barnes**, **Srul Irving Glick** and **Felix Mendelssohn**.

Donations must be received before March 1. Jerry Nesker, 221-5521.

* * *

Arts Briefs

• Stage Centre Productions presents *Three Sisters*, by **Anton Chekhov**, Feb. 25 to March 13 at Fairview Library Theatre, North York. Adults $16. 299-5557.

• *Pandemic: Case Of The Killer Flu* is a documentary about the 1918 influenza outbreak that killed more than 40 million people. Made by two-time Emmy winners Associated Producers of Toronto, the show airs Feb. 25 on the CBC-TV series *Witness*.

• Torontonian **Minn Sandler**, 102, reveals the secrets of a long, healthy life on CBC's *The Nature of Things* Feb. 25 at 8 p.m.

"The love of my family and good sex," she says on the show that looks into the lives of the world's oldest people and possible explanations for their startling increase in numbers.

• Canadian composer **Harry Freedman** is presenting a rehearsal of his new composition, *Voices*.

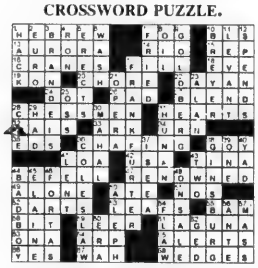
The composition will be rehearsed by the **Stuttgart Chamber Choir** and the **Elmer Iseler Singers** Feb. 25, 1 p.m. at the Edward Johnson Building of U of T, 80 Queen's Park Circle, Room 330. Free.

• Comedian **Marc Weiner**, who's appeared on *Comedy Central* and *Saturday Night Live* brings his act to Toronto for a Night of Jewish Humor.

• Purim, March 1, 9 p.m. at Ohr Somayach. Kosher snacks/cash bar. Adults only. Tickets $10 ($15 at the door). 905-886-5730.

Marc Weiner

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



Authors & Poets

The CJN is pleased to announce the third annual Passover Literary Supplement. We therefore invite the authors and poets among our readers to submit their works to us. We are looking only for works of fiction or poetry that explore Jewish themes.

The works must be original and previously unpublished. The fiction cannot be longer than 1,500 words. We must receive your works ***no later than February 26, 1999*** at *The CJN*, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, Ontario M3B 3K4. If you want us to return the submissions, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Otherwise, we will be unable to do so.

—The editor

STILL THE NIGHT GIVEAWAY

The CJN is giving away 18 pairs of tickets to Theresa Tova's *Still the Night* for March 17, 1999 at the Factory Theatre in Toronto.

Rules: Please print your full name, address and daytime telephone number on a piece of paper along with the answer to the following question:

What Italian movie about life during the Holocaust just received an Academy Award nomination for Best Film?

All correct answers received by noon on March 5, 1999 are eligible. Ten eligible entries will be randomly selected at *The CJN* offices March 8, 1999 at 10 a.m. Winners must be 18 or over and must be able to pick up the tickets from our office at York Mills and Don Mills in North York. *The CJN will not mail tickets out.* All winners will be notified by phone on March 8. Odds of winning depends on the number of correct entries received. *The CJN* will not enter into any other correspondence with contestants.

Send your response to: Still the Night Contest, Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Rd. #205, North York, Ontario. M3B 3K4. Or fax to Proposals Contest 416-391-0829 or Email [TORCJN1@aol.com] under the subject heading Still the Night Contest.

Employees and immediate family members of The CJN, *and Tapestry, Tova Entertainment Productions are ineligible to enter.*

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Film speaks volumes about Ashkenazi-Sephardi divide

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Of all the schisms in Israeli society, none is being resolved with as much vigor and urgency as the cultural and class divide between Ashkenazi and Sephardi Jews.

In recent years, Sephardis, who comprise about half of Israel's Jewish population, have made great and encouraging strides.

They have narrowed the income gap, which remains distressingly wide, and they have risen to high positions in government and the army: Yitzhak Mordechai, the former defence minister, is the first Sephardi candidate for prime minister, and Shaul Mofaz was recently appointed chief of staff.

Apart from these telling indices, the Ashkenazi-Sephardi intermarriage rate is on the increase.

Nevertheless, several more decades may elapse before there is true equality in the Jewish state.

This is plainly evident from watching Senyora Bar-David's film, *The South: Alice Never Lived Here*. It was screened last week at the City Playhouse Theatre under the auspices of the UJA Federation and the Sephardi Network.

Bar-David's documentary explores an integration program, now in its 25th year, which was designed to give poor Sephardi teenagers from southern Tel Aviv, a chance at upward social mobility through the medium of education.

Teens are bussed to better schools in affluent north Tel Aviv, which is mainly populated by Ashkenzim, in the hope that they can improve their skills and thus their chances of personal advancement.

Bar-David, a 35-year-old graduate of the program, zeroes in on one of its current students, Elinor Nagar, 15.

She lives in a working-class neighborhood in Jaffa, the same place where Bar-David once resided. Known as Tel Kabbir, it was an Arab village prior to the 1948 War of Independence.

Nagar, whose parents are Egyptian and Yemeni immigrants, is but one thread in the fabric of *The South*, which is essentially about three generations of Sephardi women in Israel.

Bar-David's other subjects are herself and Ida Reuven, her 89-year-old Greek-Bulgarian grandmother.

This documentary, though, is fundamentally about Nagar, whose face radiates intelligence, warmth and sensitivity.

Nagar does not have an easy time of it in north Tel Aviv, which she describes as "another world." The kids there don't always understand her, and they falsely assume that Tel Kabbir is crime-ridden and violent.

Many students like herself feel socially unaccepted, cannot tolerate the stress of competing with their Ashkenazi classmates, and eventually drop out of the program.

Nagar, however, perseveres, despite her father's view that Ashkenazim look down upon Sephardim and that she will always be perceived as a "black."

Bar-David, having had similar experiences as a teenager, empathizes with Nagar. So the segment about her own struggle to lift herself up by the bootstraps work.

But Bar-David's attempt to blend Ida Reuven's story into the narrative is contrived and distracting, since hers is not really a tale about overcoming ethnic prejudice in Israel.

In spite of this structural flaw, *The South* is a movie which speaks volumes about contemporary Israel and the problems it is trying to solve.

Still The Night is still running strong

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Though Teresa Tova is not in the cast this time, she is still actively associated with a new production of *Still The Night*, which runs March 3 to 21 at Factory Theatre (504-9971).

Tova, writer of the play about the heroism of women partisans fighting the Nazis, has been involved in the considerable changes in the new version. She based the play on stories told to her as a child by survivors.

She is currently appearing as Emma Goldmann in the Livent production of *Ragtime* touring in the United States, and the role she played in *Still The Night* is taken by actor Mary Ellen Mahoney.

The other actor in *Still The Night* is Toronto's own Liza Balkan, who won a Dora for outstanding performance when the play was first staged at Theatre Passe Muraille in 1996.

"Teresa and everyone wanted to see if the rewriting and tightening up of the play would work and it has worked wonderfully," said new director Tom Diamond.

In its new life, *Still the Night* has been produced in Winnipeg and Saskatoon, and following its Toronto run will play at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa for two weeks beginning April 13.

"In tightening the play we didn't want to do anything to reduce its impact on the audience and it still has that effect," said Diamond. "It runs about two hours, which may be a little shorter than it was. We're hoping that a lot of people will come back to see it for the second time."

Tom Diamond

Patinkin plays in TO

TORONTO — Broadway's master song man Mandy Patinkin will bring his critically acclaimed Broadway theatre concert *Mamaloshen* here in May as a Hummingbird Corey/ Ross Production Inc. co-presentation.

The concert marks Patinkin's return to the international concert stage after having recently enjoyed both a Broadway and Off-Broadway success with *Mamaloshen*. He is accompanied on piano by Paul Ford and joined on stage by violinist Saeka Matsuyama.

Critics have called Patinkin's performance in *Mamaloshen* as "the most scintillating vocal performance on stage right now."

Tony and Emmy Award winner Patinkin has an extensive list of theatre credits that include Broadway, Off-Broadway and regional theatre. He won the Tony Award for his 1980 performance of Che in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Evita* and won an Emmy Award for his role as Dr. Jeffrey Geiger on the TV series *Chicago Hope*.

The concert takes place May 17 at the Hummingbird Centre for the Performing Arts at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets go on sale March 8 but group rates are now available by calling 393-7463.

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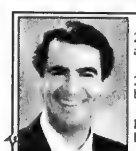

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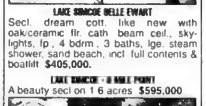

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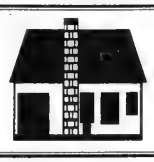

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60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION

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Young prof. to share spac. townhse at Bath./Sheppard. Approx. $725/mo. David 630-6539

65 ACCOMMODATION/ SWAP/EXCHANGE

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75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

Bath./Eglinton, lge 2 bdr., main flr duplex, lau., pkg., dishwasher. Util. incl. Apr. 1. 781-5145.

1 bdrm in newly reno'd bsmnt. by Wilson subway. Pref. Non-smkr., single prof., lau., cable, pkg., $550/mo. 416-398-7478.

Bath./Baycrest,spac. bsmt apt, new kit & bth, exc loc. n/smkr, n/pets. $500/mo. 782-5887.

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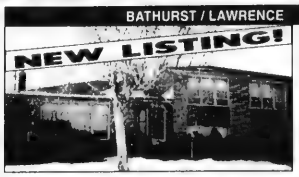
ENCLAVE OF 10 MAGNIFICENT HOMES! 4 + 1 bdrms., 4 baths, fin. bsmt. (in-law suite), cornice mouldings, marble fireplace, oak plank hardwood floors, rear deck, Jacuzzi, interlock driveway +++, only $499,000 (incl. GST). Model homes available for viewing now. **DON'T MISS OUT!** Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE



Spacious 4 bedroom side-split, family room, sun room, panelled rec. room, 60 x 117 ft. lot, fabulous location, asking $439,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / CLARK — THORNHILL

Detached 2 storey, 3 + 1 bedrooms, family room / fireplace, premium oversized lot, gorgeous landscaping, finished basement, close to BAYT Shul, only $279,900. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

AVENUE ROAD / WILSON / 401 CONDO

2 bedrooms + solarium, 2 parking spaces, ensuite laundry, priced for immediate sale at $209,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

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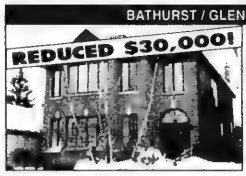
Prime location close to Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue! Spacious 4 bedroom home, family room, gourmet kitchen, state-of-the-art library, asking $599,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / GLEN PARK



Magnificent custom-designed home, dramatic cathedral ceilings, open concept, 4 + 1 bdrms., 5 baths, marble fireplace, glass block, French doors, dream kitchen, family room +++. Only $599,000. **ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

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California-style, 2,700 sq. ft. (approx.), 4 bedrooms, oversize family room, 69 x 120 ft. lot, eat-in kitchen, only $349,000. **ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

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NEWLY DECORATED SPACIOUS 1, 2 & 3 BDRMS.

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120 SHELBORNE AVE.
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Well Maintained Bldg.
Close to T.T.C., Shopping & Synagogues
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631-9377 or 631-0388 - Super

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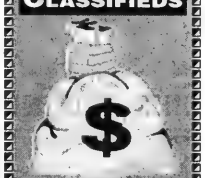

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Traditional Synagogue in Dallas, Texas, 110 yr History, 400+ families, seeks energetic Associate Rabbi to lead youth, family & adult programming and assist Senior Rabbi with all congregational and life cycle events. Fax resume to Attention: Search Committee at 214-739-5625 or e-mail: SteveBlas@Yahoo.com

THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

Camp Modin, a 78 year old Jewish camp, situated on a private, unspoiled lake in the pristine wilderness of Maine is looking for dynamic, dedicated individuals who want to make a difference in the lives of 300 children from around the world. Positions include general counselors and specialty staff in the area of land and water sports, creative and performing arts and wilderness adventure. For a brochure and video describing all that Modin has to offer call us toll-free at
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247 DAY CARE

Day Care in my home. Clean, n/smkr mom. Hot lunches. Refs avail. Infants welcome. Bathurst & Steeles. Bev, 905-738-8125.

248 CAMPS

Instructors/Lifeguards wanted for day camp. Must have Red Cross Instructors and NLS. Fax resume to 905-731-0005 or mail to Lubavitch Day Camp, 770 Chabad Gate, Thornhill, Ont., L4J 4V9. Attn: Swim Director.

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

EC Access Employ. Agency Needs employers to sponsor foreign Filipino nannies/hskprs. No finders fee. Minimum salary. 905-475-2518 or 416-759-4333

Frustrated by trying to find a suitable nanny? Let us help you. We have dependable, caring nannies who are thoroughly qualified, personally interviewed & pre-screened. All refs. are checked. Some are CPR trained. Low finders fee.
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High quality house cleaning. Call Dora, 736-1179.

Lady avail to care for elderly , nanny or companion, 245-7636.

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*Experienced Caregivers Live-in & Live-out
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*We only hire **THE BEST!**
*On-going contact with you after placement
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Tired of searching for the right *nanny, housekeeper, elderly, caregiver?* We pre-screen, interview & verify references personally. Why not let the search end here?
CALL (416) 630-3773

TLC PLACEMENT SERVICES
Looking for a reliable nanny-housekeeper? Live in & live out nannies available. Reasonable rates. Excellent service.
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A complete cleaning service for homes, offices. References. Insured & bonded. Call Sylvia, 905-507-9654 or 416-612-8991.

Babysitter/housekeeper avail. immed.Excel refs.905-294-8778

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Experienced live-in Filipino Caregivers available from Israel.
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Nannies, Housekeepers, Companions. Live-in or Live-out.
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Cleaning lady avail. Experienced w/refs. 416-245-8201.

Cleaning lady avail. to clean houses/apts. w/exper. & reas. prices. 416-588-7407, after 5pm

Nannies, live-in &out, full &part-time, cleaning. In-home elderly care by RN's & nurses aides. Bonded, refs. **416-224-9907. Servicing Toronto since 1985.** ***NUMBER 1 DOMESTICS.***

Reliable housekeeper avail. F/T or P/T. Refs. 416-636-0964.

Very exp. lady looking to clean homes. Refs. 416-747-7721.

255 DOMESTIC HELP WANTED

Nanny/housekeeper, f/t or p/t, req'd. Drivers license an asset. Live-out. Refs. 416-920-7905.

257 HEALTHCARE AVAILABLE

Personal Support Worker will care for sick or elderly in their home. Call evenings, 615-1970.

Private nurse avail. to care for senior ladies. 416-492-4270.

259 SENIORS

Resident Placement Service (Retirement) for Jewish Seniors.
For information contact:
Ellie Saibil, Placement Co-ordinator **(416) 330-6469**

260 BUSINESS PERSONALS

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260 BUSINESS PERSONALS

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264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hy Beckenstein is delighted to announce the engagement of his son **Shael** to **Julia Goldstein** daughter of **Brian Goldstein** and **Francine Schlessinger**, both of Ottawa. Proud grandparents are Fred & Nellie Schlessinger. Fondly remembered and missed at this time is Eleanor Beckenstein (Shael's mother).

270 PERSONALS

A lady young 77, author in wheelchair wishes to obtain the use (a few hrs/wk) of a family's study which is equipped with a writing desk & a file for manuscripts. Must be in wheelchair accessible home where no pets are kept. She would prefer the Bath./Wilson district, but will consider all replies on the Wheeltrans route. She is unable to pay for your hospitality at present but hopes to pay next year. CJN Box # 7156.

Miraculous Successfully Yours Change many problems for the better. Jobs, marriage, dating etc. For more information in confidence call 204-452-5400.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

If I had 1 wish... I'd be back at summer camp. Simple pleasures, lots of laughter and romantic hideaways. If you'd like to join my fantasy, I'm female, 32, no baggage, tall, attractive, happily employed, fit and healthy. CJN Box # 7154.

Jewish Singles Registry membership for sale $220. 781-0710

Outstanding looking lady with class, European background, curvy, independent, no children, 60 yrs. old (looks 50), would like to meet classy gentleman, not over 70. CJN Box # 7157.

*** CJN Boxes for Personal Companions Wanted ads are valid for 30 (thirty) days only (from 1st publication date). Replies must be received within this time frame in order to be forwarded to the correct CJN Box #.**

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

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The cost of the 900# is only $2.49 per minute

To Place Your **FREE** Ad **call 905-276-6167 *Ext.# 65***

The *Meeting Place*

Brought to you by the Canadian Jewish News

Women seeking Men

FUNNY AND WARM
Divorced female, 52, intelligent, financially independent, warm, funny, enjoy dining in & out, long walks, sports, movies, baseball. Seeking a male, 55+, with similar interests AD#1879

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single female, 35, 5'4", slim, brunette, attractive, enjoy movies, theater, travelling, ethnic foods, cottage and country life. Seeking a male, 35-43, professional, intelligent, handsome inside and out, a good communicator AD#1881

LOVES NATURE
Single Jewish female, 42, blue eyes, intelligent, unique, enjoy art, theater, nature, travelling. Seeking a male, non-smoker, unique and caring AD#1882

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single female, radiant, smart, sophisticated, compassionate, fun, open, loving, enjoy good food, good conversation, long walks, quiet romantic times. Seeking a male, who is romantic, professional, with traditional values, emotionally and financially stable, and is ready to explore life AD#1866

DEVELOPING NEW INTEREST
Professional Jewish female, non-smoker, warm, pretty, enjoy dancing, long walks, movies, playing Bridge. Seeking a male, 55+, who is easy going, with similar interests AD#1867

CANDLE LIGHT DINNERS
Single female, caring, loving, romantic, affectionate, enjoy working out, travelling, candle light dinners. Seeking a male, 45-55, with similar interest AD#1869

NUMBER ONE
Single mom of 1 teenage son, attractive, exciting, 5'5", Jewish, brown eyes & hair, very youthful looking. Seeking a handsome, single Jewish male, professional, traditional, established, tall, fit, kind, sincere, fun loving, with a zest for life AD#1873

SIMPLE TWIST OF FATE
Single Jewish female, interesting, intelligent, unique, 34. Seeking a Jewish male, 35-46, for friendship, romance and trouble, if interested give me a call AD#1876

LET'S CHAT
Single female, early 30's, attractive, fit, enjoy long walks, cycling, dining, movies. Seeking a single Jewish male, non-smoker, 30ish, no children, outgoing, fun, sensitive, caring AD#1864

FRIENDS FIRST
Divorced female, 49, single mom, professional, warm, attractive, beautiful, blond hair, hazel eyes, non-smoker, university educated, down to earth, enjoy dining and dancing, sports, travelling. Seeking a male, 49-59, handsome, outgoing, honest, romantic, intelligent, who loves kids AD#1949

FRIENDSHIP & COMPANIONSHIP
Professional Jewish widow, 42, have a 2yr old child, very outgoing, good sense of humour, open, enjoy movies, theater, dining & dancing, long walks. Seeking a single Jewish male, assertive, financially secure, professional, non-smoker, sincere, who does not focus on ones attributes AD#1963

FULL OF LOVE
Single Jewish female, 18, 5'3", 115lbs, brown hair & eyes, non-smoker, honest, caring, enjoy moves, sports, dining and dancing. Seeking a male, 18-21, honest, romantic, trustworthy with similar interests AD#1862

NIFTY 50'S
Single lady, hazel eyes, blond hair, love life, sense of humour, enjoy the arts, movies, the theater, music from classical to jazz, travelling, long walks, and romantic talks. Seeking a male, kind, compassionate, self-sufficient, with a good heart and a great smile. AD#1853

NOURISH MY SOUL
Single Jewish female, 51, attractive, enjoy music, fine art, outdoor activities, nature, fine food, and activities that nourish the soul. Seeking a male who is considerate, open minded, with traditional values, and similar interests. AD#1860

WINTER ROMANCE
Single Jewish female, 30ish, attractive, stylish, dark brown hair, hazel green eyes, enjoy movies, theater, roller blading, comedy clubs, music, bowling, camping. Seeking a Jewish male, 31-43, with similar interests AD#1857

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single female, 35, 5'4", slim, attractive, brunette, enjoy theater, movies, travelling, cottage life. Seeking an attractive male, 34-44, professional, intelligent, and a good communicator AD#1858

SINGLE MOM
Single mom of 2 children (18yr & 8), very active, enjoy cooking, dining & dancing, reading. Seeking a male, very understanding, with a good heart AD#1849

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single Jewish female, 42, tall, warm, intelligent, attractive, curvaceous, strong Jewish identity. Seeking a Jewish male, communicative, healthy, counter-mensch with strength and integrity, accomplishment AD#1850

ROMANTIC LADY
Single Jewish female, 43, 5'10", attractive, sophisticated, non-smoker, very romantic, enjoy sports, dining and dancing, quiet evenings, live shows. Seeking a Jewish male, 5'10"+, non-smoker, handsome, enjoys working out, for a serious relationship or friendship. AD#1852

Men seeking Women

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 34, 5'7", athletic built, Bachelor of Science, caring, honest, reliable, romantic, enjoy movies, cooking, 60's dancing. Seeking a single Jewish female, intelligent, professional, open, and friendly AD#1877

SPONTANEOUS
Single Jewish male, outgoing, spontaneous, adventurous, enjoy working out, swimming, scuba diving, skiing, music. Seeking a female, who is passionate, with inner and outer beauty AD#1878

OUTSPOKEN
Single male, 34, educated, outspoken, enjoy country life, outdoor activities, dining out, animals. Seeking a female with similar interests AD#1880

ATTENTION LADIES!
Single male, 47, warm, romantic, intelligent, 5'9", medium built, good sense of humour, enjoy movies, dining out, good conversation. Seeking a female, who is warm hearted and sincere AD#1885

CASUAL GET TOGETHERS
Divorced Jewish male, 40's, 5'8", 136lbs, enjoy culture, art, ballet, travelling. Seeking a female who is independent, for casual get togethers. AD#1870

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Single Jewish male, 5'5", handsome, secure, athletic, enjoy tennis, swimming, jogging, cycling, skiing, theater, dancing, socializing. Seeking a female, 38-50, with similar interests AD#1871

SOULMATE
Divorced Jewish male, 6', 240lbs, easy going, great sense of humour, enjoy sports, movies, and love to laugh. Seeking a female, 26-31, with similar interests AD#1818

Questions ???
416-236-6644

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single male, Goldsmith and an artist, enjoy music, fine arts, sports, writing. Seeking a female, attractive, single moms OK, 28-38, with similar interests AD#1907

BEST FRIEND AND LOVER
Single Jewish male, 5'7", 30 something, Andy Garcia looks, very attractive, impeccable dresser but a cowboy at heart, fun loving, romantic, stable, resourceful, professional. Seeking a Jewish female, late 20's- early 30's, attractive, vibrant, classy and slim AD#1823

ONCE BITTEN, TWICE SHY
Single male, 50's, financially secure, handsome, from the Thornhill area. Seeking a female, good looking, with a good sense of humour, slim, age is not important, financially secure, a picture is a must after contact is made AD#1810

FUN LOVING
Single Jewish male, 33, easy going, fun loving, enjoy outdoor activities, movies, long walks, camping. Seeking a female, 25-38, with similar interests AD#1777

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single Jewish male, 6', handsome, athletic built, love sports and keeping fit, artistic, with traditional values. Seeking a Jewish female, who is ready to make a commitment and start a family, who enjoys life and has old fashioned values AD#1809

OLD FASHIONED
Single male, mid 30's, old fashioned, sensitive, stubborn, romantic, enjoy cuddling, outdoor activities, movies, camping. Seeking a female, 30-35, with similar interests. AD#1762

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single Jewish male, 36, 5'7", professional, traditional values, warm, fit, and fun. Seeking a Jewish female, late 20's to mid 30's, down to earth, creative, spontaneous, well grounded, with a good sense of humour AD#1771

LET'S GO FOR COFFEE
Single Jewish male, 32, professional, 180lbs, self employed, own his own business, fit, enjoy all aspects of life, movies, dining and dancing, travelling, working out, motor cycling. Seeking a Jewish female, very down to earth, non-smoker, strong morals and values, clean and neat AD#1774

LET'S CONNECT
Single male, 19, seeking a female, tall, slim, loving & caring for a meaningful relationship AD#1814

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, early 50's, down to earth, tall, slim, caring, easy going, professional, enjoy movies & quiet times. Seeking a Jewish female, 39-49, warm, sensitive, and health conscious. AD#1718

EASY TO LOOK AT
Single white male, young looking, late 50's, blue eyes, brown hair, medium built, financially secure, down to earth, great sense of humour, enjoy the outdoors. Seeking an attractive female, caring down to earth, trim figure, of any age. AD#1720

GOOD CONVERSATIONALIST
Single Jewish male, 6', slim, attractive, brown hair, blue-green eyes, have a B.A., enjoy cooking, travelling, movies, dining out. Seeking a Jewish female, 30-34, who is well read AD#1730

LIKES LAUGHS & OUTDOORS
Divorced Jewish male, 29, brown hair, blue eyes, professional, enjoy outdoor activities. Seeking a female with good sense of humour, caring, & kind AD#1787

CALL ME
Single male, 32, professional, fit, enjoy motor cycles, travelling, moves, working out, life. Seeking an attractive female, down to earth, fit, who also has a zest for life AD#1733

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Jewish man looking for a wife. She must be a good person, a good cook, good housekeeper and come with no issues. She could be in her late 20's or early 30's. I have my own home & live in the USA and I have my own business.

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Designer/brand name clothing. New, gently used. Pick up avail. 285-8315 leave message.

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MANPEL, Louis - on Feb. 9, 1999.
SHER, Louis - on Feb. 9, 1999, late of 5 Kenneth Ave.
ALBOM, Irving Morris - on Feb. 10, 1999, late of 1 Clark Ave. W.
DALFEN, Abraham David - on Feb. 10, 1999.
DEUTSCH, Geza - on Feb. 10, 1999.
ROTENBERG, Joseph - on Feb. 10, 1999, late of 27 Coreydale Crt.
SCHWARTZ, Esther - on Feb. 10, 1999, late of 429 Walmer Rd.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

OSTRIROV, Alexey - on Feb. 12, 1999, late of 4300 Bathurst St.
ROTMAN, Max - on Feb. 12, 1999, late of 18 Cedarcroft Blvd.
KRAMER, Percy - on Feb. 13, 1999.
SPIRA, Bernard - on Feb. 13, 1999, late of 7 Townsgate Dr.
KOCHMAN, David Josif - on Feb. 14, 1999.
KRAUSZ, William Vilmos - on Feb. 14, 1999, late of 3705 Bathurst St.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

CRACKOWER, William - on Feb. 6, 1999, late of 3560 Bathurst St.

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
HEBREW BASIC BURIAL
TRADITIONAL GRAVESIDE SERVICE

FOGLE, Sidney - on Feb. 4, 1999, late of 21 Hendon Ave.
SCHECHTER, Hyman - on Feb. 4, 1999, late of 187 Clifton Ave.
LAUFER, Pearl - on Feb. 5, 1999, late of 25 Canyon Ave., #1604.
GOODMAN, Harry - on Feb. 6, 1999, late of 645 Castlefield.
SIEGEL, Morris - on Feb. 7, 1999, late of 120 Promenade Circle, #210.
GLICK, Charlotte - on Feb. 8, 1999, late of 1 Stockton Rd.
SPRING, Stanley - on Feb. 8, 1999, late of 12 Dell Park Ave.
GAZEN, Roslyn - on Feb. 9, 1999, late of 22 Lynnhaven Rd.
GUSSACK, Ben - on Feb. 10, 1999, late of 23 Dresden Rd.
KREITZMAN, Lucy - on Feb. 10, 1999, late of 129 Charlton Blvd.
LEDERMAN, Florence - on Feb. 10, 1999, late of 2515 Bathurst St., #706.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

CYGELFARB, Henry - on Feb. 11, 1999, late of 6250 Bathurst St.
WAXBERG, Harry - on Feb. 11, 1999, late of 70 DeQuincy Blvd.
YOUNG, Stanley - on Feb. 11, 1999, late of 5935 Bathurst St.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

338 SHIVA CATERING

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Sports

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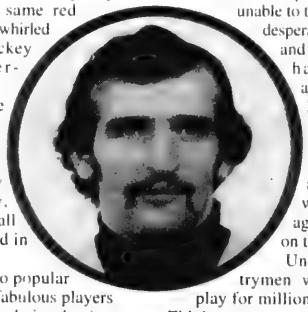
The Canadian Jewish news

Former Soviet hockey star needs surgery in Israel

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — With the likes of poster boy Pavel Bure skating in the NHL, it's hard to believe there was a time back in the 1970s when Russian hockey players were considered an anonymous, "faceless" bunch.

Clad in their CCCP jerseys, wearing the same red helmets, they whirled through hockey lanes interchangeably with little regard for position. And like Kharlamov, Mikhailov and Petrov, their names all seemed to end in "ov."



Contrary to popular belief, those fabulous players were far from being hockey automatons, as jingoistic Canadian commentators at the time would have us believe.

Forward Viktor Zhluktov was among that first group of Soviet stars who wowed Canadian hockey enthusiasts with their skill and finesse. Playing on a line with Sergei Kapustin and Helmut Balderis, Zhluktov won Olympic gold in 1976, the Canada Cup in 1981 and World Championships in 1978, '79, '81, '82 and '83.

Today, at age 45, hockey injuries have caught up with the swift skater. He suffers from a degenerative spinal condition that threatens to cripple him and confine him to a wheelchair.

Russian hospitals have been unable to treat him and in desperation, Zhluktov and his supporters have looked abroad. The Ichilov Hospital in Israel, among dozens contacted around the world, has agreed to operate on the Russian.

Unlike his countrymen who currently play for millions in the NHL, Zhluktov never made much more than 500 rubles a month, (the equivalent of $3,000 in today's funds) and he's been unable to work since his condition worsened, said Gennadi Kuran, a Russian-born hockey fan who lives in Toronto.

Today Zhluktov pulls down a measly pension of $25 (US) a month, barely enough to scrape by, and certainly not enough to afford the $35,000 (US) fee to cover costs of the surgery, hospital stay and rehabilitation. That amount doesn't even include transportation costs and other expenses in Israel, Kuran said.

Kuran and Vladimir Petrov (not the hockey player), vice-president of the Russian Hockey Place in Canada, have planned a fundraising event to help defray the costs of the operation, as well as transportation and other costs involved.

With the cooperation of the Toronto Maple Leafs and its five Russian players, they are planning an autograph signing at the Centerpoint Mall on Sunday, Feb. 28, between 2 and 5 p.m.

Alexander Karpovtsev, Igor Korolev, Sergei Berezin, Dimitri Yushkevich and Daniil Markov will be on hand to sign autographs in the mall's centre court while the Maple Leafs have provided some hockey souvenirs for a silent auction, Kuran said.

All proceeds from the event will go towards funding Zhluktov's surgery in Israel, he said.

So far, some former Soviet national team stars have kicked off the fundraising campaign with donations of their own, Kuran said.

Kuran, a childhood friend of former star defenceman Viacheslav Fetisov, said other fundraisers will be held until the financial goal is met. A promoter of Russian performers in Canada, Kuran said he got involved after Zhluktov's friends contacted the Russian Hockey Place in Canada and asked for their help.

Kuran readily agreed. "He needs urgent surgery. This operation can save his life," he said.

The Russian Hockey Place is an association of Russian expats which publishes a bi-monthly tabloid-sized newspaper called *The World of Sports & Travel*. The paper lists former stars Igor Larionov, Fetisov, Alexander Yakushev, ex-Leaf Nikolai Borshevsky, Igor Kuperman, director of information for the Phoenix Coyotes, as well as others on the newspapers' editorial board

Viktor Zhluktov in his national team days.

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BJC hoopsters a diverse lot

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The Bathurst Jewish Centre (BJC) juvenile basketball team is a prime example of racial diversity that works.

"They get along fine, there is no tension among them," said Anthony Chapman, 30, a black coach of the team which has seven Jews, five blacks and four others. The players are from Israel, Russia, Ethiopia and Canada.

On the basis of its record, the BJC team is in the first division (16 teams) of the 72-team Central Basketball Association (CBA), whose teams cover a wide swath of southern Ontario. It will also take part in the Ontario Basketball Association playdowns this year in May.

It would be doing even better if the team hadn't lost its leading player to poor grades, four games earlier, said Chapman.

"Our team is the most racially diverse in the CBA," said Jay Safer, assistant coach, and like Chapman, a volunteer.

All team members are 16 or 17 years old, and represent 10 different high schools. They are all BJC members.

"They are of the same age and have the same life problems," said Chapman. "They get along so well that they are starting to talk like each other."

Two of their tallest players are Nerlya Tsur and Rans Brempong, who both tip in at about 6 foot 8. The shortest (and shortest in the entire OBA) is Danny Hollander, (5 ft. 4) a pocket rocket, who shoots a lot of three-pointers, and is a bruising hockey player besides.

One of the reasons for team harmony is that nine members have been playing together for 13 years, Chapman said. At the tryouts last October, 50 players came out.

The team includes Ijetta Mohammed, whose mother is Jewish; Samir Nunian, a black from Ethiopia; three other blacks from the Toronto area (besides Brempong); Alphonso Christie, St. Elizabeth High School in York Region; Ben Mills, Wm. L. Mackenzie Collegiate; and Ryan Marrest, C.W. Jeffreys Secondary School.

Two other non-Jews are Colin Pyle of Lawrence Park Collegiate, in his fourth year at BJC, and Zack Bajric of Don Mills Collegiate.

Alex Lapidus, from Russia via Israel, and Michael Goldberg attend Forest Hill Collegiate. David Safer and Ari Sargon both play on the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto basketball team, while Mark Dunn goes to Mackenzie.

The team would be doing better if not for its weakness at point guard, said Chapman, a weakness which intense two-hour practices two or three times a week is intended to eliminate. When Chapman hollers, and he does it quite often, the players listen.

Some of the players have part-time jobs and they have to do a lot of juggling to handle their academic, athletic and work duties.

The BJC team depends on its speed and court skills to overcome rivals from Barrie, Cambridge, Pickering, Orillia, Collingwood and Orangeville, in addition to teams from the Greater Toronto Area.

When the team has to go out of town, they travel in vans driven by Chapman, Safer and occasionally an adult team supporter.

The Inside Back

Random thoughts on Purim

As I was saying...

By RON CSILLAG

The older I get, the more I sound like Art Linkletter. Kids really do say (and ask) the darndest things. Cases in point: Do reporters have to know a lot of facts? (It helps, but in today's world of trash journalism, who knows?); does my boss pay for my airplane tickets when I go out of town? (Rarely am I presented with such an opportunity to indulge my invective for the tightwad, but the answer is, I don't need a plane ticket to go to Thornhill); and does a reporter need to know where all the letters are on a keyboard? (yes, because jk$&nasg*$@qv).

These were just some of the gems thrown my way by kids in Dorothy Hartman's Grade-3 class at Associated Hebrew Schools' Kamin campus last week, where I was, in effect, my daughter's show-and-tell project for a study of newspapers. Stripped of adult pretense and prejudices, kids ask questions that are pure and wise. What happens when a reporter fails to meet a deadline? What if you get your facts wrong? What about that other Jewish paper, the "Try-bune"? (Oy, to speak freely!) And the biggie: Do newspapers print the truth?

Being on the receiving end of questions is one thing, but facing questions that strike at the very heart of this suffering craft is another. So I suggest to working journalists to ditch your therapy, your *Columbia Journalism Review* and your periodic retreats to "re-evaluate." Just stand before a bunch of 8-year-olds and tell them that newspapers print the truth. Most of the time. They try to. Really.

* * *

Could Rev. Jerry Falwell have picked a better time to announce that the Antichrist is a Jewish man living on Earth at this moment, punctuated by his ravings that purple Teletubby Tinky Winky is a homosexual role model for the pre-school set? If I didn't know better, I'd swear it was Purim...

Alas though, the thunder of my wiseacreage has been stolen. Just as I was sharpening my wit for a piercing bit of satire using the gold mine of material described above, along comes writer Jeff MacGregor, from a journalistic bitplayer called *The New York Times*, with a column suitable for framing (as is this one, consistently, I might add; although I actually saw it once at the bottom of a bird cage. I swear.)

Intrepid journalist MacGregor got his hands on a "confidential report" prepared for Falwell, in which "private investigators" confirm what the firebrand U.S. evangelist has long suspected: the problem goes way beyond Tinky Winky. Yes, the report grimly nods, he is purple (the gay pride color) and his antennae form a triangle (the gay pride symbol). And – horrors – he carries a purse! Therefore, he is obviously a subtle but poisonous apologist for the gay lifestyle. (These were Falwell's actual accusations – no Purim shpiel here). But there's more: The private eyes unearthed "evidence" that the other three Teletubbies are subliminal spokes-thingies for international Communism, the depraved entertainment industry and, to boot, rampant alcoholism.

Which in turn leads us to such perverts as Bert and Ernie, Rocky and Bullwinkle, and Yogi Bear and little Boo Boo, who, come to think of it, spent a lot of time in the woods together and did not wear pants. Taking all this into account, further probing yielded the following conclusion about Falwell's Jewish Antichrist remark: It seems there's a certain cartoon character "who thrives on the kind of anarchy and confusion usually ascribed to the Antichrist. His name even employs the Yiddish word for a long, convoluted story or series of events.

"It is our conviction therefore," MacGregor quotes from the "report" to Falwell, "that you can announce with impunity at your next national press conference that one 'Magilla Gorilla' is the Antichrist." Megillah. Get it?

Happy Purim.

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QUEEN ESTHER'S CHICKEN

1 chicken
1 tblsp oil
1 large onion, peeled & thinly sliced
2 cloves garlic, peeled & crushed
1 cup pitted & finely chopped prunes
1 apple, cored & chopped
1 cup finely chopped dried apricots
1/2 cup raisins
1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1 tsp sugar
1/2 cup orange juice
1/4 tsp ground saffron, dissoved in 2 tblsps hot water (or use turmeric)

Rinse chicken with cold water, pat dry. Heat oil in non-stick skillet and brown onion and garlic. Add prunes, apple, apricots, raisins, pepper, cinnamon, saffron water (or turmeric) and sugar. Mix well. Preheat oven to 350°F. Stuff chicken with fruit mixture and truss cavities shut. Place stuffed bird in greased oven proof dish or roasting pan and pour in orange juice. Cover and bake for 1 1/2 hours, basting with pan juices, until meat separates easily from bone. Spoon juices over chicken. Serve with rice. Yield: 4 servings.

About Seniors

Ask Jesse

Dear Jesse,

My mother is 91 years old and had been aging gracefully until about six months ago when she started to become forgetful. She had a slight stroke last week and is in the hospital. I do not believe that she will be able to return to her apartment again, as she is very weak. The hospital is arranging for an important test, after which the social worker wants to meet with us to discuss her discharge. She can't return home in this state. What should I do? Where can I place her?

Mr. F.

Dear Mr. F.,

Yours is a common concern. Consideration of placement of a senior while he or she is in need of acute hospital care is usually quite premature.

Many of the strengths that carried your mother forward for the last 91 years may help her to recover quite a bit of her strength as she recovers from this latest setback. Work with the hospital to help your mother regain a stable health picture and the hospital will surely be in a position to assess her needs and to help you to identify the type of living arrangement she requires.

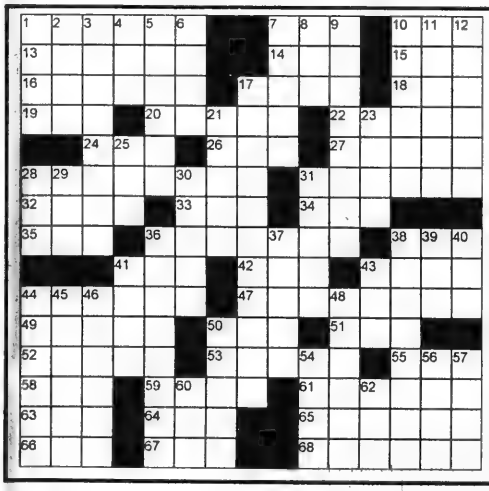
Your mother should also be part of her discharge planning process. There are a full range of assisted living programs in most communities. Some of these programs will offer supports to help maintain her in her own home, while others provide supports within residential settings.

Readers are invited to send any questions they have for Jesse to The CJN. *Jesse is the executive director of Jewish Support Services for the Elderly (JSSE) in Montreal.*

What are you laughing at?

Bill Clinton was dismayed by the errors being made by the FBI. He called in the agency's director and asked, "How come Israel and the Jews know things we don't?" Freeh called in undercover agent Moe Katz and he told Clinton, "We have a code. We ask, "Vos titzach?' – what's happening – and we share the information."

Clinton orders a disguise. He puts on a caftan, shtreimel, a beard with payot and scuffed black shoes. They fly him in a stealth fighter to New Jersey and put him in an old, dented station wagon with an elderly Chassid driver. He's dropped off in Boro Park and he asks the first person he sees, "Vos titzach?" "Shh," the man says, "Clinton is in Brooklyn."



The Canadian Jewish News

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Supreme Beings

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

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(This week's answers are on page 36.)

Anti-Semitism prompting unease in Russia

By LEV KRICHEVSKY
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

MOSCOW — The recent upsurge of anti-Semitism in Russia has sown the seeds of fear and uncertainty among much of the country's Jewish community.

Although different segments of the community may vary in their assessment of the situation, most Jews here agree on one point: They are living through one of the most crucial periods since the fall of communism seven years ago.

An unstable political situation – fed by persistent reports of President Boris Yeltsin's failing health – coupled with a steadily worsening economic climate has led Russian nationalist leaders to blame Jews for society's ills.

Anti-Semitism is being employed by both the political left – represented by the Communist party and its allies – and by far-right groups such as the neo-Nazi Russian National Unity movement.

It is not coincidental that this climate has prompted an increase in the rate of aliyah among Russian Jewry, which now numbers by various estimates between 450,000 and 600,000.

During the past three months, there has been an 80 percent increase in the number of people emigrating over the same period a year ago, according to Alla Levy, head of the Jewish Agency for Israel's Russian office.

This increase took place across Russia, according to Jewish officials all over the country. And they attribute it to the combination of two factors: the economy and growing anti-Semitism.

Among these officials is Vladimir Boroditzky, a community leader in Bryansk, a city in central Russia. Like other Jewish leaders, he could not say with certainty which factor predominates in people's decision to emigrate.

Just the same, he adds, "There is a sense of fear, and it has become stronger."

Older Jews – those who remember the anti-Semitic campaigns of the 1940s and 1950s – have an especially uneasy feeling about the current wave of anti-Semitism.

"These people survived Stalinist anti-Semitism," says Pinchas Goldschmidt, Moscow's chief rabbi. While noting that there are few similarities between today and what they experienced 50 years ago, he adds, "They are worried."

Younger Jews, especially those who take part in the life of the community, say they feel heightened societal tensions. But they are generally less inclined than their elders to over-dramatize the situation.

Zhenya Mikhaleva, director of the Moscow Hillel, says her group's activists have all noticed an increase in anti-Semitic comments both in school and on the streets.

"They are less scared than their parents, but they are certainly not happy with it," she adds. Says Tatyana Kaletskaya, a screenwriter, "I don't see any specific evidence that anti-Semitism in daily life has increased dramatically.

"But the situation frightens me. Neither in society nor in politics do I see any real forces that could withstand this anti-Semitic pressure if the situation worsens."

Whatever the generational reaction may be, it is clear that growing anti-Semitism is affecting the daily life of Russian Jews, both in Moscow and in the provincial communities.

Jewish officials say that anti-Semitism – espoused by lawmakers in Parliament, in the mass media and at mass rallies – has created a darkened climate for the Jewish community, especially outside Moscow.

Though there have been few reports in recent months of violent attacks against Jews, they are more often exposed to verbal abuse, according to Jewish leaders.

"People are being screamed at on the streets, harassed much more than before," says Goldschmidt. "I can feel it myself, especially when I walk on Shabbat."

Many ordinary Jews, particularly those who remember Soviet-era anti-Semitism, say the community and its leaders should keep a low profile to avoid escalating tensions.

And some Jews here maintain that journalists are to blame, saying the situation would be less fraught with tension if they devoted less coverage to the anti-Semitism of the Communists and ultra-nationalists.

A Jewish member of Parliament also blamed journalists for being sensational in their coverage of anti-Semitism.

"Much of the situation has been created by the mass media themselves," says Viktor Sheinis, a 66-year-old Jewish member of the state Duma, the lower house of Parliament.

"Whenever I see a crowd of journalists in the Duma corridors, I can be quite sure they clustered" around Communist lawmaker Albert Makashov, who stirred controversy last fall with a series of anti-Semitic diatribes.

Many believe that the anti-Semitism of some prominent politicians has gotten ordinary Russians to feel free to unleash their own deep-seated anti-Semitism.

"Some people think: 'If a lawmaker can say this and go unpunished, why can't we say the same?' " says Viktor Shapiro, leader of the Jewish community in Russia's Baltic port of Kaliningrad.

Some observers are concerned that an already difficult situation will deteriorate further if there are no improvements in the Russian economy in the near future.

"People on the street don't care much about what anti-Semitic politicians say," says Alexander Sakov, editor of *Shalom*, a monthly newspaper in the Siberian city of Omsk that covers Jewish life throughout Siberia and the Far East.

"But when people go unpaid for months, they are looking for a convenient scapegoat. People are tired, but if they have jobs and get their salaries on time, they will look at things differently."

Despite the current climate, Jewish organizations throughout the country continue to operate freely, and there have been no reports of any group curtailing its activities.

But some Jewish leaders say communal life has nonetheless undergone a visible change in the last several months.

"Anti-Semitic and neo-Nazi activities have in a way, succeeded in lowering the profile of Jewish life" in Russia, says Michael Steiner, director of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's Moscow office.

Just the same, several high-profile community projects have recently been launched.

Last week, the Russian Jewish Congress launched a $10 million project to construct a community centre in downtown Moscow across from the city's Choral Synagogue.

Another community centre, being built at a cost of $7 million by the Lubavitch movement, is slated to be completed later this year.

Mikhail Chlenov, president of the Va'ad, a Jewish umbrella group, sees an irony in the present anti-Semitic climate.

"The current crisis may strengthen certain forms of Jewish life," he says.

As Russian Jews confront a difficult set of circumstances, he adds, the community now needs two things: confidence and a clear vision of its future.

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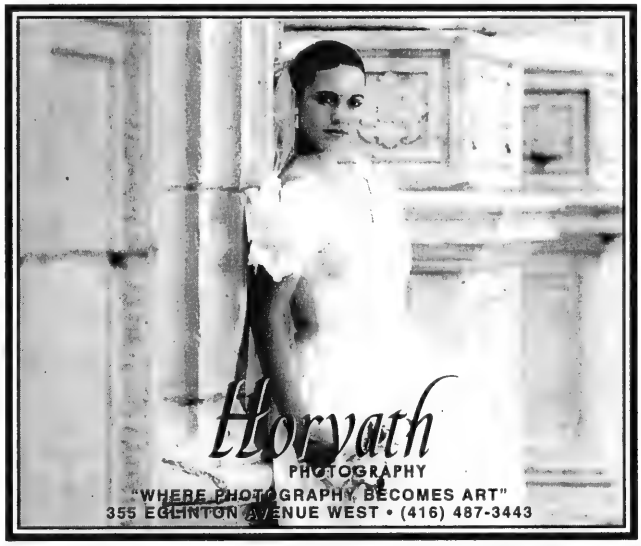

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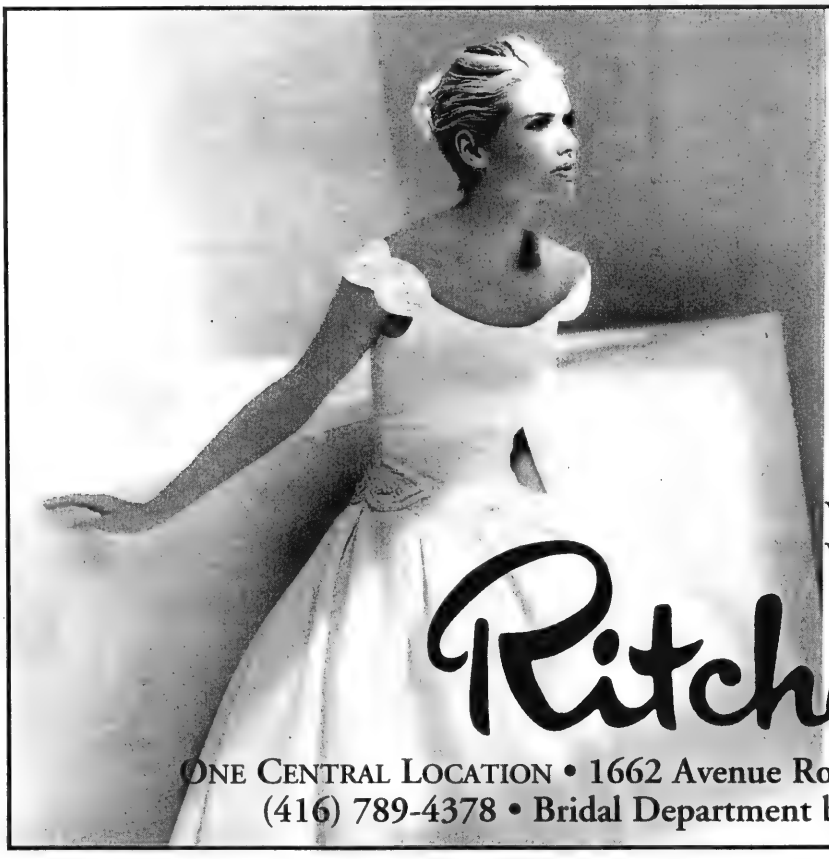

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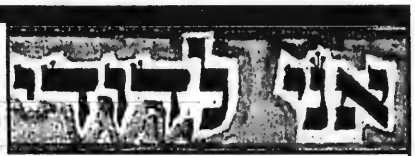

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Adele welcomes the current return to simpler, cleaner lines, with empire-cut, straight, bias, and A-line silhouettes. Overlays of sheers, laces and brocades over silk sheaths are popular among her clients.

One of Adele's specialties is knit and fabric suiting combinations with silks, brocades, silk crêpes and satins, pearl beaded and layered ombre chiffons. Lace combinations, notably with French laces such as Chantilly, are another specialty.

Among Adele's Mother-Of-The-Bride ensembles, you'll see one in striking ombre silk chiffon, layered silver to near-black, with bias-wrapped skirt, draped bustier and coordinating cape.

Then there's a mink chiffon ensemble with embroidered lace top, sheer yoke and sleeves, scalloped neck, sleeves and hem, straight skirt with short train, and jacket with satin portrait collar.

The Adele Wechsler look is comfortable, yet romantic and feminine; its timeless charm recalls an era of refinement and grace. And you can wear Adele's garments many times, as evening and cocktail gowns.

Bat Mitzvah collection

There's also a junior Bat Mitzvah and bridesmaid collection. Accessories include hats and headpieces, jewelry, shoes and bags.

Adele prides herself on her relaxed, pressure-free approach in dealing with customers. She loves what she does, and it shows.

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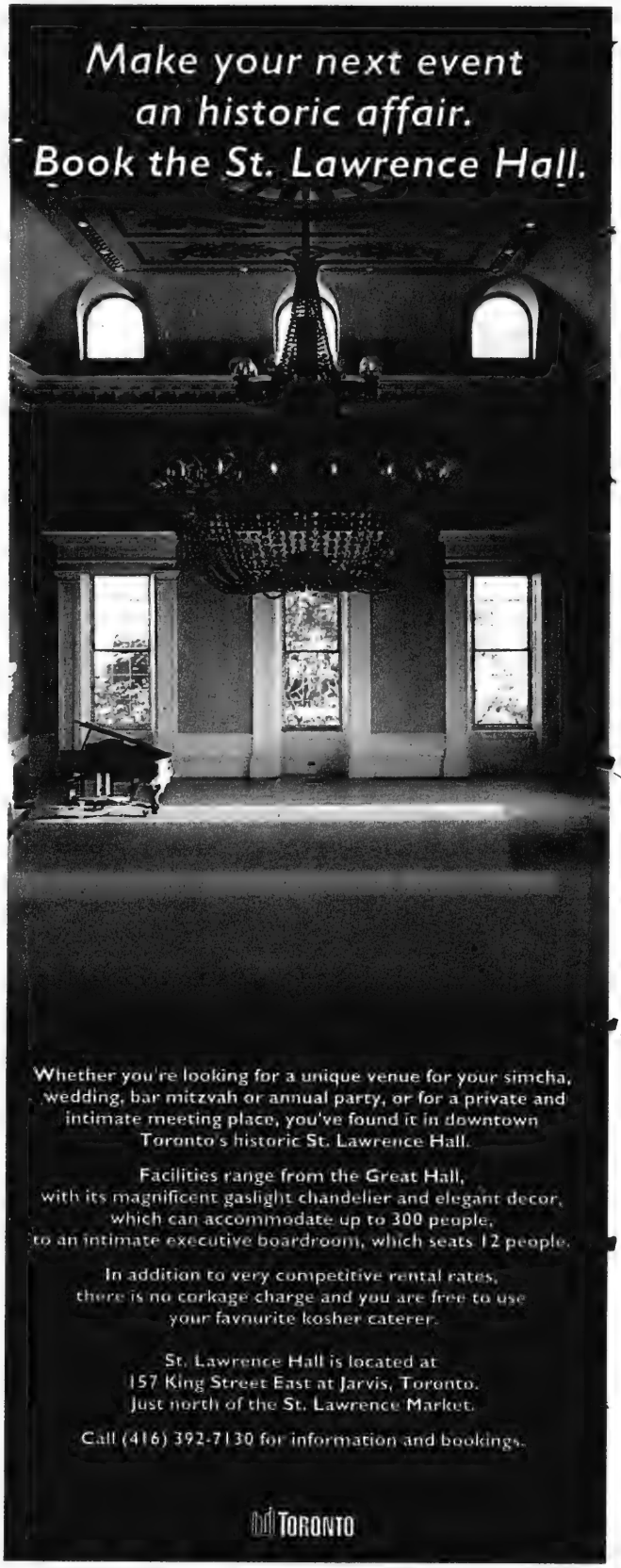
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Celebrate with the Stars

"People often have the misconception that planning a wedding, bar or bat mitzvah has to be a stressful and tedious experience," states Marla Kay, organizer of "A Celebration of Stars," a trade show which assembles a large variety of party professionals serving the Jewish community.

"As a bridal and party consultant over the past 17 years, I know how wonderful it is to plan a simcha. There are so many details to be looked after. For the past 6 years at each of my shows, I have brought together over 60 professional "stars" of the party industry to display their wonderful products and services."

This year, the Celebration of Stars Wedding, Bar and Bat Mitzvah Show will take place on Tuesday, March 23, 1999 at the Premier Ballroom, 9019 Leslie St. (Leslie & Hwy. 7). It starts at 6 p.m. and runs until 10:30 p.m. This year we are happy to welcome Amandalina's Bridal Boutique who will be presenting their '99 collection on a fabulous runway fashion show, featuring bridal and eveningwear creations which will begin promptly at 8 p.m.

"There are a lot of bridal trade shows offered to the public," says Kay. "The Celebration of Stars Show" is geared solely to the Jewish community. All of the exhibitors rely on Jewish simchas for the core of their business."

When you attend the Celebration of Stars Show, all of your entire party needs will be represented and you will be able to meet our party's finest on an informal basis. You have the luxury of making an instant decision based on what you have seen, heard or tasted, or mull it over and decide at a later date. Many of the exhibitors will be offering show discounts and numerous give-aways. Each of the various stages of party planning will be available and by having more than one company displaying their unique talents in a particular category, you have the choice of which individual will suit your needs. You may choose from a variety of party professionals who will strive to maintain the highest standards of excellence in their particular area of expertise. You will be offered bridal and party consultants, catering (Kosher), invitations, florists, make-up artists, personalized party favours, photography, videography, cakes, creative room decor and centrepieces, orchestras, DJ's, and jewellery & giftware. Some of the "stars" are very well known in the simcha industry and there will also be some new faces as well.

"Every Celebration of Stars Bridal, Bar and Bat Mitzvah Show that I have organized has proven to be so successful for both guests and exhibitors that as soon as I finish one, I begin plans for the next one," says Kay. "Organizing a party is what I do best and I think that it is certainly reflected in my shows."

Come and see for yourself that the Celebration of Stars has got it all and is one show that you don't want to miss. Admission and parking is free. For further information ... contact Marla Kay at **905-882-2042**.

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Bronson's Thornhill store, at 2 Steeles Ave. W., is open Mon.- Sat. 9:30-5:30, Thurs. till 9, and Sun. 12 noon-5; phone (905) 881-9930. The Lawrence Plaza location is open Mon.-Thurs. 10-9; Fri. & Sat. 10- 6, and Sun. 12 noon-5; phone (416) 256-9930. For cross-Canada orders call toll-free: 1-800-387-2766.

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While she makes fine suits, informal wear and accessories, and likes outfitting bridesmaids and the mother of the bride, her special pride and joy is in dressing the bride herself.

Eleni strives both to please you and meet her own high standards. It is doing her best which gives her the greatest satisfaction and enjoyment; and when you are happy with both your outfit and the budget, she is happy too.

She does most of her work herself: every step from meeting you, taking measurements and looking at samples, through designing the pattern, to the final fittings that shape your dress or gown exactly to you. And she listens carefully to you, to learn exactly what you want, and create a gown you will always cherish.

While Eleni works with silk, satin, wool, chiffons and the best laces and brocades, she loves silk best. She uses little polyester, and only the highest quality. Her gowns are known for being both formal and feminine. She works with all different forms and figures; and everyone who comes to her leaves with something uniquely beautiful.

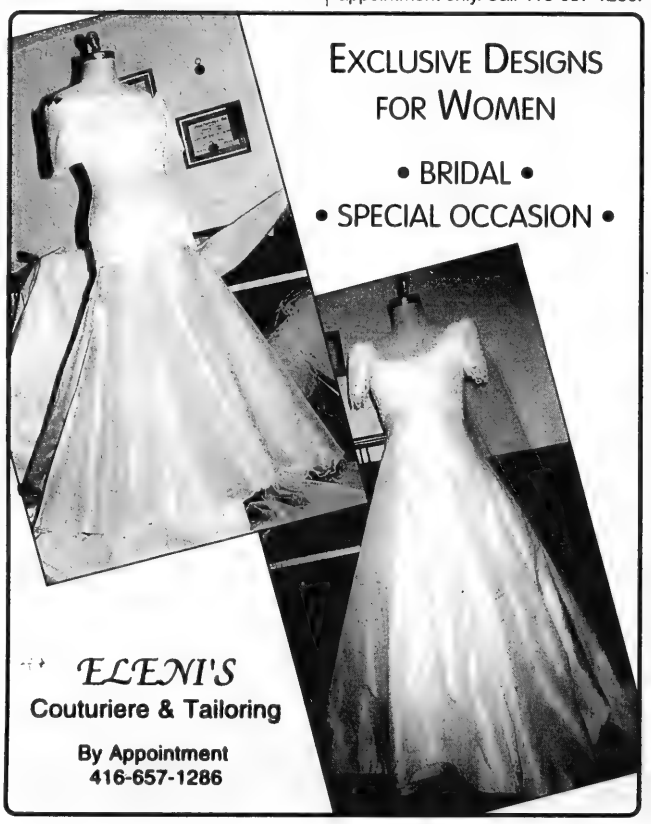
In bridal gowns as in other garments, Eleni observes, there is no longer one single trend: "what suits you, is in fashion." For example, full-bodied women are no longer letting slender women set a standard for them; and taller women also want better fashions.

Not only is there more regard today for the uniqueness of the individual. Comfort is another priority; and people are returning to a simpler, less elaborate classical look. And once you have the look that suits you, details like lapel width in a suit matter less than the overall impression you make.

Also, Eleni rejoices to see clients paying more attention to quality of fabric and work. Both for gowns and suits, they want work and style which last 5-10 years; and this desire for staying power goes hand in hand with the trend to simplicity, which tends to look good longer.

Eleni has 30 years experience, 10 of which she has gained in her own business. Also, with her knowledge of the history of fashion and garments, she draws on an unusual wealth of ideas.

To give you the personal attention you deserve, she works by appointment only. Call 416-657-1286.



Stavros tux is work of art

For decades, master tailor Stavros Theodoropoulos has been creating classic garments. Stavros compares his craft to the art of a conductor: instead of music, he and his orchestra of tailors create fine apparel.

Like a live performance that has more soul than the finest recording, maestro Stavros' work surpasses the best mass production. Your body is unique, as is every man's, so the best garment for you will be crafted uniquely, to fit you and you only.

If you're thinking ahead to a wedding, Stavros will outfit your party to match the elegance of the occasion. He has going-away suits, casual clothing for stags, cruisewear, shirts for evening wear — and, of course, tuxedos.

Even tuxedos, with their apparent timelessness, undergo gradual changes in style. Currently, British and Italian styles are blended in a classic look that favors simplicity and avoids exaggeration; it's sculpted to your body line, with tailored shoulders.

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A Stavros tuxedo suits you for the occasion, while at the same time imparting distinction. Every tux can be subtly different in details like silks or satins for the lapels; varying shades and textures of black show differently under different lighting.

Stavros tuxedos are made from blends of wool and mohair. Mohair is granular, with more lustre than wool; it's light in weight, but firm, and holds its shape well.

There are gifts for the wedding party too. Among them are accessories such as exquisite suspenders, cufflinks and stud sets; and Italian-made bow tie and cummerbund sets from plain black to bright colors, exclusive to Stavros.

Of all your possessions, garments are the most personal — and the most public, showing everyone the image you project. When Stavros or his manager Robert Kennedy stroll along Cumberland Street wearing what they make, their best advertising is the image they project.

The maestro conducts a small orchestra of fine tailors

Never content to rest on their laurels, Stavros and Kennedy are constantly seeking new ideas and refinements. Stavros recently returned from the Pitti fashion show in Italy, Kennedy from a conference of the Custom Tailors and Designers Association of America.

And Stavros' service is every bit as good as the workmanship and materials that go into his garments. Call 924-8144 and inquire; or drop in to 95 Cumberland St.

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The custom of placing the wedding ring on the 4th finger seems to owe its origin to the notion that a special nerve or vein runs directly from the finger to the heart.

In your search for up-to-date jewely fashion a visit to Laurentian Jewellers is a must. There you will find an attentive staff (mostly family members), whose 50 years of tradition in the jewelry business continues to serve 3rd and 4th generations of clients.

In Montreal, where the factory is located, Laurentian has built an impeccable reputation as a family-operated business. Now open in Toronto for a year, the showroom has attracted many former Montrealers who no longer need to wait for a trip to Montreal to visit their trusted family jeweller.

Michel Korman, who continues the family tradition in Toronto, emphasizes that when buying jewelry, quality as well as price must be considered. "Laurentian doesn't hold sales," he says. "We offer our work at reasonable, fair prices. There are no gimmicks; you can depend on constant, steady prices throughout the year."

Often, customers come in wishing to remodel their jewelry, but not quite knowing what they want. For decades, Laurentian has been updating jewelry by sitting with the client one-on-one and establishing together what the customer's desires are.

Michel Korman, G.I.A. gemmologist, will sit with you and help you choose the perfect diamond to suit your budget, all while creating the engagement ring of your dreams. Not to leave the groom out, Laurentian carries a vast selection of name brand Swiss watches, Breitling and Raymond Weil among many others.

You'll find Laurentian Jewellers at 1858 Avenue Rd., Suite 200, 3 blocks south of Hwy. 401, entrance on Old Orchard Grove. Drop in, or call at 782-3588.

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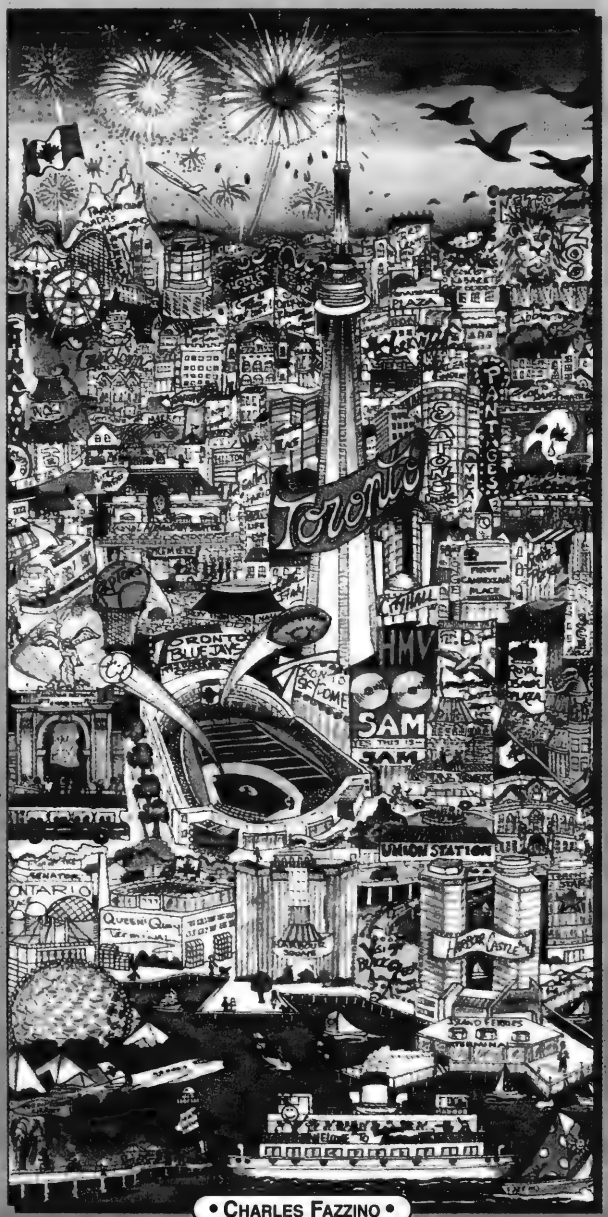

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This Week

National

Provincial Tory poll angers Thornhill residents. *Page 3*

Lewis Moses, founder of Torah Emeth Synagogue, dies at age 79. *Page 18*

Local kids spar in friendly Bible contest. *Page 20*

Zimriya festival draws over 400 children. *Page 22*

Arts

Marty and Avrum continue to shine despite radio show's cancellation. *Page 39*

Business

Advisers help small business achieve success. *Profile.* *Page 44*

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Shabbat Parah: Ki Tasa
Candlelighting: 5:53
Adar 17, 5759
Havdalah: 6:58

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MOURNING A COMMANDING OFFICER

Israeli paratroopers grieve during the funeral of their commanding officer Major Eitan Balhasan last week. Balhasan, the 30-year-old commander of the elite paratroopers reconnaisance unit, was killed along with two other officers, Lt. Liraz Tito and Lt. David Granit, both 22, during a clash with Hezbollah in south Lebanon. Five other IDF officers were wounded. *[RNS/Reuters photo]*

Painful blow for IDF

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — One of the most painful blows to the IDF since its occupation of the security zone began more than a decade ago – the assassination of a brigadier-general and three others with him in his car in south Lebanon last Sunday – was followed by Israeli air raids on suspected guerrilla hideouts in southern and eastern Lebanon and Katyusha attacks on settlements in the north.

Brig.-Gen. Erez Gerstein, who headed the Lebanese Liaison Unit, was the most senior Israeli officer killed in Lebanon since the 1982 Israeli invasion, when then-deputy chief of staff Yekutiel Adam was killed by Palestinian guerrillas.

Gerstein's vehicle, the lead car in a convoy of officers on a routine visit to villages in the security zone, was struck by a powerful land mine that blew the armor-plated Mercedes off the road as it headed toward Marjayoun.

The attack came just five days after another south Lebanon ambush killed three Israeli paratroop officers.

Brigadier General killed

At a press conference Sunday night, Chief of Staff Shaul Mofaz said the air force had struck a target a few kilometres south of Beirut. According to Lebanese sources, the base belongs to the Syrian-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command.

At the same press conference, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hinted that Israel's action might also include land and sea forces. He blamed the Hezbollah for "systematically violating" the Grapes of Wrath agreement that calls on both sides to avoid hitting civilian targets or using civilian bases for operations against each other.

"If we don't act, the situation will be much worse," Netanyahu said, and warned that if Hezbollah continues to attack northern settlements, Israeli offensive action will continue.

Along the northern Israeli border, residents headed into bomb shelters as the air force began its strikes, and indeed, around 8 p.m. Sunday night, Katyusha bombs flew into northern Israel near some of the border settlements.

Continued on page 32

Israel thanks Montreal police

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Israeli Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon thanked Montreal police last week for keeping Kurdish protesters at bay during a Feb. 19 protest that turned violent.

"Israel...thanks the Montreal police, who prevented an assault on our consulate there," Sharon stated in a Feb. 20 press release issued by the foreign ministry.

Ariel Sharon

The Israeli consulate in Montreal was the only Israeli mission in North America and only the second one in the world to be targeted by Kurds protesting Turkey's capture of Kurdish separatist leader Abdullah Ocalan in Kenya.

Shortly after his apprehension on Feb. 19, three Kurdish protesters were killed when they attempted to invade the Israeli embassy in Berlin.

The Kurds are accusing Israel, the United States and Greece of helping Turkey track down Ocalan, but Israel has strongly denied the charge.

In Montreal, Israeli vice-consul Barnea Hassid said that access to the building where the consulate is housed – on the

Continued on page 28

INSIDE

The Scene in Ottawa returns. *Please see page 28.*

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Netanyahu meets with King Abdullah — please see page 31

'Increasingly difficult to hear Haredi voice'

By REVA KAISER
Special to The CJN

Upon my return from Israel recently, I was first surprised and then dismayed to see the colorful photograph adorning the front page of *The Canadian Jewish News* (Feb 18).

Opinion

The photo captured the actions of the Feb. 14 counter-demonstration in Jerusalem. I was surprised because I had expected a fairly monochromatic picture of the original demonstration (the one the counter-demonstration was reacting to), and I was dismayed by the wording of the photo's caption.

The press in both Israel and the Diaspora largely chose to focus on the counter-demonstration in Jerusalem, siding with the supporters of Israel's Supreme Court and against the Haredim demonstrating against some of the Court's rulings. Even the wording of the caption added insult to injury, in writing that the Haredim were demonstrating *against what they perceive to be the Supreme Court's increasing incursions into religious life*. (My italics.) The clear connotation is that their complaints and arguments are not valid in the eye of this publication.

Unfortunately, the rift between the Haredim and secular Jews in Israel is widening every day, decreasing the chances for tolerant understanding and for a peaceful coexistence of the two camps. And since the Haredim are the minority – and even the subject of much Jewish anti-Semitism – it is becoming increasingly difficult for their collective voice to be heard and given credence to.

Fifty years ago, Israel was established as a Jewish state, a homeland for all Jews from everywhere. But more than just a Jewish lodging place, the Haredim have chosen to establish Israel as a state run by traditional Jewish values, morals and laws. They believe that in Israel there should be no distinction between church and state, since the single characteristic making Israel a state for Jews is also the "church" part of the equation: Judaism. Under this doctrine and goal, the Haredim's complaints and arguments are very valid and appropriate.

But politics aside, many seem to have overlooked the awesomeness and magnitude of such an event, one that I merited to witness and be part of. Rabbis have theorized that never before in modern history have so many Jews gathered together in prayer, not since the days of the Beit Hamikdash. An estimated 250,000 Jews (some sources reported as many as 400,000) converged on the streets of Jerusalem to raise their voices, hearts and souls together in prayer.

Though the epicentre was in front of the Central Bus Station, a sea of mostly black overflowed into surrounding plazas, streets and empty lots. Participants hoping for a better view climbed trees and platforms, balconies and roofs. Though I was a long block away from the bus station (having arrived 10 minutes after the appointed starting time), all I could see down three of the four streets that intersected where I stood were throngs of peaceful and united supplicants.

Although President Ezer Weizman expected violence according to Jerusalem press, the Haredim had gathered peacefully in prayer and to show their solidarity and support.

Prayer gathering

This was neither a rally nor a demonstration; it was a prayer gathering, which opened with Minchah, the afternoon prayer service. Psalms were read, and the service for Yom Kippur Hakaton was followed, with a responsive recitation of the Shema and the seven-time proclamation of "The Lord is God." Afterwards, the soul-searching and awakening cries of shofarot sounded over the crowd and echoed throughout the city.

What was even more amazing about the gathering was the achdut (togetherness) of the Haredim. Religious groups and sects that have long histories of disagreements banded together.

Both Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau and Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron were present, and cantors from both traditions led the prayers.

Chassidic leaders, former Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, and rabbis Avraham Shapiro and Mordechai Eliahu, both considered spiritual mentors of the National Religious Party, all took part.

This is an event that will not be forgotten – not by the Supreme Court, which will have to turn and finally listen to the ever-strengthening haredi voice, and not by those who witnessed the powerful ability of a significant segment of the Israeli population to unite in a time of trouble and turn their hearts and souls to God.

Moe Himelfarb was a founder of Variety Village

TORONTO —Moe Himelfarb, a founder of Variety Village, died recently at the age of 72, after a short battle with cancer.

Obituary

His many years of service with Variety Village culminated in 1982 when he received its highest honor, the Heart award.

Himelfarb was born in Poland and as infant moved to Toronto with his parents.

When Himelfarb was 8 years old his father died. He then took on odd jobs, which included delivering newspapers to help support his mother Devorah and two younger brothers.

After finishing high school, he worked briefly in the garment industry before joining Central Warehousing Ltd. where he eventually became a partner.

In 1952 Himelfarb married Lorraine Greenberg and started dabbling in music, learning the piano by correspondence and writing a few jingles for commercials.

"There wasn't anything about show business that my father didn't know," said his son, David. "He was a closet entertainer."

Along with his wife and son, he is survived by daughter Cindy, five grandchildren and brothers Raye Horenblas and David Himelfarb.

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Ontario Conservative poll angers Thornhill residents

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Ontario's Tories have apologized and fired their pollster for asking questions about whether voters would be comfortable with a Jewish candidate for office.

The firm, Canadian Voter Contact, recently polled residents in the provincial riding of Thornhill, which is estimated to be nearly one-third Jewish. The riding won't exist until the next provincial election.

Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) received several complaints from residents about two questions the firm posed in a telephone poll: whether someone would be more or less likely to vote for a candidate who is a "member" of CJC; and whether voters would be more or less likely to cast ballots for "the son of Holocaust survivors."

The recently-chosen Liberal candidate in Thornhill, Dan Ronen, is the son of a Holocaust survivor, although the polling firm did not mention him specifically in its survey.

Last week, campaign chair Tom Long announced that the Tories are dropping the firm, and he apologized for its questions.

"He will not be involved in the central campaign," Long told reporters, referring to pollster John Mykytyshn. Long said the firm was being dropped because of this episode.

In a letter to CJC's Ontario's region, Long said the questions were unacceptable, and that the Tories "have no malicious intent."

Long said the party is taking steps to ensure this sort of thing won't happen again, and he apologized to CJC and to any individuals who were offended.

His response came after CJC complained in a Feb. 16 letter to Long that the questions "have caused concern and even fear that voters are being identified and targeted" because they are Jewish.

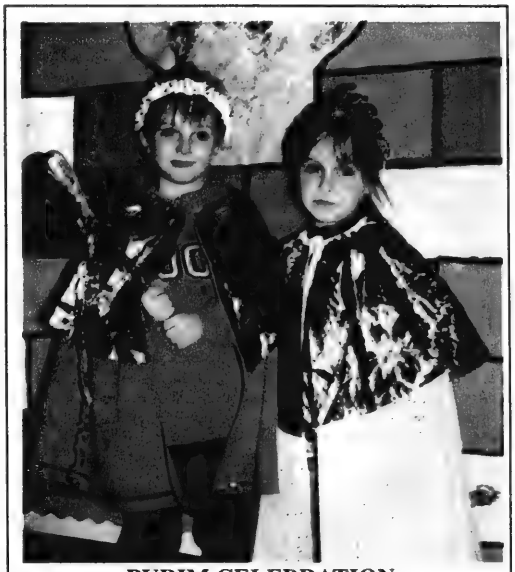
One published report last week said both Long and Premier Mike Harris denied that either the party or its candidate in the riding, Tina Molinari, commissioned the poll. However, another report quoted Long as saying that Molinari commissioned the poll, but that the questions about religion were Mykytyshn's idea.

In an interview with *The CJN*, Molinari emphatically denied that she commissioned the poll.

"Those who were involved have been dismissed," she said.

Molinari refused to say who commissioned the survey. Asked directly whether she knows who did, she paused and said, "they have

Continued on page 26



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From the editor's desk

Remarkable explorations

At the beginning of this decade, a comprehensive census of the American Jewish community confirmed the anecdotal observations of communal workers that the number of Jews in the United States was rapidly diminishing.

The findings so shocked the established leadership that continent-wide resources were mobilized, commissions were established and new communal priorities were set to find solutions to the key challenge facing American Jewry: its very survival.

Subsequently, there were various debates regarding the proper interpretation of the census data. But no one could deny the importance of seeking some form of comprehensive and if possible, co-ordinated, communal response to the implications that arose from the census data.

Thus, the phrase "Jewish continuity" was coined.

Owing to a number of factors, the Jewish demographic and sociological trends south of the border are not entirely applicable to the Jews of Canada. But nor are we exempt from all the trends and the behaviors documented in the American Jewish community. The "survival/continuity" issues occupying our co-religionists in the United States occupy us here as well.

But we, the Jews of Canada, through the far-sightedness of many of our educators and communal workers, and the generosity of many of our philanthropists, have erected and strive to maintain an educational bulwark against the rising tide of assimilationist scenarios.

One of the formidable structures in that educational bulwark is the Centre for Jewish Studies at York University and the related, hands-on, results-oriented Programme in Jewish Teacher Education at the university.

Two years ago, in October 1996, the centre hosted a conference entitled Creating the Jewish Future. It was a successful joint effort of the academic world, the local UJA Federation and a determined, generous lay leader.

The proceedings of that conference have now been published in a single volume of the same name. The co-editors of the work are Michael Brown, director of the centre, and Bernard Lightman, professor of humanities at York University.

The book is an engrossing collection of essays. It brings together some quite remarkable explorations into a number of aspects of the modern "Jewish condition" by an exceptional gathering of individuals from Canada, the United States, England and Israel – philosophers, rabbis, educators, historians, journalists, sociologists, demographers, religious, non-religious, men and women, all of them scholars, excellent writers and engaging thinkers.

In keeping with the pragmatic, policy orientation of the centre, the conference participants turned their minds to prescriptions as well as to descriptions.

"We sought out veteran and younger scholars who have devoted themselves to studying the Jewish experience and who at the same time have played a role in Jewish community affairs. We believed that such people would have a better grasp of the needs and concerns of the community and be better able to judge the workability of particular policies that might emerge from the discussions," wrote co-editor Brown in his introduction.

The work is divided into six themes, that move, as Brown explained, across two broad interrelated categories from "the philosophical questions relating to the meaning of Judaism and the 'technical' questions relating to the organizational frameworks for the transmission of meaning."

Those themes are: faith and religion in a "secular" age; the centrality of Israel in the Jewish world; the future of Jewish cultures in the Diaspora; educating for the future; changing gender expectations and roles in Jewish communal life; and demography and economics: the institutional response.

Each of the themes contains two keynote essays along with a shorter contribution that introduces the subject and summarizes the main points of the feature essays.

These introductory essays alone, along with the introduction by Brown and the afterword by Irving Abella, comprise an outstanding work. But with the other 12 "main" essays, the collection becomes both an exciting and an important document.

Creating the Jewish Future is available at most local Jewish book stores. May it be the first such collection of many more. *MBD*

SEE JN

TWO TRULY RIGHTEOUS MEN

The government of Israel and the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem recently honored Jan Schoumans (left) and Dr. Sandor Tonelli in Toronto by bestowing upon them Israel's highest civilian honor as Righteous Among the Nations.

Greater Toronto Area

Anti-Semitic incidents, hate crimes on the rise

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Anti-Semitic incidents and hate-related crimes increased dramatically last year over the year before, two separate reports stated last week.

There were 240 reported episodes of anti-Semitic harassment and vandalism across Canada in 1998, according to B'nai Brith Canada's (BBC) League for Human Rights, which released its annual audit of anti-Jewish incidents last week.

Last year's numbers represent a 14 percent rise over the 212 reported incidents the year before, an increase League officials called "significant."

After two consecutive years of declining incidents, "anti-Semitic incidents appear to be on the rise again. It's not just perception," Harriet Morris, national co-chair of the League, told a press conference.

Also last week, Toronto Police released their annual figures on hate crimes, and they show similar trends.

There were 228 hate-related offences in Toronto in 1998, a 22 percent increase over the year before, the police numbers show. They also indicate that over a five-year period ending in 1998, Jews were the second most victimized group, after blacks, with 225 hate crimes directed against the Jewish community or Jewish individuals.

The police say that four main groups were identified as targets of hate crimes: blacks, Jews, gay males and South Asians. Combined, they accounted for 126 hate crimes.

Only about 10 percent of anti-Semitic incidents are ever reported, so it's "painfully apparent that our statistics represent only a fraction of all incidents," said the League's national director, Karen Mock.

B'nai Brith's numbers fell into two broad categories: harassment and vandalism. Harassment, which includes the distribution of hate propaganda, threats, slurs and physical assaults, comprised the largest proportion of incidents, with 198 cases reported last year, an increase of 29 percent over 1997.

The spread of anti-Semitic messages and Holocaust denial via the Internet was not documented for statistical reasons, BBC said. Only specifically targeted e-mail or named threats were included in the harassment category, "and such incidents are clearly on the rise and becoming more vicious."

Vandalism declines

Vandalism, however, declined last year. In 1998, there were 42 reported incidents of anti-Semitic vandalism – a 28 percent drop over 1997. These incidents encompassed graffiti, property damage and arson.

The decline in the vandalism category, said Mock, may be attributed to improved policing and to hate groups' shift in their approach away from traditional forms of hate crimes and towards more high-tech methods, like the Internet.

Society, it seems, has become "desensitized" to anti-Semitism, which has again become "socially acceptable," she said.

The geographic breakdown of anti-Semitic incidents last year was as follows:

- There were 123 reported incidents in Toronto, a 26 percent rise over 1997. The city accounted for just over half of all reported incidents.
- The largest single increase anywhere in Canada was in rural and suburban areas of Ontario outside Toronto, which saw 33 reported incidents – a 65 percent increase. These included a major cemetery desecration in St. Catharines.
- There were 35 reported incidents in and around Ottawa, a 40 percent increase over 1997. BBC says tensions on university campuses were of particular concern.
- Montreal stayed stable, with 20 reported incidents, down one from last year. However, specific reports on anti-Semitic incidents were not available from police last year the way they were in previous years, and this suggests a likely increase in incidents, BBC says, especially since the city's hate crimes unit reported an overall increase in hate and bias crimes without breaking down the victim groups.
- There were five reported incidents in Winnipeg, compared to 18 the year before. BBC says aboriginal people are more frequently the targets of racism and hate here.
- Saskatchewan and Alberta reported five incidents, down from seven in 1997.
- There were 17 reported incidents in British Columbia last year, a decrease of 10 percent over the year before.
- The Maritimes reported one incident, down from two the year before.

The Internet – the new tool being used by hate groups – tends to "intimidate" police, said Frank Dimant, BBC's executive vice-president.

In a case involving a personal death threat against him posted last year on the Web, Dimant said police are "reluctant" to catch and charge the perpetrator, who has been tracked to British Columbia and "is walking around freely."

Officials said the League is continuing to work in several areas, notably, in the continuing spread of messianic Christian congregations posing as synagogues, which are, Dimant said, "completing the work of Adolf Hitler;" and the drawn-out challenge under Canada's human rights statutes to pro-Nazi propagandist Ernst Zundel's website, which operates out of San Diego.

Marvin Kurz, the League's national co-chair, said the Zundel case should wrap up this summer, three years after it began.

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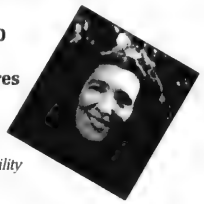

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Susan Berrin lectures on Jewish issues, specifically in the areas of Jewish women, aging and interfaith dialogue. After living in Victoria, BC for 16 years, Ms. Berrin and her family recently relocated to Boston for very Jewish reasons which are the subject of her Friday night address.

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Women's health explored

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Four women were honored by Hadassah-WIZO for their work in the field of women's health. Clockwise from top left are Patricia McEwan, Carolyn Kirk, Annamaria Vuksinic and Sandra Messner.

TORONTO — Women's health was the focus at a recent Hadassah-WIZO event honoring four women.

Cardiologist Patricia McEwan, cognitive behavioral therapist Carolyn Kirk, Annamaria Vuksinic of the Gordon Bell Foundation, and Sandra Messner, medical director of the Health Watch Centre at Women's College Hospital, were recognized at Hadassah-WIZO's fifth annual Women for Women breakfast for their contributions in the field of women's health issues.

The honorees spoke about various aspects of women's health to an audience of 270 at the Richmond Hill Country Club. Funds raised at the event support projects in Israel for women and children in crisis.

Three local shelters were presented with cheques: the North York Women's Shelter, Yellow Brick House, and ASTEH (Alternative Short Term Emergency Housing for abused Jewish women and their children, operated by Jewish Women International and Jewish Family & Child Service).

Coronary artery disease is the major cause of death for women over 50, but many women are more concerned about their husbands' cardiac health than their own, McEwan noted.

She prescribes "aggressive treatment" of risk factors like smoking, high blood pressure and high cholesterol. She also recommends regular exercise (a "modest" amount).

Coronary artery disease in women "appears to be more malignant" than in men, McEwan said. It is also more challenging to diagnose and treat.

Because of women's body size (generally smaller than men's), women's coronary arteries tend to be smaller and therefore more difficult to bypass surgically, she said.

Also, because women patients tend to be older, they may have pre-existing health problems.

From a diagnostic point of view, women often present with symptoms like breathlessness or fatigue that can also be attributed to other causes, McEwan said.

She believes in exhaustive testing. "The pressure is, 'Why do an angiogram if it's going to be normal?' I think it's more important – as long as the risks and benefits are accepted – to go ahead with the definitive investigation."

Kirk, who specializes in anxiety disorders, said her field represents the "number 1 emotional disorder facing North Americans today." Over 85 percent of visits to family physicians are anxiety-based, she claimed.

People may try to ignore anxious thoughts, but "when your heart's beating 104 beats a minute, you're going to stop and listen."

To eradicate anxiety, "you have to be aware of what you're thinking and restructure it."

Although medication to treat symptoms has, "some very strong benefits," Kirk said, it's important to treat the cause of anxiety.

Vuksinic, who was recently appointed executive director of the Gordon Bell Foundation (dedicated to the prevention of addiction) and who is also affiliated with MobilMed Fitness & Health Services Inc., spoke of her own recovery from two health crises, including a bout with melanoma that required surgery and a few months in a wheelchair.

Today at 52, Vuksinic is in excellent health physically, spiritually, mentally and emotionally, she said.

She attributes her recovery in part to a nutrition and exercise plan that she "adhered to religiously." Social and spiritual support were also part of the program. "It required tough discipline," she said.

Messner, of Women's College Hospital, said women have to prepare in their mid-years to have the best quality of life when they're older.

Reducing risk factors for various diseases generally causes women to "feel better, look better and enjoy life more," she said.

The average life expectancy of women in Canada is 82 years – a dramatic increase since the turn of the century when it was 45 years, Messner noted.

It's OK to approach your doctor when you're well to ask health-related questions, she said. She recommended planning in advance so the doctor can book time for counselling.

Messner also addressed the issue of hormone therapy for menopausal women. She discussed risks and benefits, which vary with each patient.

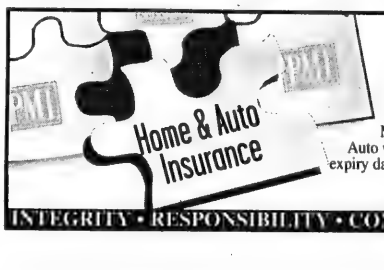
Among the points she made were:

- the easiest choice comes when women have severe symptoms affecting their ability to function;
- no studies show that taking hormones for five years or less increases the risk of breast cancer;
- women shouldn't be misled into thinking they can get everything in a pill.

She advised caution with respect to "natural" supplements and herbs, which are not regulated the way that prescription drugs are.

There is some evidence, she said, that exercise, dietary soy, St. John's Wort, Valerian, Black Cohosh and Gingko have beneficial effects on specific menopausal symptoms.

In Japan, she noted, where soy is more commonly found in the diet, there is no word for "hot flash."



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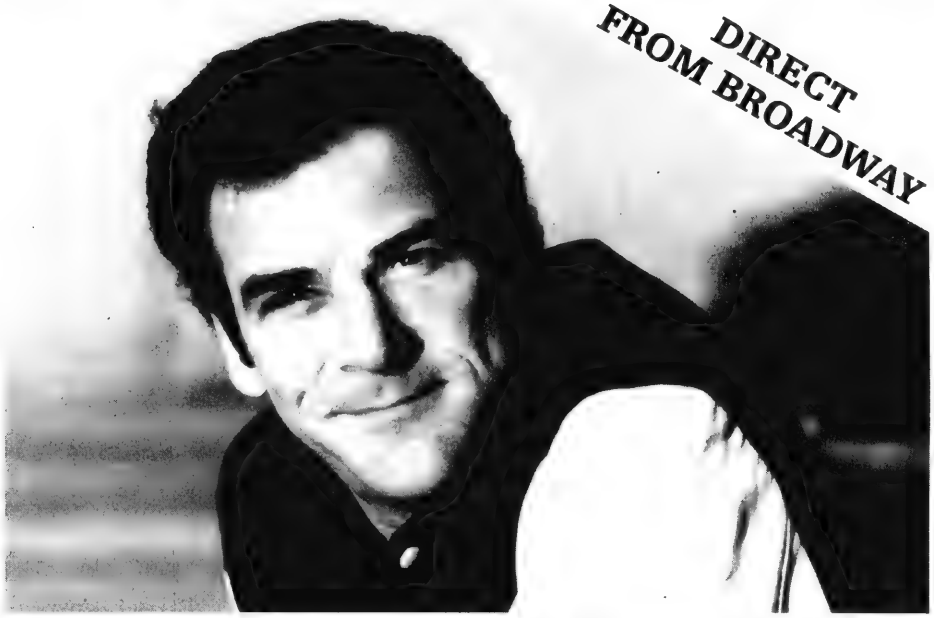

May 17, 8:30 pm

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–Stephen Holden, The New York Times

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An 'admirable state' does not spurn justice

With a controlled, studied flourish of the editorial pen, the *Globe and Mail* last week ("Pursuing Johann Dueck," Feb. 23) dismissed even the belated, pitifully modest effort by the federal Department of Justice to root out World War II Nazis from Canadian soil as an act of "political expediency." In so doing, the editorial board of the newspaper, without much nuance, effectively advocated that the Canadian government close the files on all the suspected Nazis living out their last days in Canada and forget about their involvement in crimes they may have committed "57 years [ago] halfway around the world."

In addition, and no less unpalatable, by characterizing the Justice Department's efforts as "political expediency," the board was lending credence to the shameful idea that the attempted denaturalization and deportation of alleged Nazis living in Canada is intrinsically without merit, that it advances no fundamental Canadian values, and that the entire program is nothing more than a reluctant tip of the hat to the Jewish community by the federal government to curry political favor, presumably, although the editorial writer had not the courage to complete the thought.

Both implicit suggestions, that the denaturalization and deportation efforts be dropped and that they were only a concession to the Jews in the first place, are outrageous and offensive.

The editorialist is bothered by the fact that the government has chosen to pursue a civil-administrative law remedy against alleged Nazis rather than a criminal law sanction against them because the former process "requires much weaker proof of fraudulently entering Canada and...permits no legal appeal."

But why shouldn't the "much weaker proof" be appropriate if no criminal charges have been laid?

The answer is straightforward: The *Globe and Mail* has ordained that criminal charges must always be laid. The only way to rid Canada of suspected Nazis is through the criminal justice system. Denaturalization and deportation of alleged Nazis is always an inappropriate remedy.

The newspaper holds this view even though it knows the chances of convicting an alleged Nazi of having committed or collaborated in the commission of war crimes are virtually nil.

To follow the *Globe and Mail's* logic to its full course, former Nazis must either be free in Canada or in jail in Canada; but at all costs, they must remain here nevertheless.

We believe most Canadians reject this view as an affront to fundamental decency and justice.

As for the assertion that the process "permits no legal appeal," it is simply incorrect. The proceedings are invested with the protections of the canons of natural justice, including the right of judicial review, which apply throughout administrative law matters.

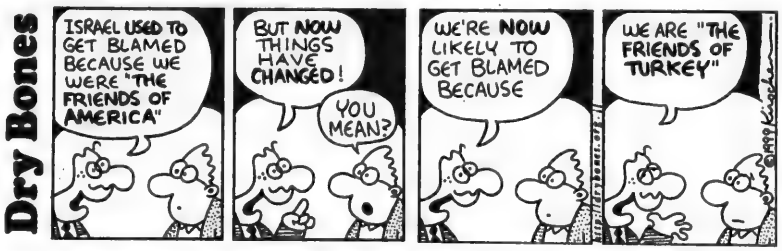
Nowhere in the editorial does the writer elaborate upon the full Canadian context of the denaturalization proceedings that have been launched against suspected Nazis living here, or upon Canada's woeful record in failing to bring them to justice, or on the more laudable record of Canada's sister democracies in successfully prosecuting or evicting suspected Nazis from within their societies, or most importantly, upon the nature of the acts these old men are alleged to have committed 57 years ago.

The editorial ends with the sly, rhetorical question: "Is further lowering the hurdle because the evidence is weak the act of an admirable state?"

But we may also ask: Is spurning justice and simply acquiescing in the calm, peaceful end of days for the Nazis among us, the act of an admirable state?

WISDOM OF THE AGES

"And he said: 'You will not be able to see my face, for no human being can see me my face and live.'" (Parshat Ki Tisa)


Dry Bones
ISRAEL USED TO GET BLAMED BECAUSE WE WERE "THE FRIENDS OF AMERICA"
BUT NOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED!
YOU MEAN?
WE'RE NOW LIKELY TO GET BLAMED BECAUSE
WE ARE "THE FRIENDS OF TURKEY"

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Clarifying 'pluralist' context

I applaud your coverage of the Education conference which took place in Winnipeg. However, in covering a panel discussion on Pluralism, your reporter failed to place comments of mine in context, and in not doing so, altered their meaning entirely.

In my remarks, I noted that we are kidding ourselves if we think that our "Community Day Schools" (the topic of the panel) are truly "pluralistic" in their curriculum and policy, for that would mean that each of the denominations of Judaism would have to be taught and applied equally, each presented positively, as a necessary and coexisting interpretive truth.

I then noted that to my knowledge, such a "community school" (meaning a day school, generally, in a smaller community, meant to appeal to a broad and diverse constituency) does not exist anywhere in North America, and instead, most of these schools are basically traditional in their approach while expressing tolerance and acceptance of students from all ideological streams.

I then went on to state, several times, that, obviously, as an Orthodox Jew, and one who is therefore committed to a system of Halachah which insists upon the immutable nature of Torah, I am not a "pluralist" and cannot subscribe to the notion of equal, coexisting truths in Judaism. This, of course, made me a most popular panelist.

Arna Poupko
Montreal

Young jobless Jews need help from other Jews

I am very disappointed that the Jewish community in Toronto does not seem to assist individuals like myself (a young, educated Jewish adult) with a job search.

I am a Jewish male who graduated with an MBA in international business looking for work. I have tried speaking to many prominent Jewish business people in Toronto. I read stories about rising intermarriage rates and increasing Jewish poverty. Is there a correlation between that and people of my parents' generation turning their back on people of my generation? Maybe they feel we are lazy. Maybe they feel there are more important Jewish causes. Maybe they feel we should do it on our own since they did.

I feel there is one difference. In my parents' generation, the Jewish community was tightly knit and in my generation, this is not the case. I feel that as long as people my age suffer when looking for work or a wife, Jewish poverty and intermarriage will continue to rise.

Why can't all Jewish dating services be free to Jewish people? Why can't all singles groups at temples be free to young Jewish adults? I believe membership should be free for singles under 40.

Jeff Muchnik
Toronto

A moving tribute to Israel, mistaken or not

Re: the legend to the picture of a small building in Honduras (*CJN*, Feb. 11).

"To the Glorious State of Israel" is a translation mistake. The Spanish word "glorieta" (from the French "gloriette") doesn't mean "to the glory of" but "bower" or arbour, i.e. a small building in a garden, sometimes covered with wisteria or another kind of vine.

While far from being as pretty as the famous "gloriette" of the Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna, the modest shack in Tegucigalpa wears the proud name "State of Israel Arbor," a moving tribute.

Claude David Chomski
Montreal

Does anybody know Avigdor Ring?

My family has found out about a lost uncle who disappeared after the Holocaust. It turned out that this uncle survived the Holocaust and sent a few letters to my grandmother (his sister), who died two years ago.

In those letters he wrote that he lives in Canada now. His name is Avigdor Ring. He was born in Kielce, Poland. It is possible that he has a son named Wolf. My e-mail address is danash17@yahoo.com.

Dana Shani
Moshav Salit, 45885 Israel

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Induction at the kotel: "*ani mashbiah*"

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

Israel is a land of many things; not the least of them is surprises. On a recent visit, I ran into people I had not seen in as many years as I care to admit, as well as others I had met the past week in Toronto, but did not expect to see in Jerusalem.

The Kotel too, always a busy place, was full of such surprises. There were the hastily erected tents for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who made a quick whistle stop; the impressive sound system that would do justice to any major rock concert, being set up for a prayer service (led by all the present and past chief rabbis and the who's who of society, which had gathered to pray for much needed rain.)

This, aside from the usual and incessant international flow of pilgrims and tourist groups from around the globe, the brides and grooms taking their ultimate prenuptial photos and the ever colorful bar mitzvah celebrations reflecting the multi-ethnicity of the people.

All the above paled in comparison to what transpired at the Kotel plaza on the evening of Dec. 24. The middle area of the square was being cordoned off as an assortment of stage-like platforms were being set up. Thousands of people began lining its perimeters. Microphones were tested, lighting was turned on, and more people poured into and around the area. I was told that at 7 p.m. (Israeli time of course), the army would conduct an induction ceremony.

It was past 8, cold and late when a bugle blast finally called the assembly to silence. This was followed by a pause of anticipation and the roll of the drums. Then they came. Out of the arch at the side of the plaza, six soldiers abreast in immaculate precision, their steps stomping in unison with each other as well as with the drum beat. They kept on coming and still coming, in numbers that were staggering and overwhelming, in all, over 1,200 uniformed young men. They continued to march on, in rigid regimen, in a military style of subordination and self-confidence.

They came to a stand now, in a silent semicircle, six deep and facing the stage. All around them, their families – fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, grandmothers and girlfriends – who had travelled from all parts of the country to be with their boys for this poignant rite of passage. Boys they were, teenagers 17 and 18 years young, standing at attention, their bodies lean and fit from the rigors of boot camp.

What a sight! As if ragweed pollen had descended, the crowd audibly sniffled, warm tears flowed freely. I too teared, both because these boys were there and because they had to be there. I cried at once with pride that after 2,000 years of persecution, the people of Israel had an army, but I also cried that even after 2,000 years, there still was a need for one.

What followed next was full throttle, high octane nationalism, patriotism and Zionism. To alternating calls of "Attennnntion!" and "At ease," the soldiers saluted as their officers ceremoniously escorted the general to the podium. Again they were at attention, and the flag of Israel was raised. Then a torch was lit in memory of all the Jews fallen throughout the struggles of our people, the general identifying and listing each, from biblical times, to the Holocaust, to the War of Independence and so on. Next, a chaplain of the Israeli Defence Force slowly and clearly read the words of the first chapter of Joshua.

"And it was after the passing of God's servant Moses, that God said to Joshua…rise and cross the Jordan; you together with all the people into the land I give to them. All the ground under you is yours…No one will stand in your way, as I was with Moses so too will I be with you…Be strong and courageous, for you will inherit the land promised to your ancestors…Again, be strong and courageous, keep the Torah, do not deviate from it either to the right or to the left…I have instructed you; be strong and courageous, don't weaken and don't fear, for I will be with you."

As the leader succeeding Moses, now also in charge of the conquest of the "promised land," repeated the words *Chazak Ve'amatz* – strong and courageous – the chaplain pointed out the meaning of this repetition as of two distinct but inherent characteristics of a fighter of Israel: *Chazak* – to be understood as physical strength, *Ve'amatz* – as in strength of spirit and character; two distinct strengths combined.

The chaplain then went on to invoke the spirit of the Maccabees, of the holiday of Chanukah that had just been observed, of the power of right over wrong, of courage over despair, all irrespective of conventional odds.

With the accompaniment of the military band and its choir, two officers per unit began the distribution. There were some 20 units and this is done simultaneously. Two items are presented to the soldiers, marking them not only as soldiers, but as soldiers of Israel. Along with their rifle, each young man receives, as well, a Tanach – the Jewish Bible. As the rifle needs both hands to hold it, the Tanach is dropped into the shirt of the soldier.

This is how it goes: A soldier steps up and stands at attention before his superior; the officer rather abruptly grabs his collar, shirt and undershirt, and places the Tanach into his chest, then he again rather abruptly slaps the squadron's insignia on his shoulder. They both salute and the soldier marches a few paces to the second officer who hands him his rifle; the soldier then returns to his station. This continues until all soldiers have received their arms. There they stand, rifle in hand, Bible on their chest.

The general now addresses them, his voice clear and deep, that of a senior career officer who, in a span of some 30 years of action, has seen it all. His words, beyond eloquence, reverberate on the sheer rock walls of the plaza and touch one's very soul.

"The stones you see before you, the *Kotel Hama'aravi*, have stared across the centuries, they have withstood the battering rams of history. They stand silent testimony of the insufferable pains and bloody pages of our people's past. None other has ever been so plundered and so persecuted, so much and for so long…like these sacred stones that still stand, no other nation has survived 2,000 years of destruction and exile and then, to return, to rebuild itself into the country we now have today…if this Wall could speak to you, it would whisper the word eternity into your ear."

"I now read to you," he continued in the absolute stillness of that star lit sky, "the full text of your pledge: I do solemnly swear to defend the state of my people, upholding its rules and laws, to follow the orders of duty of the armed service and my superiors."

As the general concluded, the 1,200 young men all responded together with a roaringly resolute *Ani Mashbiah – I do swear.*

Then, all gasped and looked over to the top of the Kotel. There, a massive tubular metal insignia of the squadron, wrapped in gasoline drenched rags had been set ablaze. The choir, the band, the soldiers and thousands more voices sung Hatikvah.

These are file photos from May 1998 of a paratrooper induction ceremony at the kotel. Rabbi Ben Ayon has written forcefully about the compelling images of an evening ceremony. These photos convey compelling images of a daytime induction ceremony. [Israel photos]

Barriers came down, and crowds swarmed to embrace their sons. What a ceremony!

I find it strange that the prayer for the safety and welfare of the soldiers was not said. No matter, as my lips intone the words said in my synagogue in Toronto every Shabbat; *Mi sheberach avotaynou…Hu yibarech chayalay Tzva Hagana L'Yisrael.* God bless them.

Rabbi Ben Ayon is the spiritual leader of Magen David Sephardic Congregation in Toronto.

Opinions

Making the downhill plunge

I never thought I would do it. My peers would try to coax me into their schemes, but I'd decline. I'm not that kind of girl, I would reply. But this time I gave into the temptation. I finally went downhill skiing.

Jennifer Fox in Halifax

I spent a weekend skiing and schmoozing at the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Student Union (APJSF) regional convention.

I went to the convention out of obligation. After all, how could I write about Jewish student life in Halifax if I didn't go to the events?

My attendance wasn't entirely a selfless act, however. Since the beginning of February my winter blahs had set in, and I figured the trip could chase them away with new faces, a new activity and hotel housekeeping.

Feb. 4 — Forty students make their way to Cape Breton.The students, hailing from various universities in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, jostle back and forth on the bus. The less-than-luxury vehicle winds its way towards the top of the island, towards the ocean and towards our destination of Keltic Lodge and Cape Smokey.

I've never been on a pair of skis in my life. At least not any connected with snow.My misadventure with water-skiing shouldn't count, since most of the time the boat dragged me across the water as the skis floated behind me.

The reasons for not going on the trip seemed to outweigh reasons for going. I've never skied, I had an exam to study for and after all, I was the girl who managed to break her arm last year while performing the difficult task of walking.

Seven-year-olds fearlessly whiz by me. OK. If they can do this, then so can I. Deep breath in, and I push off, barrelling down the bunny hill. I feel completely exhilarated. Wind in my face, I pick up speed. I am positive stopping is out of the question.

I use the ground as a braking mechanism.

My instructor calls to me, "You forgot to turn!" Oh. I glance back up the hill and watch the kids making wide turns to reduce their speed. Turning. What a novel idea.

After numerous runs down the bunny hill, I make my way to the top of the mountain. The girl beside me on the chair lift gives me instructions about the right way to get off the contraption. "You just jump," she says. Sure, like it's that easy.

When I was younger, I imagined a significant distance between the ground and the chair lift. Classmates would give accounts of ski trips and I would think they were insane for jumping off a moving object in mid air. In actuality, the distance is tiny, and I successfully got off without damaging anything or anyone.

The experts tell me I'm a good skier for a beginner, even though I only made it down the big run once and I almost fell off the side of the mountain.

I thank them for their compliments and for their patience. All those times I needed help out of the snow bank and back in my skis. Thanks guys for not leaving me stranded on the hill.

Of course, the weekend is more than just social. Various guest speakers remind us of the importance of having a connection with the Jewish community. On some points I agree, on others not so much. But I laugh at their jokes, although I'm stiff all over from falling on the hill.

Back on the bumpy bus, back to all the work I had put off for my three-day vacation.

My right arm hurts when I move it, but I can still straighten it. At least I didn't break my arm again.

Time to wake-up (again)

They're ba-ack! Straight from the Holy Land, by popular demand, the Moshav Band has returned to Montreal. The Wake-Up Tour, at its inception, aimed to serve as a wake-up call to Jewish students and to promote Jewish activism on campuses.

Erica Horn in Montreal

Last year, the band toured other North American cities, but students who accompanied them won't hesitate to say that in Montreal it had the greatest welcoming and impact. I am sure you are asking yourselves then, why do they need to come back to Montreal if their purpose has already been achieved? I have a simple answer: You can never have too much of a good thing.

The band originated on Moshav Modi'in, just outside of Jerusalem. Some Montreal students studying at the Hebrew University for the year discovered them, loved them and thought that the band was exactly what we needed – a little taste of hip-hop hot Jerusalem to warm our frozen bodies and frosted souls. And so, after hours of fundraising and promoting on the part of the students, on March 14, 1998, the Moshav Band touched down in Montreal and played a concert few people will forget.

Twelve hundred people packed the club, Le Medley, for singing (in both English and Hebrew), dancing, socializing and essentially celebrating Judaism.

Before you criticize this column for being a year-old news report, I urge you to understand my motivation for revisiting seemingly old facts. The Moshav Band has returned to Montreal because it was such a success. Those of you unable to attend last year (you have no valid excuse) must come see what it is all about.

While not everyone enjoys being in a room with 1,200 other people (claustrophobia, I understand), I guarantee (although my lawyer says I can't offer any money back) that you will be so overwhelmed that the mobs of people around you will fade into the night. And suddenly, you will find yourself in the middle of a mosh-pit, next to a body-surfing rabbi. If this evening is beginning to sound too exotic or crazy for you, then I ask you to read on.

This year, so that the Jewish juices flowing at the concert don't dry up, the committee has decided to add a special event called Stay-Up (Get it? Wake-up, Stay-Up). It is going to be a night of Jewish learning, but not what one would consider typical Jewish learning. We are not going to sit in pews at shul and listen to rabbis and professors lecture on their areas of expertise. Quite the contrary.

For example, my three favorite topics for the night (although all topics are subject to change without notice) are: Don't just do something – sit there: A lecture on and practice of Jewish meditation; Madonna's Second Favorite Activity – Kabbalah in your life; and So you are religious?: Having the skirt pulled over your eyes. Does it sound too much like Jewish afternoon school?

I think not.

The wake-up call for the concert is Saturday night, March 6, again at Le Medley. Do not hit your snooze button. The guilt and regret you will experience if you do will gnaw at your conscience and irritate your insides. No one will stand at the door compiling a list of attendees, but I hope you realize that you know you want to be there. Everybody's doing it.

Then, on March 11, without a schoolbag, notebooks or even a pen, head to the Just for Laughs Museum for a night of invigorating and exciting Jewish learning – a chance to open your eyes to what Judaism in the '90s can do for you. Wake-up, stay-up, and I'll see you there!

Dry Bones
THE SUPREME COMMITTEE OF TERRORISTS HAS CANCELLED NAYEF HAWATMEH'S MEMBERSHIP.
BECAUSE HE SHOOK HANDS WITH PRESIDENT WEIZMAN?
IT'S OUR SECRET PLAN!!
YOU MEAN?
YUP... WE'RE GOING TO DESTROY THE INT'L TERRORIST MOVEMENT
BY SENDING WEIZMAN OUT TO SHAKE HANDS WITH EVERYBODY!
CARTOONISTS & WRITERS SYNDICATE
©1999 Kirschenbaum

If they can do it, why can't we?

Military chaplains constitute an important segment of every western army, and the American and Canadian services engage representatives of the Roman Catholic, Protestant and Jewish faiths. The presence of the chaplain preserves an element of home life for the soldier, evoking a sense of stability. I vividly remember my own three-year stint as a chaplain in the U.S. army during World War II.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

While the Catholics are a single community, the other two groups are not. There are dozens of different Protestant denominations, and the range of religious Jews covers everything from Reconstructionist to ultra-Orthodox. In the military, a Jewish chaplain takes care of every Jew under his/her care. Thus, a Reform rabbi might serve an Orthodox Jew – a situation which hardly would arise in civil life.

Many people wonder just what chaplains do during peace time. I have therefore found it interesting to read the report of Chaplain Sean Gorman of the United States navy:

"Refurbishing a mikvah on a military installation…writing a letter so that a young marine can have extra money to buy kosher food…a weekly Talmud class…Saturday morning Torah study and minyan. This is just a small part of what I do at sub-base Pearl Harbor…My 'congregation' consists of the Jewish chapel on base, nine fast-attack submarines and their crews, the squadron, staff and all their families. In addition, all of Hawaii's Jewish soldiers, marines, sailors and airmen are under my care. Many show up on my doorstep Friday evening for Shabbat dinner. They play with my son. Each one is part of my family…

"I see people who could earn three times their salary in the civilian world, but stay nonetheless. I see people functioning as a team. I see people placing their lives in each other's hands. I see people rising to that challenge every day. I see these same people eager to hear from a chaplain. They know that I care for them because of who they are, and not because of what they do."

The chaplain's wife, Jennifer – also a rabbi, though a civilian – supplements her husband's remarks in this way:

"Our life in the military provides spiritual, ritual and moral support to an uncountable number of sailors, marines, soldiers and air force personnel. Like most younger Jews, I was raised with the little knowledge of the military. We often forget our brethren who put their lives on the line for us every day… The enormous pride I have in helping my husband serve our country as he serves service people bolsters even as I crave a pastrami on rye. The opportunities are boundless, the work priceless and the reward immeasurable."

All of this brings me back to the question posed in the headline. We seem to be talking to each other in helpful ways when we are in the service, and we do so across all lines of individual conviction and practice. But in civil life we rarely do, and in most communities, especially the larger ones, an Orthodox rabbi will rarely sit down with a Reconstructionist, Conservative or Reform rabbi. If we can do it in the service, why can't we do it when we take off the uniform?

The Kirshner File

The Jewish experience in Florida

"Always a view, never a Jew." This provocative phrase slithers across a flyer issued by the Gulf Hotel. A brochure put out by the New Surf Hotel, though a tad more subtle, is just as outrageous: "Vacations are enhanced by the hotel's selection of clientele, assuring you of congenial companionship and contacts with the kind of people you will enjoy."

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

These disgusting advertisements are found at the Sanford L. Ziff Jewish Museum of Florida on Washington Avenue in Miami Beach. They call attention to a bygone era when hotels in Miami Beach regularly practised blatant discrimination of the sort unimaginable today.

The museum, housed in Miami Beach's first synagogue, Congregation Beth Jacob, is unique. There is no other one like it in Florida. It opened four years ago in April.

Documenting the settlement of Floridian Jews in historical, social, religious and economic terms, it definitely fills a need: Florida now has the third largest concentration of Jews in the United States.

This fascinating repository accentuates the positive, but does not flinch from portraying the negative side of Jewish history in the Sunshine State.

Found on the outer fringes of the deservedly celebrated Art Deco district, the museum is made up of permanent and temporary exhibits. The first, Mosaic: Jewish Life in Florida, is a multi-media presentation whose focus is on individuals and organizations. The second depicts various aspects of the Florida experience. To cite but one example, Barely A Minyan: The Last Elderly Jews of South Beach will run from May 11 to Sept. 8.

Jews were permitted to settle in Florida in 1763 after it was wrested by Britain from Spain in the French and Indian War. The first colony of Jews was in Pensacola. The first Jewish child, Louisa Meyers, was born there. As well, Michael Levy, a German-born Confederate veteran, established Florida's first synagogue, Beth El, in Pensacola.

It's not clear whether Louisa Myers was related to Abraham Myers, a West Point graduate and a Confederate colonel after whom Ft. Myers is named.

In the mid-19th century, Florida's most illustrious Jewish personality was doubtless David Levy Yulee, who helped bring Florida statehood, who built the first railroad across the state and who was the first Jew to serve in the U.S. Senate. Later in life, he renounced Judaism.

Henry Brash, the mayor of Marianna in 1879, was the first of almost 80 Jewish men and women who have served as mayors. Abe Amowitz was Miami's first – and so far last – Jewish mayor (1953- 55), while Mitchell Wolfson was Miami Beach's first mayor (1943).

Citrus crate label in Yiddish

Florida has had only one Jewish governor, David Sholtz, who was elected in 1933.

Jews have contributed mightily to Florida's economic development. The Florida Cattlemen's Association was founded by a Jewish farmer. David Falk, a native of Tampa, was a president of the Florida Retail Merchants' Association.

Jules and Jack Freeman planted the world's largest orange grove in Sarasota. The plantation has more than three million trees and is several times the size of Manhattan. Speaking of oranges, I was struck by a citrus label in Yiddish, circa 1930, distributed by a Winter Haven exporter with an eye on the Jewish market.

Jews were in the forefront of Miami Beach's development as a tourist resort. Ben Novick built the Sans Souci and the Fontainebleau, two of the finest hotels in the city. Architect Henry Hohauser designed more than 300 buildings, including the Cardozo and Essex House hotels. Joe and Jennie Weiss, supposedly the first Jewish settlers in Miami Beach, founded a famous fish restaurant. Further afield, Wolfie Cohen was the founder of a North Miami Beach restaurant where the queues are endless and the portions are mountainous.

The museum, with its 80 stained-glass windows and Moorish copper dome, is a marvel, and should not be missed. In one or two hours, you can plumb the Jewish depths of a state famed for its sun, sand and surf and notable for its Canadian snowbirds.

Kurds feel bitter

When Kurds stormed and penetrated Israel's consulate in Berlin on Feb. 17, four of the protesters were killed. I read the news with a heavy heart. It's now clear that Israel had nothing to do with the capture of Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan by Turkish commandos in Kenya. Israel, which once had a close relationship with Kurdish rebels in Iraq, does not view the Kurds as an enemy.

Israel was jolted by the events in Berlin. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu strenuously denied that Israel had helped Turkey apprehend Ocalan, who had been sheltered by Syria. And in a very unusual step, the director of the Mossad, Ephraim Levy, circulated a letter to employees denying involvement in the affair. Several days later, the media reported that the United States – not Israel – had tipped off Turkey concerning the whereabouts of Ocalan, whose Kurdish Workers Party has been at war with Turkey for the past 15 years.

What the Kurds made of Israel's disclaimers and of the report that the United States had provided the information leading to Ocalan's arrest is hard to ascertain. But I would venture to guess that in such sensitive matters perception is sometimes more important than reality.

Since 1996, Israel and Turkey have forged a quasi-alliance with all the bells and whistles, including military and intelligence cooperation. The Kurds, whose yearning for statehood has been repeatedly thwarted, have looked askance at Israel's growing friendship with Turkey. I suppose they assumed that the Mossad had played a role in Ocalan's abduction. The assumption was not completely farfetched. During the 1960s, the Mossad got itself embroiled in the Ben-Barka case, a bungled attempt to smuggle a dissident Moroccan politician to Morocco.

By the same token, the Kurds who vented their anger and frustration at Israel in Berlin and then in Montreal, obviously chose to ignore the fact that Israel has no designs on them. Israel, while cultivating ties with Turkey, has carefully steered clear of Turkey's internal conflict with the Kurds.

And there is something else to ponder. From 1965 to 1975, Israel, in league with Iran and the United States, actively supported a Kurdish insurrection in Iraq spearheaded by Mullah Mustafa Barzani. Israel sent advisors to northern Iraq and supplied the Kurds with light arms and medical equipment, according to Shlomo Nakdimon in *Broken Hope*, published by Yediot Aharonot in 1996.

Israel had reason to assist the Kurds. Iraq was hostile, and Israel sought closer relations with Iran. Furthermore, as Eliezer Tzafrir writes in *Ana Kurdi*, which was published recently, the Israelis used the revolt to smuggle about 2,000 Kurdish Jews to Israel. (Today, the most prominent member of Israel's Kurdish community is none other than Yitzhak Mordechai, the former defence minister and currently a candidate for prime minister.)

Israel ended its campaign in Iraq when Iran signed an agreement with Iraq clarifying their border. The Kurds, understandably enough, felt betrayed. But betrayal is the common thread running through their tragic history. The 1920 Treaty of Sevres promised them a homeland, but it was not implemented. And contrary to the terms of the subsequent Treaty of Lausanne, Turkey's Mustafa Kemal Ataturk suppressed the Kurds' language and culture, a policy his successors have more or less continued. In 1946, Iran crushed their short-lived mini-state, and in 1991, following the Gulf War, the United States encouraged them to rise up against Saddam Hussein, but promptly dashed their dream of statehood. No wonder the Kurds feel bitter.

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Jews of the Ottoman Empire

By AVI BENLOLO

Israel's strong ties with Turkey are firmly grounded in the historical relationship between the Jews and Muslims of the Ottoman Empire.

It is therefore no coincidence that both nations have recently opened diplomatic channels and engaged in joint military initiatives.

Turkey's Ottoman Empire was a haven to hundreds of thousands of Sephardi and European Jews fleeing persecution over the last five centuries. Jews were welcomed into various regions and countries within the Empire, including North Africa, the Balkans, Egypt, Greece, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Eretz Yisrael and Turkey itself.

Expelled from Spain in 1492, thousands of Jews boarded ships and fled to various destinations. Many eagerly accepted the offer made by Sultan Bayezid II to have them come live in the Ottoman Empire.

At a time when Catholicism violently rejected Judaism, the Muslims of the Ottoman Empire encouraged Jewish immigration. Bayezid II took a strong stand in not refusing entry to Jews, and ordered his governors to receive them in a cordial manner.

Expressing his opinion about the expulsion from Spain, Bayezid II was reported to have said: "You call Ferdinand a wise king, he who impoverishes his country and enriches our own!"

Clearly, the Ottomans understood the potential benefits of mass immigration. They accepted Jews partly out of economic self-interest, knowing that Spanish Jewry was highly skilled, educated and business oriented.

The printing press brought to Istanbul in 1493 by two refugee brothers from Spain is one example of the sophistication that Jews introduced to the Ottoman Empire.

The empire was perceived by many Jews as the divine gateway to the land of Israel. Still, Jews quickly adapted to their renewed sense of freedom by continuing to develop educationally, financially and spiritually.

For example, one of the most sacred documents to emerge in the empire (with the help of the printing press) was Rabbi Joseph Carro's Shulchan Aruch. Published in 1564, it embodied the codified Sephardi legal usage.

Another important figure in the life of the Ottoman Jews in the 17th century was Shabbetai Zevi, the false Messiah who lived in Izmir and later adopted Islam.

The major centres of Ottoman Sephardi Jewry included Istanbul, Izmir, Safed and Salonica. In 1900, the Jewish community of Istanbul numbered approximately 300,000.

According to one source who was born in Turkey, Jewish life became more difficult during World War II. "Jews were like second class citizens," he says.

He remembers as a child listening to his parents tell of how Turks marched into their home emptying it of all its precious belongings. His family eventually fled to Israel in 1948 with only their clothing in hand.

An estimated 24,000 Jews live in Turkey today. The community maintains a primary school for 300 pupils and a secondary school for 250 students in Istanbul. In addition, there are two Jewish hospitals, located in Istanbul and Izmir, to serve the community.

One of Turkey's oldest synagogues is the 15th-century Ahrida in Istanbul. The synagogue has a bimah in the shape of the bow of a ship. Tradition says that it symbolizes either Noah's Ark or the Ottoman ships which transported Sephardim from Spain to Turkey.

Unfortunately, Israel's sensitive relationship with Turkey has been threatened more than once in modern times, including recently over the accusations regarding the capture of Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan, and after the 1986 Neve Shalom synagogue massacre in Istanbul.

First biblical tennis match?

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Q. Where is the first tennis match mentioned in the Bible?

A. When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.

Oy! OK, Purim *is* over but Adar isn't. And that means our laughs don't have to end. So today, I continue my look at the best of Jewish humor on the Internet.

The above riddle is taken from Rabbi Amy Scheinerman's treasure trove of Jewish humor **[http://ezra.mts.jhu.edu/~rabbiars/humor/index.html]**. That's where you can also sample some Jewish ice cream flavors (Mazel Toffee, Cashew L'Pesach, Abba Ebanana) and find out why that chicken crossed the road – as explained by some famous Jews:

Hillel: If I am not for the chicken, then who will be? But if I am only for the chicken, then what am I? And if it doesn't cross now, when?

Woody Allen: I mean, it was, it was…a chicken…of legal consenting age. The heart wants what it wants.

As anyone with insight into human behavior will tell you, laughter isn't all fun and games. Rabbi Noah Weinberg, dean of Aish HaTorah, has created a large Web site about the 48 Ways to Wisdom. Rabbi Weinberg's Way #21: Laughter is Serious Business **[http://www.aish.edu/learning/48ways/way21.htm]**. The rabbi suggests that laughter plays a crucial role in a healthy emotional life. Laughter allows us to put life into perspective, diffuse a tense situation and even laugh at the insanity of the world around us. But like most things, laughter has a potentially dangerous and destructive side when it is used to ridicule others.

Rabbi Barry Block of Temple Beth-El in San Antonio, Texas echoes those comments **[http://www.beth-elsa.org/be_s1120.htm]**.

Are you too lazy to go looking for Jewish humor? Then let the jokes come to you. Subscribe to a couple of Jewish humor e-mail lists and the jokes will be delivered to you on a regular basis. To get the Jewish Humor list, send an e-mail to **[listserv@lgk.com]** with the message: subscribe jhumor your name. For Yaacov Weiss' Joke a Day List, follow the instructions at his Web site **[http://virtual.co.il/city_services/lists/joke-day]**.

Do you have a winner you want to share? Submit it to the Jewish Communication Network **[http://www.jcn18.com/scripts/jcn18/forum/forum.idc?ForumID=14&TopicID=4]** or Jewish Family **[http://www.jewishfamily.com/scripts/newjfl/paper/article.asp?ArticleID=450]**.

Perhaps the best humor is rooted in reality. Richard Lederer proved that point when he gathered a healthy selection of Biblical Bloopers – actual mistakes made by young scholars from around the world **[http://pw1.netcom.com/~rlederer/arcblpr.htm]**. Since Pesach is quickly approaching, I leave you with this (fractured) retelling of the story of Exodus: "Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments. The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple. The fifth commandment is humor thy father and mother. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery. Moses ate nothing but whales and manner for 40 years. He died before he ever reached Canada."

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at [mdm@inforamp.net].

Jewish leadership

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

Adar is a very rich month for Jewish leadership. We celebrate Purim in Adar, but it is also an important month for Moses, our greatest leader.

The Talmud informs us that Moses was born and died on the seventh day of Adar. Therefore, this month contains tremendous diversity with regard to our national leaders: Mordecai, Esther and Moses.

Our rabbis teach that nothing in the world appears by coincidence and so I thought a comparison of the leaders that are significant in Adar might be important. By comparing these individuals, perhaps we can build a model for the Jewish leader.

In fact, through such a comparison, interesting differences begin to emerge.

The starkest difference is in the various relationships with God. Moses spoke to God "face to face," that is, with the most direct communication possible. Mordecai and Esther do not speak with God at all. In fact, God's hidden aspect is one of the main themes in the Megillah.

Moses was raised in a foreign palace and left his status of royalty to eventually join the Jewish people. Esther was raised with the Jewish people and left them to join royalty and live in the palace.

In his latter years, Moses wore a veil, hiding his face from his fellow Jews. Upon entering the palace, Esther hides her identity from the foreigners among whom she lives.

Moses leads the Jewish people out of exile and toward the land of Israel, whereas Esther and Mordecai lead the Jews in exile with no mention of Israel.

Moses' spirituality is supreme and Esther and Mordecai's spirituality goes unmentioned.

The list of differences could continue until one begins to wonder whether there is any common thread to Jewish leadership at all.

Perhaps the similarities may shed some light. Beginning with their upbringings, both Moses and Esther were adopted.

The midrash states that Moses had different names and the Megillah states that Esther had different names.

The name Moses was given to him by a non-Jew, yet we know the Jewish significance of the name. The Talmud states that the name Esther was given by non-Jews. Yet we know the significance of the name.

The midrash tells us that as a shepherd, Moses would worry and save even one small lost sheep. The Megillah tells of how Mordecai saved the life of the king, a non-Jewish leader, reinforcing that a human life is precious and worthy of preservation.

Moses was known for his modesty and the Talmud likewise speaks of Esther's modesty.

Moses' mother hides him from the king's decree against the Jewish males and the midrash states that Mordecai hid Esther from the king's decree to gather the Jewish females.

Although our portrait of leadership has shown various degrees of spirituality, different relationships with God and different community realities, the similarities are also striking.

The Jewish moral code is central, the internal identity is strong and the external challenges are addressed. Both in their differences and their similarities we find a beautiful tapestry of the Jewish leader.

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Publish or perish

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

To everything there is a season, says the Ecclesiastian writer, a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted.

For genealogists and family historians, there is a time to gather in family stories and details...and a time to publish them for the benefit of all.

Like many things under the sun, the work of a genealogist obeys the all-encompassing Ecclesiastian rhythm of life.

We start by collecting family stories, legends, documents, ketubot, charts, photographs and related artifacts from parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and more distant relatives. Sooner or later, we graduate to more sophisticated types of research involving distant archives, libraries and government offices, from which we may reap many additional family documents.

Over the course of years, we gather up many precious nuggets of gold, which we store like pirates hoarding doubloons in a treasure chest. Should we selfishly keep these riches to ourselves? Of course not. To paraphrase the scholarly maxim, we must eventually publish ...or see all of our efforts perish.

How do we judge when our research is ripe for publication? That is a tricky question, since in most cases, a genealogist's work is never done. There are almost always more distant relatives to interview, family branches to discover, promising leads to pursue. When, in short, is it time to say Dayeinu! – "Enough already!"?

Just as there is a danger in rushing to print before the research reaches a mature state, so there is a corollary danger of letting the fruit of your labors wither on the vine. No one can pinpoint the most auspicious moment for you. You will have to determine it on your own.

I started researching one particular branch of my family – the Alexanders – about 12 years ago. Over the course of six or seven years, I discovered many new branches of the family, following the paper trails as various family members travelled from Russia, Poland and Hungary to London, England in the Victorian era, then immigrated to Canada in Edwardian times.

Whereas at the start I had known almost nothing about my great-grandparents, Davis and Blumah Alexander, I felt a great sense of excitement and pride at finding out a significant amount about their life histories, including details about their parents and siblings. For all I had uncovered, it seemed to me that I was still at the beginning of a great research project, with enormous possibilities for future discoveries.

That is how matters stood for several years. Despite my good intentions to continue the Alexander research, I concentrated instead on the Glicenstein line where my inquiries were producing even more rewarding results.

Feb. 14, 1999 – the centenary of the birth of my late grandmother, Dora (née Alexander) Gladstone – seemed an excellent moment for me to publish all of my Alexander research to date. With only a week's notice, 40 cousins gathered under one roof, including some who hadn't seen each other in decades. For the occasion, I produced and distributed a 30-page family tree booklet dedicated to my grandmother's memory – a sort of genealogical valentine.

It was a sweet occasion that evoked feelings in me of both closure and a new beginning. I felt gratified to share my work with a family whose various members had contributed so much to the project, and been so enthusiastic about it from the start.

If you've been doing family research for many years and see no end to your investigations, consider publishing an interim report for your family's benefit. If you've already made some notable advances, don't keep postponing publication of your family tree indefinitely into the future. Get it out into the world.

No doubt your relatives will point out any unexpected mistakes, omissions and printer's gremlins. They'll also fill your ears with wonderful new stories and legends about your common ancestors and the old country. Just when you thought you'd heard them all! In all likelihood, you'll be thinking about putting out a second volume before the day is through.

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The Jewish education system

By KEITH LANDY and JOSEPH STEINER

Rabbi Marvin Pachino, a longtime Jewish educator in Toronto, has become widely known and respected for his ability as a teacher and Jewish thinker. However, we believe that

Guest Voices

Rabbi Pachino fails to understand the political considerations emanating from the need for government funding for Ontario's Jewish day schools. ("Government funds for Jewish day schools no panacea," *Canadian Jewish News*, Feb. 11)

One glaring omission in the article is any reference to existing Jewish community funding for education and a sad lack of sensitivity toward the very parents and students that the rabbi served so well over the many years in which he was involved with the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT).

Let us review those issues that seem to be of concern to Rabbi Pachino:

Government control of Jewish day school funding — Rabbi Pachino expresses the concern that if, in fact, the provincial government extends funding to independent schools it could also remove such funding. This, he feels, would cause serious problems once the day school system relied heavily on government funds to run its schools.

Firstly, it should be noted that the Jewish community has never asked for full funding of its day school program. In fact, our position has been to request funding only for those secular subjects (i.e. history, geography, math, etc.) that a Jewish day school student would receive as a matter of right in the public school system. In addition, Jewish high schools are already obliged to follow Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum guidelines, which are generally adhered to by Jewish elementary schools as well.

Secondly, where funding has been extended in other provinces across the country, there has *never* been any case on record of such funding being removed. In fact, the opposite appears true. In at least two provinces, British Columbia and Alberta, funding to independent schools has increased over the years.

Government control over Jewish curricula — As noted, the Ontario Jewish community has always requested funding to cover the secular portion of the independent Jewish day schools' curriculum. It has been the position of our Jewish day school system that Jewish parents, as a duty, should cover the cost of the religious portion of the school day, thus maintaining specific control over the Judaic curricula. Once again, a look to the east and west of Ontario where independent religious schools are already funded by provincial governments, demonstrates that no such government control has been established over the Jewish day school curricula.

Community Funding of Jewish Education — Rabbi Pachino, unfortunately, leaves the impression that community funding for Jewish education in the Greater Toronto Area is meager or non-existent. In fact, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto designates over 50 percent of its local allocations – more than $8 million – to Jewish education. That represents the largest portion of local funds for Jewish education provided by any Jewish Federation in North America.

Although the Chicago community initiative to finance tuition for every day school student through a $300-million endowment fund is worthy of Rabbi Pachino's praise, the Chicago situation is not comparable to that of Toronto.

There are only 2,000 day school students in the Chicago Jewish education system, compared to almost 11,000 in the Toronto area, of whom almost 3,000 are subsidized by the community. To provide full tuition for every one of Toronto's day school students would require a $928.5-million endowment fund to generate $65 million annually at seven percent interest, and this sum of money does not account for any growth in day school enrolment.

There is no doubt that Chicago's goals are exemplary and admirable. Whether they are achievable is another question. Realism dictates a different approach in Toronto, where there are both tuition subsidies and endowment donations.

Unlike Canada, the United States has a strict, legally mandated separation of church and state. Therefore, to compare the American and Canadian systems is pointless. Nonetheless, even in the United States where Rabbi Pachino maintains that no Jewish school receives government funds, the fact of the matter is quite different. Grants for transportation, school books and health support services are available to all children in all U.S. schools. Ontario, therefore, remains the only jurisdiction in the democratic world to provide funding for one religious education system while denying all others that same right.

Over 10 years ago, a blueprint was developed for the funding of independent schools across Ontario. Dr. Bernard Shapiro, then principal of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, on behalf of then-premier of Ontario, Bill Davis, completed what became known as the *Shapiro Report on Independent Schools in Ontario*.

The plan envisaged a method by

Continued on page 19

MINYANIM IN THE GTA
WEEK OF MARCH 5-11/'99

Synagogue	Address & Tel.	Fri. Night	Shabbat	Sun. A.M.	Daily A.M.	Daily P.M.
Agudath Israel/Anshei Kielce (O)	2941 Bathurst St. (416) 256-4470	5:53 PM	8:45 AM	8:00 AM	7:00 & 7:40 AM	5:55 PM
Beth Avraham Yoseph (O)	613 Clark Ave. W. (905) 886-3810	5:53 PM	8:45 AM	7:00, 8:00 & 8:45 AM	6:45 & 7:30 AM	5:55 PM
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda (C)	100 Elder St. (416) 633-3838	6:00 PM	8:45 AM	7:30 & 8:30 AM	7:30 & 8:15 AM	6:10 PM
Beth Tikvah (C)	3080 Bayview Ave. (416) 221-3433	6:00 PM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	7:15 AM	7:30 PM
Holy Blossom (R)	1950 Bathurst St. (416) 789-3291	6:00 PM	10:30 AM	9:00 AM	----------	6:00 PM
Ohr Somayach / JEP (south) (O)	2939 Bathurst St. (416) 785-5899	5:53 PM	8:30 AM	7:45 AM	Mon. Thurs. 6:35 AM Tues. Wed. Fri. 6:45 AM	5:55 AM
Shaar Shalom (C)	2 Simonston Blvd. (905) 889-4975	6:00 PM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	7:00 AM	7:00 PM
Shaarei Shomayim (O)	470 Glencairn Ave. (416) 789-3213	5:58 PM	9:00 AM	7:30 AM	7:30 AM	5:55 PM
Shaarei Tefillah (O)	3600 Bathurst St. (416) 787-1631	6:03 PM	8:45 AM	8:30 AM	6:30 & 7:30 AM	5:55 PM

This is not a comprehensive listing of the synagogues in the Greater Toronto area. The information is provided by the Vaad Harabonim of Toronto and the Toronto Board of Rabbis. The Vaad and the Board will periodically revise the listings. For statutory holidays, please call the Synagogue for any changes in times.

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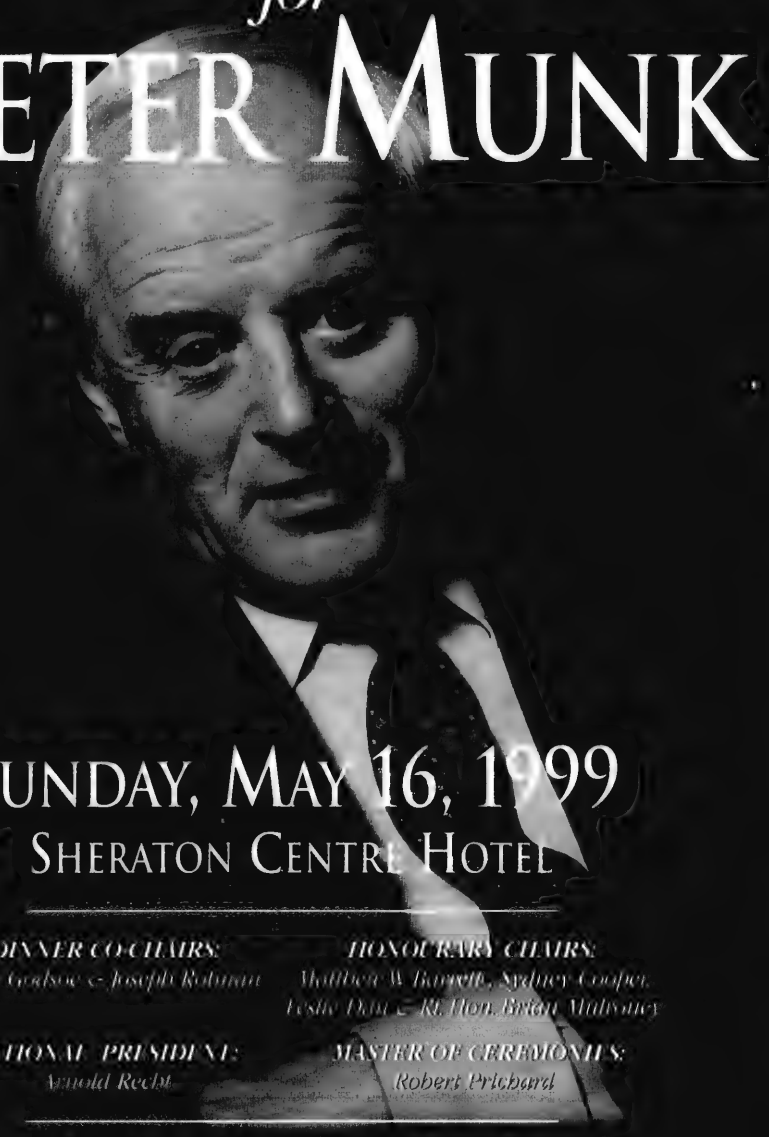

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David Hertzman
Bryan Horrigan
Alan Hudson
Henry N.R. Jackman
Sandra Kahanoff
Harry Kitchen
Cheryl Kopperson
Clifford Kostuniuk
Saul Kwinter
Ali Kwinter
William [illegible]
Ian [illegible]
[illegible]
Alan Lenz
Norrie Meeks
Peter Meeks
Jason Metz
Paul Munk
Anthony Munk
Heather Munro-Blum
Edward Neisser
Jeremiah [illegible]
Donald Obodiac
Philip Orsino
Eddie Poh
David Peterson
Karl Otto Pohl
James J. Pritzker
Sanford Reed
Sharyn Recht
Heather Reisman
Barrie Rose
Carol Rose
Bob Rubinoff
[illegible]
Gerald Schwartz
Michael Serruya
Isadore Sharp
Gerald Sheff
Barry Sherman
Joseph Tanenbaum
Larry Tanenbaum
Richard [illegible]
James Tory
Berny Wettreich
W. Galen Weston
William Wiener
Gregory Wilkins
Derek Williams
Rhydian Zeidl

jewish toronto

face to face with Ace

By Howard English

It was a whirlwind visit from the chairman of an $8 billion financial firm. Ace Greenberg, 72, the legendary leader of the New York based Bear Stearns, recently flew to Toronto in mid-morning, addressed UJA Federation's leading donors at lunch, left a large impression, and by 2:30 p.m. returned to Pearson International for the short flight home. Greenberg is, by no means, an international jet-setter. He was just, as always, finding time for UJA.

There's more to Ace Greenberg than the typical business baron. His attachment to philanthropy, which is both unconditional and unconventional, is best exemplified by the innovative rule at Bear Stearns, through which 300 senior managers contribute at least 4% of their earnings to charity.

"It seems like the more I give, the more I make," Greenberg confided. "I receive so much joy from my charitable work in New York and Israel."

Greenberg began at Bear Stearns 50 years ago when New York Stock Exchange transactions amounted to a mere $1 million daily. Today, Bear Stearns is one of the world's leading securities trading, investment banking and brokerage companies, with 9500 employees and $7.97 billion in 1998 sales, which is a 31% improvement over the previous year.

Along the way, Greenberg has contributed countless hours and dollars to UJA Federation, among many worthy causes. He was even knighted by the Queen of Denmark for helping to finance, with musician Victor Borge, an exhibit on Jewish life, although Greenberg can't remember his royal title.

His impatience with pomp and ceremony symbolizes Greenberg's attitude to good deeds. "There's nothing I've done that is particularly brave," he said. "When I think of what your parents and mine went through, the least we can do is help people who are less fortunate."

And with that, the unpretentious, straight-forward and quick witted Ace Greenberg shook hands, warmly chatted with members of his luncheon audience, paused for one final photo, and headed home.

(l-r) Ace Greenberg and Larry Tanenbaum, Co-Chair, UJA Federation Campaign for Fifty .

discovering jewish toronto

In a city the size of Toronto, it's hard to keep up with what's going on in our large, growing Jewish community. The next best thing to exploring the streets, sights, events and people populating Jewish Toronto is a virtual discovery at www.feduja.org, UJA Federation's *Jewish Toronto* web-site.

One of the world's largest community Internet sites, with over 1500 pages, *Jewish Toronto* is a virtual encyclopedia of the city's Jewish character. Here are just a few site highlights:

- If there's already a knot in your stomach about the thought of keeping the kids busy during March break, click the Arts & Culture icon from the home page and you'll be linked to March break activities with a Jewish flavour.
- A detailed look at meaningful Israel Experience possibilities is also a mouse move away from the home page. Check the navigation bar on the left hand side.
- Lost your Jewish calendar with Shabbat candle lighting times? No problem. We have those for you as well. Just check out the home page.

Jewish Toronto is an interactive community endeavour, which values your thoughts and ideas. Please contact our Internet Coordinator Ruth Nissan at (416) 631-5672 or **rnissan@ujafed.org**

Around jewish toronto

lessons from levy

Renowned American Jewish leader and philanthropist **Leon Levy** will be in Toronto on **Sunday, March 7, 8:00 pm at The Sephardic Kehila Centre, 7026 Bathurst Street**. Levy will share his experience as current President of the American Sephardi Federation and Past-Chairman of the Conference of Major American Organizations. Levy's appearance is sponsored by **UJA Federation's Sephardi Network** and The Sephardic Kehila Centre. For more information, or to RSVP, call (416) 635-2883 ext. 177.

internet: in or out?

A panel of leading internet experts discusses *The Internet: The Good, The Bad and How Did We Ever Live Without It?*, **March 24, 7:30 p.m. Metro Hall, 55 John Street, Room 308.** The event, sponsored by **UJA Federation's Young Business Network** and **Ernst & Young Corporate Finance Inc.**, features **Chris Frostad**, Vice-President Strategic Services for Cyberplex and **Evan Solomon**, host of CBC Newsworld's *Hot Type*, followed by a dessert reception. For tickets, $18 in advance and $20 at the door, call **(416) 635-2883 ext. 107.**

lew moses to be missed

UJA Federation joins the entire Jewish community in expressing sadness at the passing of **Lewis Moses**, a generous, cherished leader. In addition to serving as honourary member of UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education, Moses was active in the Torah Emeth Synagogue, Eitz Chaim Day School, JNF and many other Jewish causes. May his memory be a blessing.

new faces

UJA Federation welcomes **Ruth Nissan**, its new Internet Coordinator.

Care for the Elderly Concerns Community

jewish toronto

Eighty-eight year old Hannah Dawson, who suffers from severe arthritis and failing vision, says she wouldn't be able to start her day if it weren't for a woman named Yvonne.

"She gets me going," says Dawson of her cherished personal care worker. "I don't know what I would do without her."

"The demand for our services is increasing exponentially as the population ages."

Yvonne Grieves is one of 300 home-makers working for Circle of Care, a UJA Federation beneficiary agency, which has been providing a wide range of home-making, personal care and counseling services to the community for more than 25 years. Circle of Care also supplies kosher meals on wheels, respite and palliative care, companionship visits and pediatric care for children and their families among many other human services.

Close to 80% of the agency's clients, most of whom are elderly, receive assistance free of charge through the Ontario Ministry of Health's Community Care Access Centres (CCAC) and Toronto's Metro Community Services. Yet, according to agency Executive Director Michael Sheinhert, government cutbacks to health care have resulted in significant service reductions amidst growing demands.

"Things like shopping and meal preparation are no longer covered," explains Sheinhert. "It means many of our most dependent clients are having to find other types of assistance or are simply doing without."

Hannah Dawson has to pay someone to come to her two-bedroom apartment to do the things Yvonne is unable to do under the CCAC's new guidelines, implemented last September. Yvonne is restricted to only one and a half hours a day with Hannah, leaving just enough time to help her bathe, dress and eat breakfast before rushing off to her next client.

"I really miss the time we used to share talking over a cup of coffee," laments Dawson. "Hannah is more than a client," Grieves adds affectionately. "She and I have become close friends."

"Many of the seniors we serve will not complain about the cutbacks," says Sheinhert. "Nonetheless we try to advocate on their behalf whenever we can."

"The demand for our services is increasing exponentially as the population ages," reports Circle of Care President Gloria Clamen.

Even though their time together is limited, Hannah Dawson and Yvonne Grieves still enjoy each others company. photos: Stephen Epstein

"One of our greatest challenges is to maintain the high quality of services the community has been able to count on even though funding is more scarce."

That's why better home care for the frail elderly is such an important component of UJA Federation's Campaign for Fifty. "Helping to maintain the dignity of our elderly community members is a crucial part of our mandate," notes Naomi Rose, Chair of UJA Federation's Social Planning & Allocations Committee. "Our goal is to use additional funds raised during the Campaign for Fifty to fund expanded services for our seniors."

"Our goal is to use additional funds raised during the Campaign for Fifty to fund expanded services for our seniors."

The agency also provides specific services for Jewish clients such as kosher food preparation and staff trained in the sensitivities associated with Holocaust survivors and their families. "There are only a few agencies that take care of these special needs," emphasizes Clamen.

volunteer views

Even though Sadie Rose has been volunteering for most of her life, you won't find her stuffing envelopes or selling cookies at a bake sale. This 85 year-old great grandmother prefers to participate in social action groups and organize public forums.

"I like my involvement to be intellectually challenging," explains Sadie- who is a member of five volunteer committees at the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, a UJA Federation beneficiary agency. Sadie admits that although she frequents the Centre at least three times a week, her committee work keeps her so busy she hardly has time to enjoy the Centre's wide range of programs and activities.

"I prefer to spend my time dealing with issues such as welcoming new members, health care and the rights of seniors than anything else," says Sadie who will be a delegate at an upcoming United Nations conference marking the International Year of Older Persons.

She is so comfortable in the role of seniors' advocate that she helped pioneer a program dealing with elder abuse and even appeared in front of a panel of senators who held a hearing on the proposed GST before it was passed.

"I've always loved a good debate," says Sadie, recalling her active participation in the Young Judea debating club while growing up. "I never shied away from speaking out for my beliefs."

"Sadie is always there to lend a hand," notes Barbara Zigler, the Centre's Volunteer Coordinator. "She's efficient, trustworthy, always fair and a wonderful friend."

When the Centre decided it needed an ombudsman to field members' concerns, Sadie was the natural choice. But as appealing as the position was, she had to say no. "That would have been cutting me a little too thin. I would barely have time for my weekly bridge game, not to mention my six grandchildren and five great grandchildren."

As Sadie Rose says, there's always one thing you can count - "you'll never find me just sitting around."

To find out about volunteer opportunities in the Jewish community, call (416) 635-2883 ext. 137.

Ve'ahavta volunteers to provide relief to homeless

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Ve'ahavta – the Canadian Jewish & Humanitarian Relief Committee – has teamed with Toronto's native community to help the homeless.

Quoting the Baal Shem Tov – To pull a friend from the mud, don't hesitate to get dirty – Ve'ahavta executive director Avrum Rosensweig last week launched the Mobile Jewish Response to the Homeless.

The organization has teamed with the Native Men's Residence on Vaughan Road to take part in Street Help, a long-established effort that goes out onto the streets all night to distribute food, clothing, toiletries and other help for the homeless.

About 30 Ve'ahavta volunteers turned up last Thursday night for a training session led by Marilyn Capreol, president of the residence and a veteran expert on the needs of the homeless and how they should be helped.

Ve'ahavta's involvement is being underwritten by the Edward Bronfman Family Foundation. Bronfman and his son David were among the volunteers present last week.

Every Wednesday night beginning March 3, rotating teams of three or four Ve'ahavta volunteers will patrol the streets of Toronto in a Street Help van to hand out soup, sandwiches, sleeping bags, socks and other items to the homeless. They'll begin after dark and go until at least 3 a.m., and in some cases until dawn.

Other volunteers will assist in food preparation and in procuring clothes and other essentials.

Although synagogues and Jewish groups have collected food and provided shelter for the homeless, this is the first time a Jewish organization will go directly to the streets to deliver aid.

It's all part of Ve'ahavta's mandate to put the Jewish precept of tikkun olam – repair of the world – into action.

Last week's training session focused on the dos and don'ts of helping the homeless. Capreol stressed the need for volunteers to maintain dignity and a sense of humor at all times.

Ve'ahavta's goal is to eventually send volunteers out seven nights a week.

Said Capreol to the Jewish volunteers: "Your lives will change dramatically."

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Lewis Moses was a founder of Torah Emeth Synagogue

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Lewis Moses, a powerhouse volunteer in Toronto's Jewish community and an unwavering supporter of Israel's Likud party, died Feb. 22 of a heart attack. He was 79.

Obituary

Lewis Moses

"There wasn't a charity he wouldn't touch," said his daughter, Harriet Altman.

"He taught us tzedakah," added his son, Samuel Moses.

Lew Moses, as he was known, was not shy about his political leanings. A former president and treasurer, he helped build Herut-Likud of Canada, and was personal friends with former Prime Minister Menachem Begin. In fact, said his son, Begin would stay with the Moses family whenever he came to Canada.

In 1978, at a public rally at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, Moses introduced Begin, then opposition leader, as "the next prime minister of Israel." A few months later, Begin won the job.

Moses supported many Jewish causes. He was a past president of Jewish National Fund and was an active fundraiser for United Jewish Appeal and State of Israel Bonds. He sat on the boards of the Canadian Zionist Federation and the Board of Jewish Education.

For 13 years, he was president of Torah Emeth, the synagogue he helped found, on Viewmount Avenue. He was also vice-president of Eitz Chaim Day School and was on the board of Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue.

Non-Jewish charities that benefited from his efforts included the Salvation Army and the YMCA.

Moses was born into an Orthodox family in Cluj, Transylvania, the youngest of seven siblings. Fearing rising anti-Semitism, the family moved to Paris in 1927, and to Canada the following year, settling in Ottawa. His father was in the fruit business.

The clan moved to Toronto in 1932, and Moses' father established a small synagogue on Brunswick Avenue, the Husiatiner Klaus.

When World War II broke out, Moses volunteered for the Royal Canadian Air Force. Stationed in London, he was adjutant to the chief of the Bomber Command during the Battle of Britain and reached the rank of acting warrant officer.

Returning to Toronto following the war, he became an accountant with the firm of Hattin and Hattin, which later became Hattin and Moses. In 1947, he married Ethel Price.

His family remembers the time in 1967, during the Six Day War, when Moses went door to door collecting money for Israel.

"He was very outgoing," said Sam Sable, a friend of 40 years. "At times, he was vociferous but always amiable. Sometimes, he was argumentative but he never held a grudge."

Fellow Likud supporter Harry Wolle said Moses "always had a sense of humor. It was fun being with him. He loved to share a good scotch with people.

"Whether you wanted to hear it or not, he gave you his opinion. He had a real passion for Israel. Whenever there was a just reason to raise funds, he was there," said Wolle, chair of Herut-Likud's central region.

"He was as willing to play soldier as he was to play general," remarked Ben Prossin, executive director of JNF.

Moses is survived by his wife, his sister Lillian White, sons Samuel and Joel, daughter Harriet Altman, and six grandchildren.

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Albert Mandel ז"ל
Devoted Volunteer, Supporter
1992 Negev Dinner Honouree
Member of the Board of Directors of JNF Toronto and JNF Canada
"May the family be comforted among the mourners of Zion"
Naomi Frankenburg, NATIONAL PRESIDENT
Sandy Posluns, TORONTO PRESIDENT
Ben Prossin, TORONTO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Avner Regev, NATIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT
Col. Yaen Vered, SPECIAL JERUSALEM EMISSARY

JNF
The Officers, Board of Directors and Staff of
Jewish National Fund of Canada
and
Jewish National Fund of Toronto
express their sincere condolences to
Ethel Moses, her children and grandchildren
on the passing of
Lewis J. E. Moses ז"ל
Devoted Volunteer, Supporter, 1992 Negev Dinner Honouree
Past President of JNF Toronto
Member of the Board of Directors of JNF Toronto and JNF Canada
"May the family be comforted among the mourners of Zion"
Naomi Frankenburg, NATIONAL PRESIDENT
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Avner Regev, NATIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT
Col. Yaen Vered, SPECIAL JERUSALEM EMISSARY

Prenuptials urged to prevent agunot

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO—Having a prenuptial agreement is the best way to prevent women from becoming agunot, according to Rabbi Mordechai Willig, a rosh yeshiva at Yeshiva University and spiritual leader of Young Israel of Riverdale.

Rabbi Willig, therefore, is urging rabbinical organizations to encourage their members to insist on preparing an agreement when a couple marries.

Rabbi Willig was speaking at Beth Jacob Synagogue at a lecture co-sponsored by the synagogue and Canadian Friends of Yeshiva University.

He explained that a couple would sign an agreement stating that if the marriage broke down, they would each go to a particular, mutually acceptable beit din (rabbinical court) for arbitration. If they were not living together, the husband would have to pay the wife one gold coin a week, until the beit din solved the issues.

While the rabbi acknowledged that this method, the source of which is an ancient document that he found, is not an absolute guarantee that a woman will not become an agunah, it at least lowers the chances, he said.

Rabbi Willig said that there are more agunot than there used to be, partly because there are more divorces, and because in modern society the community has no way to demand that a man give his wife a *get*.

The rabbi left no doubt about how serious he considers the agunah's problem. She is unable to remarry until her husband gives her a Jewish divorce, and if she does choose to remarry, any children she has will be *mamzerim*, unable to marry anyone except another *mamzer* or a convert.

"The Talmud says that if a person saves one life, it is as if they established a whole world. How much more so is that the case when [ensuring that a woman receives a get] making a dead-end life full of potential?"

(The fact that a man and woman are not married does not make a child illegitimate in Jewish law, provided there are no impediments to the couple marrying if they choose to.)

He added that although he does not believe that there are as many agunot as are reported in the press, "even one is too many."

Another solution to the problem is annulment of the marriage. While annulment is usually thought of as a Roman Catholic proviso, it is possible in certain limited cases, such as mistaken identity, severe illness, impotency, homosexuality, psychosis, or conversion to another religion, he said.

However, all these problems must have manifested themselves before the marriage, said Rabbi Willig, quoting the late scholar Rabbi Moshe Feinstein.

An organization in New York, Beit Din L'Bayot Agunot, has expanded the concept of annulment to include such things as psychological abuse, sadism (which includes refusing to give a *get*, according to them), even if they don't show up until after the marriage.

The organization also assumes that if a woman had realized that a husband cannot be physically forced to give a *get* in America, and that a woman is, technically speaking, "acquired" in a Jewish marriage, she would have never agreed to the marriage.

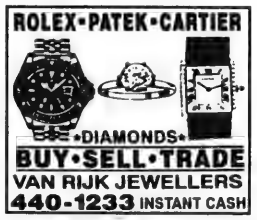
Rabbi Willig called this reasoning "specious," saying that it is hard to imagine women these days not being aware of what the situation is.

In European society before the 18th century, it was not too difficult to employ sanctions to persuade a man to give a *get*. If, for instance, a man was forbidden to receive synagogue honors, there either was no other place he could go to daven, or any other synagogue would be nearby and would cooperate.

In modern society, people can simply move to another place where they are not known, and carry on with their lives.

In reply to a question from the audience, he said civil courts that insist on religious issues being dealt with before a divorce is granted are not the answer, because "if there is no property involved, or no children, what can the court do?"

Other suggestions from the audience included posting a recalcitrant husband's name on the Internet, encouraging non-observant Jews to have civil marriages instead of religious ones, and more activism by community members, and communal and rabbinical leaders.



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For information about wheelchair and walker rental and service, call Joe Medeiros (416) 785-2500, ext. 2498

Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care

Jewish education system

Continued from page 14

which independent schools such as our Jewish day schools could maintain their independence vis-a-vis the Judaic curricula, and become associate members of a local public school board in relation to secular education and financial accountability. To this day, there has never been an official government response to the *Shapiro Report*.

At a time when charitable dollars within the Jewish community must be stretched to meet the needs of a rapidly aging population and to assist the vulnerable, the right afforded to at least one other religious group in this province to have their children educated within the religious faith of their choice must be granted to the Jewish community and to all others who can meet the appropriate Ministry of Education standards.

With a clearer understanding, it is our hope that Rabbi Pachino will join the vast majority of our community in our continuing efforts to advocate for government funding of independent schools which is equal to the public and Roman Catholic systems. The time has come to right this historical wrong.

Keith Landy is chair of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region; Joseph Steiner is president of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, March 8, is deadline for March 18 issue, and Monday, March 15, is deadline for March 25. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Thursday, March 4

A NIGHT FOR WOMEN

Violence Against Women is the theme of the talk sponsored by Jewish Student Federation of York University, 7 p.m. at the Body Shop, 2656 Yonge St. 736-5178.

Saturday, March 6

SHABBAT OF LEARNING

Adath Israel Sisterhood and Brotherhood sponsor the 4th annual Shabbat of Learning. **Prof. Irving Abella** speaks on Canadian Jewry/Jewish Continuity during morning services.

LAS VEGAS NIGHT

Adath Israel Brotherhood presents Las Vegas Night '99, dancing, entertainment, Blackjack, silent auction, mystery envelope, 8 p.m. Proceeds go to the synagogue's Accessibility project. 635-5340.

Sunday, March 7

HABONIM BREAKFAST

Concert artist **Lenya Lichtenberg** presents a program of Hebrew and Yiddish songs at the Habonim Breakfast Club, 10 a.m., Beth Habonim, 5 Glen Park Ave.

JWI INSTALLATION

Jewish Women International of Toronto Installation of Officers, 10:30 a.m., Richmond Hill Country Club, 8905 Bathurst St. Outgoing president **Noreen Shelson** and her executive are honored for their year of service and **Beverley Mandel** and her executive are installed.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Feminist Book Discussion Group, North York Chapter, Older Women's Network discusses *Three Masquerades* by **Marilyn Waring** 2 p.m., Barbara Frum Library. **Ruth Goldsmith** 782-6414.

JERUSALEM FELLOWSHIPS

Jerusalem Fellowships Information Night to learn about the 4-week tour for people ages 19-29, 8 p.m., 949 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill. 905-764-1818, ext. 225.

YUJJIES LECTURE

Kolel: A Centre for Liberal Learning YUJJIES lecture, Challenges and Changes for Jewish Men Today, with **Rabbi Shawn Zevit** 7:30 p.m., Indigo Café, 2300 Yonge St. 905-709-1900, ext. 222.

STUDY PROGRAM

Jewish Education - The Next Generation with **Elliott Malamet**, 12:30 p.m. at Bloor Jewish Community Centre. Presented by Downtown Jewish Learning Council, Downtown Jewish Community School and Bloor JCC. 924-6211.

AFTERNOON CONCERT

Koffler Centre of the Arts and Du-Maurier concert with pianist **Francine Kay**, violinist **Erika Raum**, and cellist **Kristine Bogyo**, 3 p.m., Leah Posluns Theatre. $10, seniors/students $8. 636-1880, ext. 231.

Monday, March 8

BAKING MAVEN

Temple Sinai Sisterhood baking demonstration features baking maven **Marcy Goldman**, author of *A Treasury of Jewish Holiday Baking* , 7:30 p.m. Please bring non-perishable food item for food bank.

DIABETES AND PASSOVER

Canadian Diabetes Association Jewish Diabetes Chapter meeting topic, Diabetes: A Healthy, Enjoyable Passover, with dietician **Risa Vandersluis**, 8 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. **Esther Schwartz** 782-2176 or **Shirley Glatt** 225-1989.

Tuesday, March 9

CJN ROUNDTABLE

The public is invited to the 2nd *CJN* Roundtable Discussion on after bar and bat mitzvah: developine Jewish Life, 7:30 p.m., The Sephardic Kehila Centre, 7026 Bathurst St.

Continued on page 21

Local kids spar in friendly Bible contest

Eight teams from five supplementary schools participate

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — On a recent Sunday morning eight teams of students from five supplementary schools in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) sparred in the local Bible contest.

The event, sponsored by UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education (BJE), was held at Netivot HaTorah Hebrew Day School in Thornhill.

Forty contestants, ranging from grades 5 to 8, participated in the Bible contest, which tested their knowledge on Genesis.

Some 50 spectators – many from downtown Toronto and some from as far away as Mississauga – made the trek to Thornhill to support the teams.

The participating schools were Beth Tikvah Synagogue School, Holy Blossom Temple Religious School, Temple Kol Ami Religious School, Bet Sefer Solel and the Downtown Jewish Community School (DJCS), which fielded four teams.

Joyce Levine, director of interschool programming at the BJE, was pleased with the results of the contest because all the students did well, she said.

While Beth Tikvah came first for the fourth consecutive year, Levine noted that the scores were very close among the top three teams. The DJCS and Holy Blossom were second and third consecutively.

Referring to the four consecutive wins for Beth Tikvah, Rabbi Jeremiah Unterman, the BJE's executive director, called the team "the New York Yankees of Torah," but he was quick to point out that all the participants were winners.

"It's important that you decided to take it upon yourself to study," Rabbi Unterman said. "This is not a question of winning or losing... It's about how much knowledge you have gained about your heritage."

The members of the Beth Tikvah team were Erica Rosenfield, Abby Goldberg, Jeffrey Heifetz, and brothers Adam and Josh Silver. Abby Brown coached the team.

Brown was thrilled with the win, she said. "I thought it was really exciting. The kids were enthusiastic. They really did well in the oral and written parts."

Samuel Kapustin, principal of Beth Tikvah said he was proud of the students. The win was "a matter of hard work and dedication."

He commended the coach, but stressed that most of the work is done at home.

The local Bible contest was held on the same day as the preliminary written exams for the regional Bible contest.

More than 200 children in the GTA – both day and supplementary school students – along with additional participants across Canada, took the written test. They were all qualifying for the national contest which takes place in Montreal in April.

Grades 5 and 6 are tested on Genesis, but the scope of the test material increases with the students' age: grades 7 and 8 students learn Joshua as well as Genesis, while students in grades 9 to OAC are tested on those books, as well as Isaiah, Amos and the Psalms, Levine noted.

She said another oral contest – an elimination round for grades 5 and 6 day school students – is to take place on March 14 at Netivot Hatorah.

She expects approximately 80 students from the GTA to compete in the national Bible contest in Montreal in May. The grand prize winner will represent Canada in the international Bible competition to be held in Israel.

Beth Tikvah School won the local Bible contest. From left, coach Abby Brown, Erica Rosenfield, Adam Silver, Josh Silver, Jeffrey Heifetz, Abby Goldberg and principal Samuel Kapustin. [B. Silverstein photo]

What's New

Continued from page 20

Wednesday, March 10

ISRAEL'S SECURITY

Prof. Shai Feldman of Tel Aviv University lectures on Israel Security: An Agenda for the New Government, 8 p.m., Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. Presented by Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University, B'nai Brith Institute for International Affairs, and Beth Emeth.

ATTACKING ARTHRITIS

Mount Sinai Hospital, Jewish Women's Federation and Bathurst Jewish Centre seminar 7:30-9:30 p.m., Leah Posluns Theatre. Mount Sinai experts discuss theories, research, lifestyle issues. Moderator CTV health reporter **Avis Favro**.

PASSOVER AND EASTER

Scenes of Passover and Easter, or Munching and Brunching with Christians and Jews, a humorous, entertaining play looking at issues often arising during the holidays, 7:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation. Presented by Christian-Jewish Dialogue. Reserve. 598-4242.

MAGEN DAVID ADOM

Toronto Chapter, Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel, a fundraising arm of Magen David Adom, board meeting, 7 p.m., 788 Marlee Ave. **Keith Landry** and **Bernie Farber** are now honorary directors. **Cheryl** 780-0343.

Thursday, March 11

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Mount Sinai Hospital and The Toronto Hospital present a Celebration of Women's Achievements, 7 - 10 p.m., Mount Sinai Hospital, 18th floor. **Judy Rebick,** past president, National Action Committee on the Status of Women, speaks on Beyond Breaking the Silence. RSVP **Liz Moore** 586-4800, ext. 2640.

REUNION

Canadian Volunteers for Israel/SAR-El, reunion, 7:30 p.m., 788 Marlee Ave. Speaker, entertainment, fun.

PILLAR OF FIRE

A history of Israel's rebirth from 1898-1948, Chapter XIX, introduction and commentary by **David Goldberg**, 7:30 p.m., Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue. 633-5500 or 633-3988.

YIDDISH SONGS

Yiddish Songs of Love and Courtship, a musical presentation by **Naomi Bell**, 2 p.m., Forest Hill Place, 645 Castlefield Ave. **Marlene** or **Susan** 785-1511.

And What Else Is New

SHABBAT ACROSS CANADA

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue's participation in Shabbat Across Canada Friday, March 12 includes services 6:10 p.m. followed by Shabbat dinner. Adults $18, children $10. Paid reservations by March 8. 633-3838.

OUT OF THE COLD

Beth Sholom Synagogue and the Hesed Committee Out of the Cold, A Discussion:

Saturday, March 6: Shabbat sermon by **Frieda Muscovitch,** founding chair of Holy Blossom's Out of the Cold program, followed by luncheon. Reserve 783-6103.

Sunday, March 7: breakfast following morning services. Video followed by discussion with Frieda Muscovitch, **Evadne Wilkinson, Areh Cohen**. Donation of new or slightly used clothing accepted.

BETH TZEDEC WEEKEND

Men's Club and Sisterhood Weekend March 12, 13, 14. Featured guest **Susan Berrin**, editor of *Sh'ma: A Journal of Jewish Responsibility* .

Friday, March 12: Shabbat dinner to mark Shabbat Across Canada following Kabbalat Shabbat service at 6 p.m. Topic, Following Our Dreams: From BC to Boston.

Shabbat, March 13: From the pulpit, Blessing the New Moon Adds Blessings to Our Lives. Mincha 5:40 p.m., Seudah Shelissheet, havdalah, melaveh malka, musical program.

Sunday, March 14: Service 9 a.m., breakfast 9:30, lecture at 10. Topic: Pathways to Integrity -Jewish Views on Growing Older.

Reserve for Shabbat dinner and melaveh malka by March 10, **Florence** 781-3511, ext. 10.

VINTAGE FILM FESTIVAL

Vintage Film Festival at Leah Posluns Theatre opens Saturday, March 6, 8:30 p.m.with *Notorious,* and continues Sunday, March 14, *Double Indemnity* 1 p.m. and *Witness for the Prosecution* 3 p.m.; Sunday, March 21, *All About Eve* 1 p.m. and *Now Voyager* 3 p.m.; Sunday, April 11, *Random Harvest,* 1 p.m. and *Lost Horizon* 3 p.m. Tickets 636-1880, ext. 0.

PASSOVER HAGGADAH

Rabbi Moshe Stern's classes on the Passover Haggadah, Tuesdays, 9 p.m., March 9, 16, 23, 30 at Shaarei Tefillah Congregation. Men and women invited. 787-1631.

NEWMARKET NEWS

Or Hadash Synagogue, Reform congregation, marks Shabbat Across Canada, Friday, March 12 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Dinner at Newmarket Community Centre. Tickets **Rhonda** 905-895-2777.

LEARN TO SPEAK YIDDISH

New adult Yiddish conversation classes, all levels, at locations all across Toronto including new downtown location and Thornhill. Evening and day classes, Sunday-Thursday, 10 weeks beginning week of April 11. Yiddish Hotline 635-2883, ext. 150. Children's beginners' Yiddish classes offered also.

CONGREGATIONAL SEDER

Beth Tzedec Congregational seder, Thursday, April 1 (2nd night Pesach), 7:45 p.m. led by **Cantor Tobi** and **Sara Gabriel**. Reserve **Florence** 781-3511.

WOMEN'S HEALTH ISSUES

Holy Blossom Temple Sisterhood lecture on Women's Health Issues, Depression Over Women's Life Cycle Monday, March 15, 8 p.m., with **Dr. Gail Robinson**, director of Program in Women's Mental Health-Toronto Hospital.

DANCE PLUS '99

Koffler Centre of the Arts summer experience in the performing arts for ages 8-14 years - Dance, Visual Art, Drama, Music, Production Workshops, Recreational Activities. 636-1880, ext. 273 or 339.

JF&CS WORKSHOPS

Jewish Family & Child Service, **Pat Lieberman** 638-7800, ext. 215.

Separation and Divorce Workshops: Adolescents and Divorce: A Trying Time, Wednesday, March 10, facilitator **Penny Appleton;** When Parents Separate: How to Deal With Life Cycle Events, Tuesday, March 9, facilitator **Beth Feffer.**

FOR SENIORS

Association of Jewish Seniors second seder, Thursday, April 1, 7:30 p.m. at Bernard Betel Centre, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. **Goldie** 635-2860 or the Centre 225-2112.

Beth Tzedec Seniors Haverim presents Galiano String Quartet, musicians from Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra, Monday, March 8, 1:30 p.m.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). March 4, video, comedy with **Moti Gilady;** March 6, Purim dance, call **Malka Colla** 630-5771; March 11, sing-along with **Mickey Lewin**; March 18, bingo; March 25, video. All activities in Hebrew, English and Yiddish. All 55+ are invited to join membership. **Jerry Bengall**, president, 905-707-7334.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: March 4, 1 p.m. Lifestyle Retirement Living; March 7, dance with live band; March 10, Casino Rama; March 15, *Dini Petty Show*; March 16, bingo resumes; March 17, Buffalo; March 28, dance with live band; May 5, Stage West *Fiddler on the Roof* ; May 23-25, Ottawa trip. 395-7881.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club Israel trip March 7-24; Aug. 25, morning cruise, matinee *Move Over Mrs. Markham* at Gryphon Theatre. **Lena** 785-5773. Golden Book donations go to Laniado Hospital in Israel. **Dorothy Bloomfield** 787-1526.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

Therapeutic Touch with **Florence Baum**, Tuesday, March 9, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hearing Aid Checkup with **Barry Katz,** Tuesday, March 9, 12:15 p.m.

Parkinson's Support Group, Chicken Soup for the Soul, inspirational stories and their impact on illness, Tuesday, March 9, 1:15 p.m.

Israeli Club Etrog meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. March 9 is a movie. **Anna.**

Movie, *Smilla's Sense of Snow*, Sunday, March 7, 2:30 p.m.

WAGMAN CENTRE

Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave. 785-2500.

Creating a Balcony Oasis gardening program, Session 2, Balcony Gardening, Monday, March 8, 2-3 p.m. **Mara Swartz** ext. 2275.

Wellness Education Group presents Financial Management for Seniors, with account executive **Michael Siskind,** Wednesday, March 17, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Registration ext. 2267.

Lunch & Learn Tuesday, March 23, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Speaker **Claudette Edgehill**. Purchase tickets by March 19.

Men's Service Group of Baycrest Centre Thursday Night Men's Club hosts a speaker on Jewish History March 11, and the director from Canadian Jewish Congress on March 25. 7-8 p.m.

Creative Writing spring session, Mondays 10 a.m. to noon for 10 weeks beginning March 22. **Mara Swartz** ext. 2275.

Intermediate Bridge lessons, Mondays 10 a.m. to noon for 10 weeks, beginning March 22. Mara Swartz.

Bereavement Group, a support group for older adults who have recently lost a spouse, meets alternate Friday mornings. **Paula David**, ext. 2271.

Second Generation Group: Aging Parents, Aging Children, a mutual aid group for adult children of Holocaust survivors. Paula David.

BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

Spring Craft Show, Sunday, March 21, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Registration is underway for March break Camps, March 15-19, kindergarten to 14 years.

Seniors Club: Thursday, March 11, 2 p.m., Stress and How it Relates to the Flow Inside Our Bodies, with **Karen Hill.** Reiki practitioner. **Judy**.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

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Greater Toronto Area

Zimriya music festival draws over 400 children

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — The voices of more than 400 children singing about the beauty of Israel recently filled the sanctuary of Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue.

The nachas of hundreds of family members on hand to watch their children perform was almost palpable.

Eleven schools participated in Zimriya 1999, the annual music festival of the day and supplementary Hebrew schools sponsored by the Board of Jewish Education (BJE) of UJA Federation.

The participating schools included She'arim Hebrew Day School, United Synagogue Day School (USDS), United Congregational Schools, Associated Hebrew Schools, Leo Baeck Day Schools, Downtown Jewish Community School, Beit Rayim Hebrew School, Netivot Hatorah Day School, Shaar Shalom Religious School and Bialik Hebrew Day School.

The festival was divided into afternoon and morning concerts. Both included performances by the festival choirs, which were made up of children from all participating schools. There was also a special presentation with students from the various schools conducted by Bryna Bruder.

BJE director of interschool programming Joyce Levine, coordinator of the zimriya, said everything went very smoothly and the performance was excellent "It went great. The kids were so excited. You could see it on their faces."

BJE executive director, Rabbi Jeremiah Unterman, told the audience that these Hebrew songs will remain with the children "all their lives," but he urged parents to reinforce the experience by sending their children to Jewish camps and on "quality trips to Israel. Let this not be just a dream that goes unfulfilled," he said.

Nella Koren, choir conductor for Bialik and USDS, also conducted the festival choirs. She said she rehearses all the parts of the festival choirs with schools individually and they come together for one joint rehearsal before the zimriya.

She noted that the children always sound best when they perform in front of an audience.

The festival choir songs were arranged by Doron Ophir, a driving force behind the zimriya for years.

Although Ophir moved back to Israel a year and a half ago, he still maintains a hand in the festival, compiling songs for the theme, and arranging the music for the festival choir, Levine said.

"Even though he is in Israel, he feels a connection to Toronto. He still wants to be part of the zimriya."

Stage manager of the zimriya, Shula Saltzman, senior educational consultant for Canadian Jewish Congress was pleased that everything went so well, she said.

She said that after months of hard work, the children did a "wonderful" job. She stressed that performing is a very important experience for the children.

"The kids did a great job. They sang beautifully. The parents enjoyed it. What more can you ask for?"

Matas urges Canada to help find Wallenberg

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The fate of Raoul Wallenberg is "locked behind closed doors," and the Canadian government has been asked to help find the truth.

Human rights activist David Matas of Winnipeg has asked Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy to sign a memorandum between Canada, Russia and Sweden to discover the fate of Wallenberg, who was made an honorary Canadian citizen in 1985.

Speaking recently to the Jewish Civil Rights Educational Foundation of Canada, Matas said Moscow is hiding information on Wallenberg in the same way it does on war crimes.

He has asked Axworthy to use Canadians researching war crimes in Russia to help discover what happened to Wallenberg.

"It would be a tragedy if nothing is done to learn the fate of Wallenberg, considering he saved 100,000 Jews," he said. "It would be a slap in the face of those he saved – more than any government did."

Wallenberg was dispatched to Budapest in 1944. Using fake Swedish passports, and persuading the Nazis to call off the destruction of Budapest's Jewish ghetto, he saved the lives of as many as 100,000 Jews.

He was arrested by the Soviets in 1945 and was never heard from again.

Matas said that a government grant of $5,000, and the official status that gave him, opened doors in Russia for him on a recent visit.

He said he had as hard a time in Sweden as he did in Russia in trying to learn details about what happened to the Swedish hero. He said he was mystified by the Swedish government's attitude.

"I don't know why we can't learn any more about Wallenberg's past before he went to Budapest than we can from Russia after his arrest in Budapest in 1945," he said.

Various stories have circulated, including that Wallenberg represented a firm that was trading with the enemy, and that he was not sent to help Jews but to pursue the business interests of his company, Matas said.

He said he can't understand why Wallenberg was the one Swedish national not exchanged with Russia after the war.

Russia says it doesn't know what happened to Wallenberg, which is unsatisfactory, Matas said.

"They have stopped claiming that he was killed in a car accident in Budapest or that he died after a heart attack in Lubianka prison in 1947, which were out and out lies."

Describing his fate as "unknown but knowable," Matas said if Wallenberg were alive today, he would be 86, and because of his medical history, he would be a patient in a mental hospital. Russia has conceded that Wallenberg suffered a breakdown in the gulag, he said.

"We know that Wallenberg was alive in 1947, but we don't know what happened after that. The Russians will only confirm real evidence that is confirmed through other sources."

It was not until 1957 that Russia admitted Wallenberg had been arrested on the orders of Marshal Nikolai Bulganin, the number 2 man in the country.

Matas said his research has shown that Wallenberg was recruited by the U.S. Office of Strategic Services, a forerunner of the CIA, under an American plan to save Jews.

"I do not believe Wallenberg was ever an American spy," Matas said. But, he added, the Soviets had legitimate reasons for arresting him because Wallenberg had had contact with the Nazis.

"It is possible that he was alive after 1947, even though the prison records don't show it. In Russia there was a system of secret prisoners identified only by number; even the jailers didn't know who they were."

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The CJN **encourages readers to direct any queries they may have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.**

Beth Tikvah Progressive Singles 35-55, invites you to attend a Lecture & Discussion: Sun., Mar 7 at 8pm. Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 3080 Bayview Ave. Guest Speaker Chana Sargon. Topic: "The Biblical Perspective" What Makes A Relationship Between Women and Men. Cost $5.00 - Refreshments. R.S.V.P. 416-221-3433, ext. 352.

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On Campus

Hillel and JCS get set to formalize relationship

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A recent visit by Jay Rubin, executive vice-president of Hillel, The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, marked the beginning of a process expected to result in a formalized relationship between Hillel and Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto (JCS).

In the past few years, Hillel has worked closely with JCS and treated it "as virtually a Hillel associate," providing grants and other benefits, Rubin told *The CJN*.

Hillel, which has a longtime presence in Vancouver and Montreal, is a 75-year-old international umbrella based in Washington, D.C., with affiliates as far afield as the former Soviet Union.

A number of smaller Canadian campus groups have worked with the organization through its Soref Initiative for Emerging Hillel Campuses. The project offers grants, programming resources and consulting services to campuses typically having fewer than 500 Jewish students, a category encompassing some 300 campuses in the United States and about 27 in Canada.

Rubin's two-day visit to Toronto, at the invitation of Zac Kaye, JCS executive director, included meetings with the staff of UJA Federation and the JCS board. The latter voted unanimously to seek affiliation with Hillel. Its request will be raised with Hillel's board next month.

Subject to Hillel accreditation, JCS will be able to avail itself of a wider variety of services from Washington and will also be "full participants in decision making," said Rubin.

Since the mid-1990s, there has been a formal relationship between Hillel and the campus committee of UIA Federations Canada.

Since 1990, when B'nai Brith Canada withdrew funding from what was then known as Hillel at the University of Toronto, there has been no formal affiliation here.

In 1995, when Kaye was hired, there was a restructuring of campus services in the city.

Over the past decade, said Rubin, Hillel has undergone its own renaissance. "It has become less of a club and more of an infrastructure."

The focus now is on connecting in a variety of Jewish areas – like theatre, community service and the different denominational movements – reflecting different interests of the Jewish student population, he added.

Typically, Hillels now have more and better trained staff, Rubin said.

He lauded Toronto's "supportive foundation, talented staff and great students [some of whom he's met at conferences]. They add a lot to the system."

He also mentioned being very interested in JCS' upcoming student arts festival (being held Mar. 7 to 9). To his knowledge, there is nothing similar on as comprehensive a scale.

KOSHER FOOD DRIVE

Ahavat Yisrael Hebrew School held its Third Annual Kosher Food Drive for the four Sundays in January. The food was donated to Tomchei Shabbat, a charitable organization in the Toronto area. Seen here helping load the food collected on one Sunday morning is grade seven student Alex Ross.

Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto

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Rabbi Irving Greenberg, *Post-Denominational Education*
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Dr. Michael Shire, *Nurturing the Spiritual Dimension*
Dr. Dvora Steinmetz, *Educating Women*

3:15 p.m. - Discussion Workshops with the panelists

The lectures will take place in the Vanier College Study Hall, Steeles Campus.

The Wolinsky Lectures are sponsored by the Centre for Jewish Studies, the Faculty of Arts, and the Faculty of Education of York University in cooperation with the Toronto Board of Jewish Education. **Inquiries: 736-5823**.

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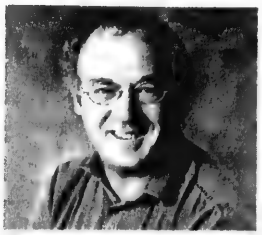


ישראל, חורף 99:

מערכת הבחירות התחילה בטונים גבוהים ובלתי נעימים. במשך שבוע שהייתי בארץ התרשמתי שהסיכוי של מפלגת העבודה והמרכז (שנוזלת כוחות כנראה בעיקר ממפלגת העבודה) להזיז את נתניהו אינו גדול. נתניהו עולה על ברק ומרדכי בהופעתו בטלביזיה, שזו בעצם כיום זירת הקרב הציבורי האמיתית. יכולתו להגיד חצי אמיתות במשפטים קצרים, מבלי שלצופה תהיה אפשרות לשמוע את כל הנושא- עולה על יכולתם של ברק ומרדכי. עברו הימים שבהם ההכרעות הפוליטיות קרו בכיכרות של ערים ועיירות פיתוח. כיום הכל תלוי ביכולת המועמד להזיז בשטח פעילים נאמנים (ובזה הליכוד עובד מצוין) ולהופיע היטב בטלביזיה (ובזה נתניהו הינו אשף). שני הדברים גם יחד אין להם ולא כלום עם האמת: תהליך השלום הופסק, בישראל יש מיתון כבד והקופה הציבורית נשדדת לאור יום על ידי הדתיים. מבחינתנו, הישראלים של צפון אמריקה, יש למערכת הבחירות הזו סממן חדש: מספר לא מבוטל של ישראלים בעלי יכולת הודיעו שבנינוד לעבר הם יתרמו ויתרימו כדי לנסות להביא לשינוי השלטון. מפלגת המרכז מחזרת אחרי הקהל הזה בגלוי. ליצחק מרדכי, מנהיג מפלגת המרכז, יש חברים בעלי אמצעים באה"ב והוא נסע לפגוש אותם. בהחלט שינוי ניכר מהימים של "נפולת נמושות". אבל שיישאר בינינו.

"אותו הים":

זהו ספר חדש של עמוס עוז, והוא צופן בתוכו הפתעה מרעישה, שאותה אגלה לכם, מפאת חוסר מקום, בעוד שבועיים.

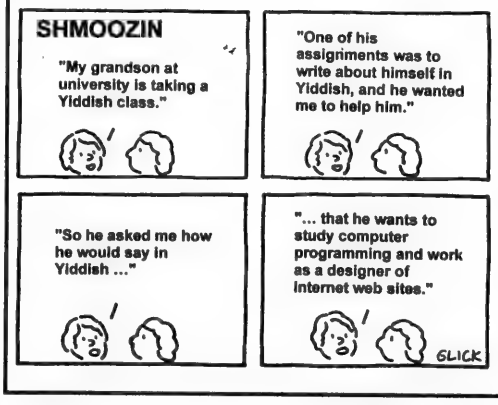
רק כדי להביא חשק, הינה כמה שורות:

"כל שבת מביאים לי את הנכדים, אחת טלה אחד גדי, אחת קוראת לי טָתָה טי, אחד אוהב למרוט אותי. בליל שבת ישנים תמיד איתי משני צדדי במיטתי. אני שומרת על שניהם מחלום רע ומקרה, והם שניהם שומרים אותי מבדידותי וממותי."

אנא כורדי:

מנהיג מחתרת כורדי נתפס על ידי התורכים. הכורדים, שפזורים כמו יהודים בכל העולם, החליטו שהמוסד שותף בלכידתו של אוג'לן והם מתקיפים קונסוליות ישראליות. בברלין הם מצליחים להתגבר על שוטרים גרמניים ולהיכנס עם גרזנים לבניין הקונסוליה. מאבטח ישראלי בוגר סיירת צה"לית, עוצר אותם באקדחו לפני שהם מצליחים לחטוף את האקדח. הוא יורה כעשרים כדורים, ומהדו"ח הפתולוגי עולה שכולם כמעט פגעו במטרתם. עד כאן - סיפור בלתי נמנע של רינונשים עזים ומובנים. אבל הקטע המגעיל בא אחר כך: דוברת המחתרת הכורדית אומרת בהצהרה רשמית: " לא נשכח ולא נסלח על הטבח בברלין". אתם מבינים את זה? הטבח בברלין! לכורדים מותר להיכנס עם גרזנים לשגרירות ישראלית אבל כשמנסים לעצור אותם (בפנים יש אנשי קונסוליה) - זה טבח.

אפרופו המוסד: ראש המוסד הכחיש את השתתפות ישראל. גם אם המוסד השתתף- הוא חייב להכחיש וטוב שעשה כך. כללית - בכלל לא מזיק שכורדים, ערבים ושאר מניפי גרזנים שונאי ישראל יחשבו שהמוסד הישראלי נמצא בכל מקום. הגנה עצמית מתחילה קודם כל במה שהשונאים שלך חושבים שתעשה ואיך הם חושבים שתגיב. אבל שישאר בינינו.


SHMOOZIN
"My grandson at university is taking a Yiddish class."
"One of his assigriments was to write about himself in Yiddish, and he wanted me to help him."
"So he asked me how he would say in Yiddish ..."
"... that he wants to study computer programming and work as a designer of internet web sites."
GLICK

Coast to Coast

Montreal Jewish school gets $3.4 million bequest

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Jewish Peoples Schools and Peretz Schools (JPPS) recently was the recipient of perhaps the largest bequest ever left at one time to a local Jewish school – $3.4 million.

But delighted school officials have no choice but to stay mum about who left the windfall. They only know it came from an anonymous South American who passed away last year.

"Needless to say, we're delighted," said JPPS executive director Merle Frankel in an interview.

The details surrounding the bequest were as serendipitous as they were sudden.

Frankel told *The CJN* that in June of last year, , a former JPPS president living in Israel — Danny Kingstone — was visiting Geneva, Switzerland on private business on behalf of a client.

During a meeting with bankers there, he was asked, as a former member of Montreal's Jewish community, whether he had any knowledge of, "a school where Yiddish was taught and where a man named Shloime Wiseman had been principal."

Well, he did indeed, and one month later Frankel, accompanied by JPPS honorary vice-president Sidney Shapiro, were themselves on their way to Switzerland with the school charter in hand as proof for bank executors that JPPS was the school the donor was referring to in his will.

The school received the funds by mid-January.

Just why an anonymous man from South America would decide to leave JPPS a small fortune remains something of a mystery.

But Frankel does recollect that many years ago Wiseman, one of JPPS's most distinguished figures (he co-founded the school and served as principal there for over 50 years), had met a South American in Israel, who engaged him in conversation.

She said that upon his return, Wiseman, who died about a decade ago, told her about this encounter, and "mentioned to me the possibility that the school might get some money some day," but so many years passed that Frankel never really thought about it.

The only word to describe the school's reaction when it got the news was, "shock," she said.

The bequest did come with certain conditions attached.

Frankel said that the funds cannot and were not intended to be used to reduce tuition fees. JPPS's annual operating budget is about $10 million, with average fees of $3,800 at the elementary school level, and $4,500 at the high school level.

Proceeds from the bequest must be used exclusively to establish a foundation in Wiseman's name that will promote four specific goals: the study and use of the Yiddish language and culture; the love and appreciation of Israel; a pluralistic approach to Judaism; and study of the Holocaust.

While those goals, in a sense, have always been within the traditional mandate of JPPS, Frankel said interest from the funds — the capital will remain intact — will allow the school to greatly enhance the Jewish portion of its curriculum through innovative and experimental programs.

"We'll be able to try new things," she said. "It will make the school a more interesting, exciting place."

A committee has been struck so that proceeds from the new bequest can be used as expeditiously and as judiciously as possible, she said.

"This new fund will enable us to bring new and exciting learning experiences to our students," JPPS president Lawrence Rudner said.

Ottawa Israelis celebrate

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — You can take the Israelis out of Israel, but you just can't take Israel out of the Israelis. That was the consensus of more than 300 Israelis, friends and relatives who got together to enjoy An Israeli Happening, held recently at Agudath Israel Congregation.

The event was co-sponsored by the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (JCC), the Embassy of Israel and the Israel Experience Centre.

Hagit Goldfarb, the Israeli shlichah, was thrilled with the turnout. "The goal of the evening was to get Israelis together. Many don't come out to other activities in the Jewish community. For the non-Israelis, the evening was intended as a sample of Israeli culture, through its music, dance and food."

The music of Shimon Peer of New York, kept the crowd dancing horas and other modern Israeli folk dances for hours, stopping only for trips to the buffet table.

Chen Ivri, consul at the Embassy of Israel, brought greetings on behalf of Israeli ambassador David Sultan who was unable to attend. The aliyah shaliach for the region, Benzion Sela, travelled from Montreal to address the crowd.

Phyllis Leith, one of the event's organizers, called it "a wonderful gathering of two communities, the Israelis and Canadians, in an atmosphere of celebration."

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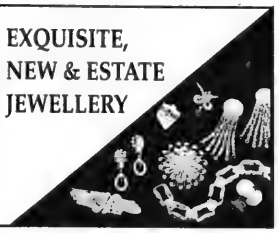

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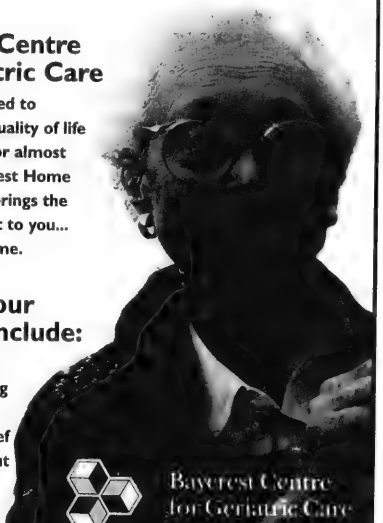

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Tryout Schedule

Boys' Basketball	Sun. Mar.21 & 28 8:00pm-10:00pm
Girls' Basketball	Sun. Mar.21 & 28 6:00pm-8:00pm
Boys' Soccer	Thurs. Mar.4 8:00pm-10:30pm Wed. Mar.10 7:30pm-10:30pm
Boys' Volleyball	Sun. Mar.7 & 14 8:00pm-9:30pm
Girls' Volleyball	Sun. Mar.7 & 14 6:00pm-7:30pm
Meetings: Karate, Swimming, Tennis, Track (Boys' & Girls')	Sun. Mar.7 10:00am-11:00am
Meetings: Boys' Baseball, Girls' Softball	Sun. Mar.7 11:00am-12:00pm
Meeting: Boys' & Girls' Golf	Tues. Mar.9 7:00pm-8:00pm

Since the maximum Toronto contingent is 100 athletes, it is possible that some of the above sports or gender/age groups may not be represented at the Games. Not withstanding a fair tryout format, the final decision for inclusion on the team is at the discretion of the coaches and committee.

There is a one time $ 5.00 administration fee for tryouts and/or meetings.

Visit our web site at: www.bjc.on.ca or www.bloorjcc.on.ca

All tryouts and meetings take place at the Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst Street (416)636-1880 ext.#374

Coast to Coast

Ontario Tory poll angers Thornhill residents

Continued from page 3

been dealt with."

In a written statement, Molinari said she was "appalled that such questions would be asked on any survey, and I am embarrassed that I would be associated with such activities." She said she was "not aware that any of these questions were being asked on any survey, and was very disappointed to learn of them."

She said she has instructed her campaign not to receive the results of the survey, "as I do not wish to have any part of it."

She also apologized to CJC and to any individuals hurt by the questions.

Ronen, for his part, said the whole episode was "an insult to the Jewish community.

"Tomorrow, it could be the Sikh community."

He said he doesn't believe the poll was commissioned without someone in the party having reviewed the questions.

Among those polled was Lisa Naiken, a 32-year-old Thornhill resident who said she was "very uncomfortable" with the questions.

She said the survey began innocently enough, with questions about how voters regard Harris and others.

Then came the two queries about a candidate's Jewish background.

"I asked them for their phone number, but they didn't give it," Naiken told *The CJN*. "I told them I refuse to answer anymore questions."

Naiken insists that the question she was asked was not whether she would vote for the son of a Holocaust survivor, but whether she would vote for the son of someone who survived Auschwitz.

"I'm absolutely certain of that. I wrote it down." The question left her "feeling awful for a long time."

Ronen's father, Mordechai, is an Auschwitz survivor. Last month, he accompanied Prime Minister Jean Chrétien on a high-profile visit to the former death camp.

Canadian Voter Contact was one of the provincial Tories' main pollsters, and had also provided data to organizers of the recent United Alternative conference, which explored the possible merger of the federal Conservatives and the Reform party.

Mykytyshn was recently described as "the new polling guru of Canada's right wing."

Over the weekend, the CJC received a letter of apology from Mykytyshn. *The CJN*'s calls to Mykytyshn were not returned.

Dan Ronen

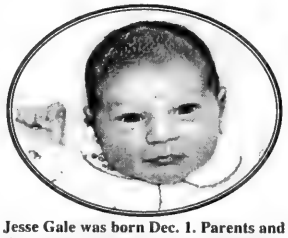
[Stephen Epstein photo]

מזל טוב

Mazel Tov

We cannot guarantee the date a picture will appear. Please limit all greetings to 25 typewritten words. We reserve the right to edit all items and condense any that are longer than that.

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to *The CJN*, Mazel Tov, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, Ont., M3B 3K4.



Jesse Gale was born Dec. 1. Parents and sister are Josh, Maxine, Sydney Schulman. Grandparents Irving & Henna Pomeranz, Jo-Ann Nelson, Neil & Marci Schulman.

Baby Moshe Yosef Menachem Balofsky; mother, Ahuva; grandfather Dr. Aaron Jesin; great-grandmother Basia Jesin; great-great-grandmother Sonia Slawin.

Andrea & Paul and sister Abigail introduce Simon Isaac (Shimon Yitzak) Skosowski, born Dec. 6. Grandparents are Benny & Glenda David.

Meirav & Irwin Meisels and sister Lauren announce the birth of Eden, Aug. 11. Grandparents are Devora & Meir Rottem and Ruth & Isak Meisels.

Mazel tov Elise Goodman on her bat mitzvah: parents Ruth & Larry, brother Brandon, grandparents Leib & Marcie Schwartzberg, Flora & Sydney Rosenfield.

Mazel tov to Robert Rae and Kathryn Cromwell on their engagement. From parents Lynn & Robert Rae, Larry & Suzanne Sachnowitz, James & Jane Cromwell.

Sharon, daughter of Helen & Frank Juhasz, and Michael, son of Myrna & Saul Korman, were recently married at Beth Emeth Synagogue.

Mazel tov and good health to Molly & John Kramer on your 60th wedding anniversary. With love, your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren.

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Israel conveys its thanks to Montreal police

Continued from page 1

26th floor of the CIBC Development Corp. building at 1155 René Lévesque Blvd. W. – was controlled by Montreal Urban Community (MUC) police.

About 100 Kurds, some of whom carried crowbars, projectiles, and Molotov cocktails hidden in baby strollers, tried to storm the building during their protest.

Some broke through the entrance, but were repelled by RCMP officers stationed inside.

Outside, MUC riot police were able to isolate the group in the middle of the street, but one undercover police officer suffered a severe eye injury – he ultimately lost the eye – after a rock was thrown at him, possibly by a teenager.

According to news reports, some protesters also chanted slogans like, "Israel terrorists. Police fascists. Long live Kurdistan."

There were a total of 16 arrests, but all but four were released last week. They have been charged with multiple counts of assault and with rioting.

According to Hassid, consular officials learned of the 11 a.m. protest earlier in the morning, after being contacted by local police.

"Of course it is upsetting," he said. "No one likes to see violence. But Israel has no quarrel with the Kurds. It is part of the world-wide phenomenon taking place."

100 Kurds stormed consulate

Sharon also said in his statement that, "Israel has long-standing friendly relations with the Kurdish people, and has no connection whatsoever in the Ocalan affair.

"Israel will not tolerate harm to its missions or citizens anywhere in the world, and will defend them from terrorism and violence by any means necessary, in coordination with local authorities."

Hassid said that he had no information that Kurds planned any further protests outside the building housing the Israeli consulate.

He said it was contrary to government policy to comment on whether any measures were being put into place to tighten security at the consulate.

Police seek public's help

TORONTO — The Toronto Police Sexual Assault Squad is asking for the assistance of the media and the public with the continuing investigation of Stephen Miles, who has been charged with sexual assault.

Miles is self-employed and operates a company known as Best By Miles Cleaning.

The accused was hired by his victims to clean their residences. While cleaning the victims' homes, it is alleged that he administered a drug that rendered them unconscious and then sexually assaulted the victims.

Anyone who has any information concerning the charges or anyone who may have been in similar circumstances is encouraged to contact Detective Gary Stafford #6031 or Detective Constable Sue Crone #6823 of the Sexual Assault Squad at 808-7474 or Crime Stoppers at 222-TIPS.

Anguish to Hope

A Mission to
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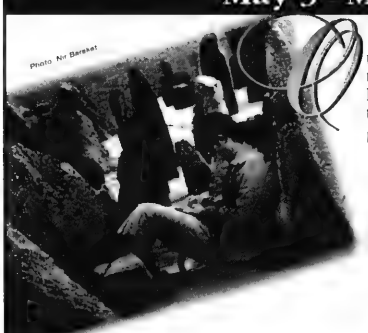
May 3 - May 23, 1999



In the eve of the new millennium, join sixty Canadian university students on their journey from Anguish to Hope, as they experience the despair of eastern Europe's death camps, and the joy and promise of the land of Israel.

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- *Tour the remains of Jewish Warsaw, Krakow and Lublin.*

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- *Float in the Dead Sea.*
- *Relax in the waters of the Judaean Desert oasis at Ein Gedi.*
- *Hike in the Golan Heights.*
- *Spend a night at a Bedouin Camp under the desert stars.*
- *Celebrate the holiday of Shavuot with thousands of Jews at the Western Wall.*
- *Visit the major sites in the Upper and Lower Galilee.*
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Scene in Ottawa

By G. K. SIMCOE

Moguls may be a desirable feature on the ski slopes of Whistler, B.C., but Prime Minister Jean Chrétien had a far bumpier ride than he anticipated when Parliament returned from its most recent recess.

Day after day, Opposition MPs lambasted the prime minister for his failure to attend the funeral of Jordan's King Hussein.

Canadians now know more about flight paths, cruising speeds and Department of National Defence (DND) flight readiness protocols than most Air Force cadets, but they are no wiser about what really prevented the PM from joining more than 40 other heads of government in Jordan to pay their last respects to the Hashemite monarch. As is so often the case, Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition missed the real story.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) committed three serious errors, and while the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and DND chief, General Maurice Baril, have borne the brunt of the initial public outcry, you can be sure that DFAIT officials will be riding a few moguls of their own as this story slips from public view.

First, it appears that officials did not provide the PMO with a clear indication of which foreign leaders were planning to participate in the funeral. In point of fact, Chrétien has a good track record regarding attendance at similar events in the past. Given Canada's warm relationship with Jordan, it is likely that the prime minister was simply not advised of the international political weight that would gather to bid the king farewell.

Second, neither the desk officer in Ottawa nor the Canadian mission in Amman thought to advise the PMO about the scant interval in Muslim tradition between death and burial. The PMO assumed that the state funeral would take place several days after the king's demise, as is the common practice in the west.

Finally, after having lost the opportunity to arrange for Chrétien's presence at the funeral, DFAIT officials at Pearson blew the PM's chance at redemption when they failed to reach out to the Canadian Jordanian community.

The one domestic mandate entrusted to Foreign Affairs concerns the maintenance of contact with Canadian groups with special interests or ties to other countries. Chrétien could have spent one day offering support and comfort to the Jordanian community in, say, Toronto.

Wings are certain to be clipped.

G. K. Simcoe is a pseudonym. The author is a veteran observer of political life in Ottawa.

Paul Martin to address Windsor Negev dinner

By MOURA WOLPERT
CJN Correspondent

WINDSOR — This year's honoree at the Windsor Jewish National Fund Negev (JNF) Tribute dinner, to be held June 1, is an example of the immigrant's dream come true.

Peter Toldo, a Windsor industrialist and philanthropist, rose from factory worker to owner of a manufacturing empire. He now employs over 1,000 people, most of them in the greater Windsor area.

Born in 1925 in the Veneto region of Italy, Toldo came to Canada in 1934 with his mother and sister to join their father.

He attended school in Windsor, and graduated in machine shop in 1945. His first job was with the Olsonite Company, a manufacturer of bathroom fittings, where he rose to become manager of the company's Windsor and Detroit plants.

In 1964, Toldo started his own bathroom fittings company, Telso, and sold it to Olsonite two years later, but retained responsibility for its management.

He resigned in 1980 and formed Centoco Manufacturing, a tool and die business.

Eventually, his business expanded into enterprises ranging from the design and manufacture of food related products, to executive air charter services and airport design.

Toldo has supported cultural, educational and social organizations and agencies, including the JNF.

Toldo and his wife, Josephine, have a son and daughter, and four grandchildren.

Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin, a personal friend of Toldo, will be the keynote speaker.

The dinner will be co-chaired by lawyer Pat Ducharme and Judge Carl Yalev, tribute chair and past president of Windsor JNF. Past Windsor JNF president William Tepperman, will present the citation.

The public is invited to attend

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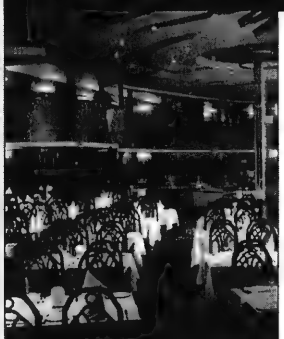

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Netanyahu meets with King Abdullah

By DAVID MAKOVSKY
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

AMMAN — Israel and Jordan have smoothed over a diplomatic flap.

Tension between the two countries developed as a result of statements questioning the permanence of Jordan's peace with Israel, which were attributed to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

"The prime minister and myself, I think, have clarified the whole thing," Jordan's Prime Minister Fayez al-Tarawneh said at a joint press conference at Basman Palace.

Tarawneh's statement followed two hours of talks between Netanyahu and King Abdullah and various senior Jordanian officials.

Abdullah did not participate in the joint press conference, apparently because he is new in the job. Tarawneh and Netanyahu seemed somewhat stiff at the conference, which was overshadowed by reports about the deaths of four Israelis who were killed in Lebanon.

In terms of his impression of the new Jordanian king, Netanyahu said: "I was very much impressed with his leadership and with the fact that he is continuing very clearly the policies of the late King Hussein, the policies of peace and stability," he said.

"I think he is a wise leader, an able leader of a stable country, and one that has stable, strong, durable relations with Israel."

Asked if other Israeli prime ministerial candidates would be welcome in Jordan, Tarawneh said that his country would not initiate contact, but that officials are welcome.

Sunday's gathering began with Netanyahu and Abdullah meeting privately. They were later joined by Sharon and Tarawneh. Afterward senior officials from both sides joined in for lunch.

Given the transition in Jordan, there was considerable interest on the Israeli side as to who the Jordanian participants would be. Prince Hassan, who was present at every high-level talk with Israel since the 1994 peace treaty, was not in attendance.

Regarding general bilateral issues, Netanyahu said he believed that Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon would be effective "in cutting through the bureaucracy" and resolving issues related to trade. Tarawneh promised to give Sharon a list of Jordanian trade complaints.

Netanyahu said there would be talks "in a matter of days" to promote trade.

Bilateral trade is at a modest level of $42 million.

Israel's exports to the territories are a different matter. They amount to $1.8 billion, while Jordan with $22 million in exports, has about one percent of that sum.

When Jordan complained about the limits Israel places on its exports to the West Bank, Israeli participants explained that the Palestinian Authority (PA) is responsible for restrictions on Jordanian goods.

According to Israeli representatives, Jordan asked that its bilateral projects with Israel not be subject to the freeze in Israeli-Palestinian relations.

When Jordan complained about water shortages, Sharon said that he was almost ready to ask the European Union (EU) for $500 million in assistance for joint projects. Until now, the EU has required that Israel, Jordan and the PA first develop joint plans for water usage.

Jordan also asked Israel, as a "gesture," to release 40 Palestinian security prisoners who have Jordanian citizenship. When Sharon noted that Israel would not release prisoners who are accomplices to murder, Tarawneh said he is not asking that those individuals be released.

A few months ago, Jordan asked that doctors be allowed to visit its prisoners in Israeli jails. Sharon agreed to the request, but the Jordanian doctors union later said it was boycotting Israel.

Sharon said that Israel would not accept an alternative proposal of allowing PA doctors to visit prisoners with Jordanian passports.

PA slams Israel for closing territories

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Palestinian Authority (PA)Planning Minister Nabil Sha'ath Sunday criticized Israel's decision to impose a full closure on the territories, calling it "an aggressive and unjust action that constitutes a violation of the peace process."

He also said Israel has never arrested a Palestinian with a valid work permit on suspicion of attempted terrorist activity – meaning that the closure "punishes the innocent" by keeping permit-holders home from work.

According to Shlomo Dror, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, about 100,000 Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip – out of a total population of approximately 2.5 million Palestinians – are allowed to enter Israel under routine, non-hermetic closures.

He added that Israel had decided not to use the "continuous employment" program it has used in the past, which grants permit holders immunity from closures.

He said the program was not needed because the closure was expected to remain in effect only through the end of Purim.

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British spy named as Righteous Gentile

By DOUGLAS DAVIS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LONDON — The Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem has given the title of Righteous Among Nations to a wartime British spy who helped save at least 10,000 Jews.

The call to recognize Frank Foley posthumously was made by Britain's Holocaust Educational Trust after the publication of a book, *Foley: the Spy Who Saved 10,000 Jews,* about his exploits, which included hiding Jews hunted by the Gestapo, helping people find false passports and even visiting concentration camps to rescue other Nazi victims.

Foley, a senior British intelligence officer in Germany in the years leading up to World War II, was head of the British Passport Office in Berlin.

Foley did not have diplomatic immunity and could have been arrested at any time for his activity, much of which was conducted without authorization from his superiors back home.

A Yad Vashem official said Foley's efforts had been known for years, but he could not be officially recognized because the museum had no eyewitness accounts of his actions.

British Jewish leader Lord Janner, chair of the Holocaust Educational Trust, welcomed the decision.

Foley's niece, Patricia Dunstan, said the family was very proud: "I think it is absolutely marvelous that he has been given the award. He certainly deserved it."

Israeli general killed in Hezbollah ambush

Continued from page 1

At the press conference, Defence Minister Moshe Arens pointed out that two Katyushas hit moshav Margaliyyot overnight, a clear sign of Hezbollah violations of the Grapes of Wrath agreements, which Arens had sharply criticized in media interviews over the weekend.

Northern Command chief Maj.-Gen. Gaby Ashkenazi said that in last week's ambush of the paratroopers reconnaissance unit in which three officers were killed, as well as in Sunday's land mine, he saw "a clear case of escalation that requires response."

The question that arose immediately after the explosion was: Did the Hezbollah have advance knowledge about the movement of the convoy and the identity of the people who were riding in it?

Hezbollah, addressing the matter in television broadcasts Sunday, claimed the answer was yes on both counts.

Officials at the IDF Northern Command admitted that they were deeply concerned about the question, but said it was impossible to answer it unequivocally at this stage. Hezbollah is known to have collected considerable information about the movement of IDF forces in the security zone.

The number of routes through the area – especially for vehicles – is limited. The locations of the IDF and South Lebanon Army (SLA) outposts are well known to the guerrilla organizations. Travel is always done in convoys, which are relatively easy to spot, though the convoy hit yesterday included civilian Mercedes vehicles that stand out less than military ones.

Brig. Gen. Erez Gerstein

Most of the roads at the edge of the security zone are under Hezbollah surveillance. Perhaps the most significant factor of all is that the IDF and SLA know that many of the residents of the security zone cooperate with Hezbollah and pass on information about military activities.

Meanwhile, in Washington, U.S. spokespersons Sunday urged Israel, Lebanon and Syria to show maximum restraint.

National Security Council spokesperson, P.J. Crowley, said the United States was concerned about the increase in armed conflicts between Hezbollah guerrillas and Israeli troops.

"We have communicated today to the governments of Israel, Lebanon and Syria our concern over this increased activity in southern Lebanon," Crowley said.

In Tel Aviv Sunday night, sources said Arens had been in touch with the United States to report on both the land mine incident and Israel's response.

The events highlighted growing opposition to Israel's presence in south Lebanon. Labor MK Yossi Beilin pointed out that in less than three years, more IDF soldiers had been killed in Lebanon than in all the previous years since Israel began withdrawing from Lebanon in 1986.

Arens asked the United States to ask Syria to restrain Hezbollah attacks against northern Israel or there will be an escalation in hostilities, government sources said. The sources say Arens did not spell out what sort of escalation might occur, but in weekend interviews, Arens suggested that Israel could hurt Syrian interests in Lebanon if that's what it would take to end Damascus' support for Hezbollah.

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Israel Election Notebook

May 17

• Moderate members of the National Religious Party (NRP) fared well in the primary to determine the party's list of candidates in the May elections for the Knesset. Knesset Member Hanan Porat, considered a leading party hawk, placed 11th and is not expected to win a Knesset seat.

The leader of the list is still Education Minister Yitzhak Levy, followed by Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom.

The NRP is expected to ask its supporters to vote for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the election for prime minister.

Later in the week, some NRP members sought to have Porat elevated to a realistically attainable spot on the party list.

Porat seemed to reject the idea. He is also considering offers from other right-wing parties.

• The Labor party was reported to be close to completion of its "One Israel" slate of candidates. The list is said to include David Levy's Gesher party and the moderately religious Meimad movement.

Still to be resolved was the controversy over Shlomo Lahiani, a Bat Yam businessmen who established the party, Dor Hadash (New Generation), earlier in the week and who would like Labor to give him a safe seat on its list. He and his supporters say they would bring Labor 5,000 votes at least.

• Yisrael b'Aliyah leader Natan Sharansky introduced his party's list to the media. Sharansky hopes to win 15 seats in the upcoming election. The party won six seats in 1996.

Natan Sharansky

Yuli Edelshtein

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The Week in Israel

Feb. 22

• Three army officers were killed and five soldiers were wounded when Hezbollah gunmen ambushed their patrol in southern Lebanon. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the deaths a "very, very bitter blow" to Israel. He demanded that Syria put an end to the Hezbollah attacks.

Feb. 23

• The Knesset legalized a pirate radio station operated by right-wing settlers. The station, Arutz 7, has broadcast from a ship off Israel's coast for the past 10 years. The station had been investigated by the police and was found to have been broadcasting illegally from within the country.

Feb. 24

• The Jerusalem religious council failed to meet for a third consecutive time, after the High Court of Justice ordered it to convene with Conservative and Reform representatives. The council's haredi members have been boycotting the meetings, prompting the council's head to cancel the sessions because of a lack of quorum.

Feb. 25

• The Supreme Court ruled that an 18-year-old Maryland youth could not be extradited to the United States to face murder charges. Samuel Sheinbaum will be tried in Israel instead. The case appears to have strained relations between the United States and Israel.

• Police prevented Peace Now activists from demonstrating at the grave of Baruch Goldstein on the fifth anniversary of the day he killed 29 Palestinian worshippers in Hebron.

Feb. 26

• IDF soldiers killed three Hezbollah gunmen in south Lebanon.

• Netanyahu told students at Bar-Ilan University that "any solution to Lebanon must go through Syria. There are various different ways to achieve this, either using a deterrence profile, or through diplomatic negotiations, or by a combination of several factors and means that will enable us to leave Lebanon."

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Election too close to call

Mideast Analysis

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

The forthcoming Israeli general election is too close to call, primarily because the new centre party, led by Yitzhak Mordechai, the former defence minister and the first Sephardi candidate for prime minister, is the wild card in the deck.

Mordechai and his chief allies, Dan Meridor, Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and Roni Milo, may win more Knesset seats than is generally expected and thus score a stunning coup in the May 17 election. If the centre party is as successful as Yigael Yadin's Democratic Movement for Change was in the 1977 election, it might well end up holding the balance of power and determining the shape of Israel's next government.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the incumbent prime minister, has derisively described the centre party as "a passing phenomenon." He may be right. The Democratic Movement for Change, which had 15 seats, proved to be a great disappointment and eventually disappeared from the scene.

Netanyahu, however, should be worried by the emergence of a reconstituted centre party. Virtually all its leading personalities have been personally burned by Netanyahu, and now seek vengeance.

"Our purpose is to overthrow the government of Benjamin Netanyahu," declared Milo, the former mayor of Tel Aviv. As for Mordechai, he reportedly told associates that he will "overturn every stone" to defeat Netanyahu, who unceremoniously fired him.

In this grudge match, Netanyahu is clearly vulnerable. He has broken with powerful colleagues – from Meridor, who was forced out of the cabinet, to Benny Begin, who resigned as science minister to protest the 1997 Hebron accord. And Netanyahu has alienated a significant proportion of his constituents in the Orthodox, Sephardi and Russian communities.

Netanyahu labors under two distinct disadvantages. First, he has a reputation as a divisive, arrogant, double-dealing schemer who is simply untrustworthy. Second, he must contend with the perception, all too common among his followers and his coalition partners, that he is either too eager or too unwilling to relinquish territory in the West Bank to the Palestinians.

In trying to keep critics at both ends of the ideological spectrum at bay, Netanyahu – who has given the Oslo peace process merely grudging support – usually steered a middle course. By doing so, he antagonized many of his backers. Last October's Wye Memorandum was probably his downfall.

At one point, shortly after the dissolution of his government in December, four rivals seemed poised to run against him: Ehud Olmert, the mayor of Jerusalem; Limor Livnat, the communications minister; Ariel Sharon, the foreign minister; and Uzi Landau, chair of the Knesset's foreign affairs and defence committee.

For various reasons, they left the field open to Netanyahu's disillusioned mentor, Moshe Arens. But after Arens was trounced by Netanyahu in the Likud primary, he meekly joined his government as defence minister, a position he had twice previously held.

With 2½ months remaining until Israelis go to the polls, Netanyahu, his bluster notwithstanding, is running scared. In almost every poll, he trails behind Ehud Barak, the Labor party leader, and Mordechai. In all probability, he will be a one-term premier.

In his bid to unseat Netanyahu, Barak, the ex-chief of staff, has appealed to the grievances of Sephardis and Russians, the majority of whom voted for the Likud, among other parties, in 1996. Barak, therefore, has gone out of his way to address issues – the economy and immigrant absorption – dear to the hearts of the Sephardi and Russian electorate.

Nevertheless, the chances are good that the centre party will siphon away a significant number of votes, not only from Labor but from Likud. In the last election, which Netanyahu won by the skin of his teeth, Labor and Likud captured 34 and 32 seats, respectively.

They may not be as lucky come May.

Yitzhak Mordechai is "crowned" by his supporters during a recent campaign swing in Jerusalem. [Israel Sun photo]

Sharansky looks back on his past

By LEV KRICHEVSKY
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

MOSCOW — Natan Sharansky got a rare chance last week to review 20-year-old KGB documents relating to his activities on behalf of Russian Jewry.

Heading a trade delegation on a two-day trip to Moscow, Sharansky, Israel's minister of industry and trade, met with Vladimir Putin, head of the Federal Security Service, the successor to the Soviet-era KGB.

During that meeting, Putin showed Sharansky his KGB dossier – some 52 volumes of documents – including papers relating to his arrest and conviction in 1977 on charges of spying for the United States.

Putin gave some of the documents to Sharansky, who spent nine years in Soviet prisons as a result of his campaign for Jewish emigration rights in the Soviet Union during the 1970s.

Sharansky later said he was impressed to see all the piles of documents – and the one piece of paper certifying that he was "rehabilitated" less than a decade ago, under then-Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev.

Two years ago, during his first trip to Russia as a member of the Israeli cabinet, Sharansky was denied access to the KGB documents.

Sharansky said the documents contained "so much grudge, so much bitterness."

But just the same, he found reason for optimism in the fact that this page of his personal history – and that of his native land – now belonged to the past.

"Where today are all those investigators? Where is the KGB?" he asked in a television interview.

Seeing just what KGB had on him

This was Sharansky's third visit to Moscow since 1997, when he visited the Lefortovo Prison where he had spent 18 months in isolation.

The official part of his latest visit focused on three issues: economic cooperation between Israel and Russia, Russia's nuclear assistance to Iran, and the recent growth of Russian anti-Semitism.

In a meeting with Putin, Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov and Interior Minister Sergei Stepashin, Sharansky discussed Israeli concerns about the physical safety of the Russian Jewish community.

Sharansky asked them whether they believed that recent anti-Semitic statements by members of the Russian Parliament could lead to pogroms.

"They agreed that such a danger exists, at least purely theoretically," Sharansky said later, adding that his Russian hosts had assured him that they were closely monitoring the situation.

In another meeting about Russia's nuclear cooperation with Iran, Sharansky suggested that Israel and the West should attempt to get Russian scientists involved in international research projects so that Russian strategic interests would follow those of the West instead of Iran.

Last week, Sharansky was greeted by some 500 members of the Moscow Jewish community, who packed the Moscow House of Cinema to see the former Prisoner of Zion.

Years after his release from a Soviet gulag, many in the audience still viewed Sharansky as a hero.

"He was among those people who made democracy in this country possible," Sima Landau, a retired librarian, said, echoing the view of many here.

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NURSERY RHYMES PROVIDED THE THEME
Students from Netivot Hatorah enjoyed themselves immensely and indulged their more creative sides recently a the school's annual Arts and Crafts Day. [Rebecca Ansel photo]

'Crazy and wonderful things happen at Purim'

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

For most Jews, Purim is one of their favorite holidays. Who doesn't enjoy having the chance to make lots of noise in shul, dress up in costumes and eat all those yummy hamantaschen?

A lot of kids get together with their friends and their sisters and brothers and put on plays that tell the story of Purim. They have great fun pretending to be the beautiful Esther, brave Mordecai, and especially the evil Haman. My children used to like to be Vashti and paint spots all over their faces.

In *Purim Play*, Frannie, her brother Ezra and their two cousins always put on a play during their family Purim party. But one Purim, we learn in the book by Roni Schotter, illustrated by Marylin Hafner (Little, Brown, 1998), the cousins have the flu and can't come.

Ezra's friend David will help out, provided he can play Achashverosh, and Ezra will play Mordecai. Frannie, of course, is Esther, but who will play Haman?

As if that isn't bad enough, their mother tells them that she has invited Mrs. Teplitsky, an elderly widow who lives up the street, to come to the party and suggests that she play Haman.

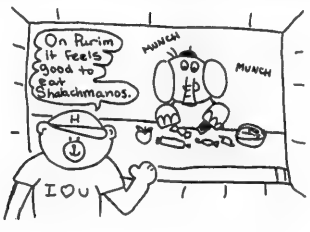
Frannie and Ezra are very upset. Not only is Mrs. Teplitsky a grown-up (and an old one), but she is a woman. How can she possibly play Haman?

Well, as Papa says, "Who can tell? Crazy and wonderful things happen, especially at Purim."

Mrs. Teplitsky, you see, used to be an actress, and she makes a really scary Haman. It turns out she can also be a friend to Frannie, who has been feeling lonely.

You really feel the excitement of a Purim party, and can almost taste Mama's famous "bet-you-can't-eat-just-one" apricot-orange hamantaschen.

CHUBBY + HOTDOG By: Alyssa Guttman



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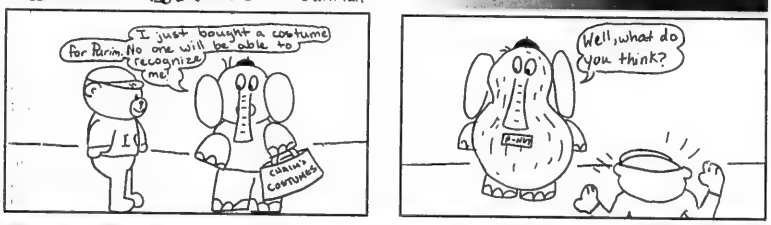
Grade Five Temple Sinai families participate regularly in Family Education programming, funded in part, by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. This recent discussion focused on random acts of kindness. It was followed by a film entitled For Goodness Sake.

CHUBBY + HOTDOG By: Alyssa Guttman



PRACTISING TO LEND A HAND

Schoolchildren near Tel Aviv practise their first aid techniques. In times of emergency, everyone lends a hand, even youngsters, to the civil defense teams that are organized in each neighborhood. [Israel photo]

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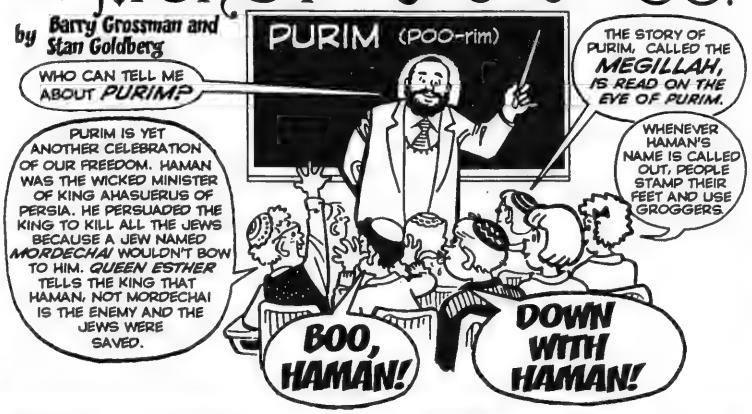
by Barry Grossman and Stan Goldberg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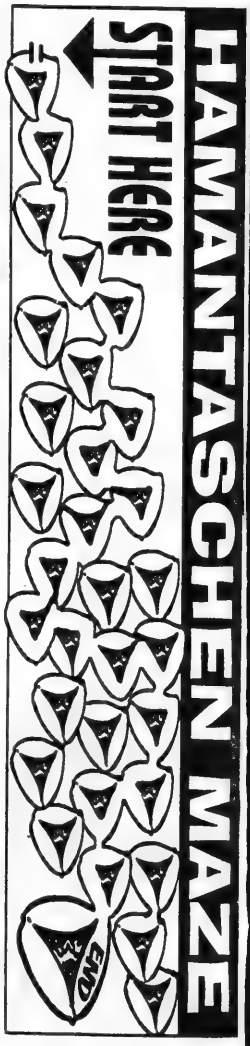

Cancellation of popular radio show doesn't mean the end for duo

By JOSEPH SERGE
Business Editor

TORONTO — Their popular radio show may have just been cancelled, but you won't find Marty and Avrum crying in their soup.

In fact, they're about to launch their own soup line to go along with their Marty and Avrum Eat Here line of pretzels and ice cream.

Hosts of the popular Sunday morning food show on Talk 640 since September 1995, Marty Galin and Avrum Rosensweig recently were the first let go when new management and a change of format took over the station.

"That's not unusual in radio," Rosensweig said. "Somebody once told us, 'you're not anybody unless you get fired a couple of times.' It was very hard for us because we did such a good job with it."

"The show was very popular," Galin said. "We always had sponsors and we literally brought in $350,000 in business to the station." The worst part for them, Galin said, was the suddeness and the lack of closure. "We appreciate all the calls we got. We never had a chance to say goodbye."

But Marty and Avrum aren't going anywhere yet. They're currently negotiating with a major television network to have a show similar to their radio program on TV across the country this fall, and plans are also underway to launch a syndicated radio show in the United States. All part of Marty and Avrum's plans to make their names – and their food lines – a household name.

What began last year with a line of fresh-baked kosher pretzels, has since developed into their own line of Metropolitan ice cream sorbet, and by this spring expect to see Marty & Avrum Eat Here soups and cheese cakes.

They insist that cancelling their radio show won't get in the way of their plans for global domination.

"Our products have taken on a life of their own," Galin said. "We're having meetings for U.S. distribution, and participating in the Fine Food Show this April."

All their food products, currently only available in Ontario, are kosher.

"We're both Jewish," Galin said, "and I know there's a niche out there for kosher food. Plus a lot of my friends are Orthodox and we wanted them to be able to taste our products."

It's also a great marketing strategy. "Kosher is very hot and growing all the time," Rosensweig said. "There's a perception [among non-Jews] that Kosher is healthier and cleaner. Also, the kosher market has become very creative."

Together with Metropolitan, they are now launching their line of Metropolitan kosher for Passover sorbet.

"Metropolitan appreciates the Jewish business our ice cream gets, and wants to give back to the community," Galin said. "We're coming out with a kosher for Passover line of banana sorbet and strawberry kiwi orange. You get a litre for the price of half a litre."

Marty Galin (left) and Avrum Rosensweig are set to launch their kosher for Passover Metropolitan ice cream sorbet.

After the success of their pretzels, Metropolitan Ice Cream which has been producing all natural ice creams since 1984, was interested in co-labelling an ice cream with the duo. The two developed a fruity sorbet they called Tropical Passion. "They say it's one of their best sellers," Galin said. "We're now developing Chocolate Sunrise – a chocolate, tangerine flavor." Metropolitan is under the COR certification.

The soups they're working on with a local restaurateur are a "hybrid of Jewish and Italian recipes," Rosensweig said. "They're very tasty."

They will include a hot and sour chicken base soup, a vegetarian curry soup, a bean and vegetable soup and a sweet potato soup. The cheesecakes currently in development are black forest, blueberry and plain. They're also planning a kosher snack food.

"We will never do a product we don't like," Galin said. "When you put your name to something, you have a responsibility to your buyers."

Always a part of the Jewish community here – Rosensweig, a former fundraiser for the United Jewish Appeal, founded Ve'Ahavta, a locally based charity that amongst other things, organizes a Jewish Mobile Response team for the homeless – the duo recently helped raise $10,000 for the kids charity Toronto Breakfast Club. "A percentage of our soup sales will go to the breakfast club. We also want to find a product where all the receipts will go back to the community."

Fans can rest assured their new television show will carry on the same format of their radio show: witty banter combined with serious talk about their favorite subject – food.

Over the past three years they've done a live Passover seder, a native Pow Wow, and hosted an engagement and a wedding.

"We actually brought in a priest and did the whole ceremony in the lobby of the radio station," Rosensweig said.

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Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

AFTERNOON CONCERT AT LEAH POSLUNS THEATRE

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* * *

A Canadian in New York: If you are an occasional reader of the English-language *Forward*, you may have seen the byline of **Douglas Century**. Born in Calgary, Century is a contributing editor to the *Forward* and the author of a new book, *Street Kingdom: Five Years Inside the Franklin Avenue Posse*.

In *Street Kingdom*, Century writes of his experience exploring the colorful and dangerous underworld of Crown Heights, the Brooklyn neighborhood known for its chassidic and black populations, the not infrequent clashes of these two groups, and a high crime rate. For five years, Century hung out with members of the Franklin Avenue Posse, an African-American rap group and street gang.

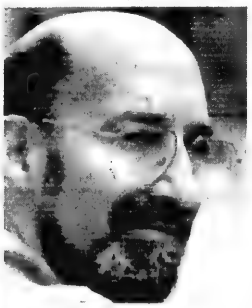
"Call it voyeurism – compulsion, lunacy – but something was driving me forward, forcing me to see it with my own eyes," he writes of his intense desire to explore this underground culture.

Century's first book received a good review in the *Forward*. Reviewer Janice Eidus called it compelling, riveting and fascinating. (Warner, $25 US.)

* * *

Women Only, Please: The organization, Women in Film and Television – Toronto (WIFT-T), is calling for submissions to a competition for an original script for a half-hour television movie. The prize is $5,000. Deadline March 11. For details, contact Greg Payne, 322-3430, ext. 9.

* * *



William Shookhoff

Arts Briefs

• Opera York is presenting an abridged concert version of **Puccini's** *Madama Butterfly* March 6 at the Famee Furlane, 7065 Islington Ave. (at Steeles) in Woodbridge.

The production stars soprano **Stephanie Piercey**, tenor **Stephen Harland**, baritone **Igor Emilianov** and mezzo **Nancy De Long**. **William Shookhoff** is the artistic and music director.

The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with a reception and Italian dinner. For tickets and information 469-0086 or 905-851-1166.

• Bloor JCC presents a public reading of *The Pear is Ripe*, a new historical drama by **Shirley Barrie**, as part of a celebration of International Women's Week, March 8, 7 p.m. at the Bloor JCC 750 Spadina Ave.

Set in Paris and Egypt, *The Pear is Ripe* follows **Suzanne Volquin's** struggle for truth inside a visionary movement that believed technology and equality would pave the way for a new future.

The reading is part of the Bloor JCC Between Stages Reading Series. Free. 924-6211.

• The Workmen's Circle presents the 18th Yiddishland Cafe evening entitled Abi Gezunt! March 14 at 7:30 p.m, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Performers are singer **Michael Smolash**, musician **Brian Katz** and clarinetist **Martin Van De Ven**.

They will present a program of old favorites from the Yiddish musical theatre repertoire. $12 in advance, $15 at the door. 635-0720, 787-2081.

• **Tibetan Buddhist Monks** from the Drikung Kagyu Institute in northern India will perform at Massey Hall March 6 at 7:30 p.m.

The 17 monks are on a world peace tour called The Mystical Music & Dance of Tibet Tour, presented with the blessing of the Dalai Lama. Tickets $20, $25, $30. 872-4255.

• Upstart Crow's contemporary adaptation of **Anton Chekhov's** *The Seagull* opens March 10 and runs thru March 27 at The Lab, 8 Britain St., Toronto. 410-2186.

• *Grease*, the musical, comes to the Hummingbird Centre for five performances only, March 19 thru 21. $39-$72. 872-2262.

• *Man Is A Woman*, a film by **Jean-Jacques Zilbermann**, is a romantic comedy featuring Simon, a gay young man, and Rosalie, who is keeping herself pure while she waits for the man of her dreams. Opens at Cineplex cinemas on March 26.

• Rising stars of salon music, **Quartetto Gelato** bring their virtuosity and show-stopping fun to the Markham Theatre in late March. 905-305-7469.

* * *

Names In The News

• **Liona Boyd**, Canada's first lady of classical guitar, performs solo at Roy Thomson Hall as part of a national tour. March 6, 8 p.m. $19.50-$34.50. 872-4255.

• Toronto theatre entrepreneurs **David** and **Ed Mirvish** have scored a coup in arranging a new production of the hit Broadway musical, *The Lion King*, to play at their Princess of Wales Theatre, beginning in April 2000. Group tickets now on sale. 593-4142.

• Bestselling romance novelist **Barbara Taylor Bradford** was in Toronto recently promoting a new novel, *A Sudden Change of Heart*. The book's theme involves the recovery of art stolen during the Holocaust.

• Acclaimed film director-producer **Steven Spielberg** has given $500,000 to the National Yiddish Book Centre in Amherst, Mass., to make Yiddish books available in CD-ROM format. According to plan, the books will also be accessible through the Internet. Look for the first volumes sometime next year.

Knowledge helps you make sound investment decisions, women told

CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — In one of every three households in North America today, women are taking control of investment decisions, says Miranda Koffski, the national sales manager for the Women in the Know program of TD Asset Management, a wholly-owned subsidiary of TD Bank.

Speaking at a financial seminar sponsored by the New Leadership Division and Women's Division, State of Israel Bonds, Koffski explained that the reasons TD created the Women in the Know program included the recognition that women live longer than men, that women have not reached wage parity, and that few women have an adequate company pension.

She stressed the importance of educating oneself on investing. Professional investment managers can take care of the details, but individuals must have the knowledge to make confident decisions on where to invest their money.

The three stages of investing are: setting your objectives and lifestyle goals, planning your strategies, and implementing and monitoring your program, she said.

She recommended diversification, because, she said, it is difficult to know "where exactly we are in the business cycle" and to pick investments accordingly.

Koffski stressed the importance of preparing a will, reviewing disability and other insurance needs, and being familiar with inheritance laws.

Shelley Nesbitt, an investment advisor with Nesbitt Burns and a member of the board of State of Israel Bonds, discussed the advantages of purchasing Israel Bonds.

She cited the high Standard & Poors rating of State of Israel Bonds, "and Israel's unblemished record of repayment."

She said Bonds can be purchased with RRSP funds or by making a contribution to one's RRSP with an existing Bond.

Dodi Weill, vice-chair of North America State of Israel Bonds announced that through the efforts of Larry Waller, executive vice-president of Canadian Israel Securities, in March Israel Bonds will be launching a $136 (Cdn) Chai Certificate, which matures for $180 in five years and is issued in Canadian currency.

"This new product is a perfect gift and a perfect way to bond the next generation to the State of Israel," said Weill.

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The Governess and Passover Fever now on video

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

The past few months have seen a virtual flood of Jewish films being released on video, and that outpouring continues well into March and April.

One film that fits the Jewish definition perfectly is *The Governess*, which arrived in video stores in early February.

First let me give a short warning. *The Governess* contains some very explicit sexual scenes and nudity so it may not be to everyone's taste.

But the film does have several redeeming qualities, including a strong performance by Minnie Driver in the feature role. Driver plays Rosina Da Silva, the eldest daughter of a Sephardi family living in London, England in the 1840s.

When Rosina's father is killed and the family is left destitute, she secures a job as a governess to a wealthy family on the remote Isle of Skye. To obtain this position, Rosina changes her name to Mary Blackchurch and takes on a new identity as a devout Christian.

While on the island, Rosina assists the husband in his scientific experiments and eventually begins a torrid affair with him. This eventually forces her to leave the job and return to her family in London.

One of the important points this film makes, espeically at a time when increasing numbers of young Jews are becoming more assimilated, is Rosina's refusal to forsake her traditions and her religion. Within the privacy of her own room, she lights Sabbath candles and even celebrates Passover. At a time of deep personal turmoil, Rosina never strays from her people or her heritage.

The Governess gives Minnie Driver her first opportunity to headline a film. She is backed by an excellent cast including Tom Wilkinson of *The Full Monty*, Harriet Walter, Jonathan Rhys-Myers and Florence Hoath.

One of the best elements in this

Gila Almagor

film is the hauntingly beautiful score composed by Edward Shearman, using several Ladino melodies as a basis for his music.

Another film scheduled to arrive on video in early March is the Israeli feature, *Passover Fever.*

Gila Almagor plays Yona, the matriarch of the family, and veteran actor Yossef Shiloah plays her husband Michael. Although everything on the surface seems festive, each member of the family is dealing with his or her own demons.

Casting a pall on the proceedings, is the fact that one son was recently killed in a military accident. Another son, Nathaniel, is trying to get even with his ex-wife for divorcing him and comes with his current girlfriend, although he knows his ex-wife will be present. Another son has an eating disorder, and another son's wife is overweight and very sensitive about her appearance.

A granddaughter has refused to speak for two years and a grandson insists it is going to snow – in Israel. It is indeed a strange family, made even stranger by Yona's suspicion that her husband is having an affair. Throughout this turmoil, Yona remains strong and insistent that the family be together for the holiday.

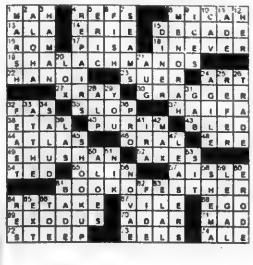
Almagor gives a tremendous performance, fully justifying her reputation as Israel's leading actress, and the rest of the cast is also very strong. If *Passover Fever* has any shortcomings it is in the script which often stretches credulity to the limit.

Passover Fever is in Hebrew with English subtitles and is being distributed by Mongrel Media. If your favorite video store does not carry this title, they can order a copy from Mongrel at 516-9775.

CORRECTION

In a review of a March 3 TV documentary on Michele Landsberg (Feb. 25), we incorrectly stated that Landsberg's mother is in her 90s. In fact, she passed away some time ago. *CJN* regrets the error.

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



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A small world after all

By JEFF ROSEN
News Editor

ORLANDO — "It all started with a mouse."

I kept telling myself this during a recent family vacation to ever-popular Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

While this was by no means my first visit to the 28-year-old Florida vacation area, it has undergone numerous changes during my 10-year absence.

Since its opening in October 1971, Walt Disney World Resort has grown into a 30,500-acre entertainment and recreation centre consisting of four theme parks, three water adventure parks, 26 resort hotels, and other varied sports, commercial and recreational facilities.

If you are looking to really escape the rat race and get away from it all, the way to do it is to stay right at Disney World.

Walt Disney World offers a broad range of accommodations designed for every lifestyle and price range. By staying there, you can take full advantage of the resort's complimentary transportation system of monorail trains, motor coaches and boats, which connect virtually all areas of the vacation resort.

Staying on-site also allows guests to get an early morning head start to the theme parks on selected days.

Just be sure that all the facilities outlined in your travel brochure are up and fully functional before leaving home. The Yacht and Beach Club Resort, which boasts a 1.2 hectares mini-waterpark with water slide and whirlpool, is currently beachless and without its main pool area due to renovations. It will remain closed until approximately March 29.

Whether you choose to stay at Disney World or in the surrounding Orlando area, be sure to start early to avoid the always present line-ups and crowds.

Of the four theme parks – Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Disney-MGM and Animal Kingdom – the Magic Kingdom is the one most people associate with Walt Disney World. At one time its very name was synonymous with Disney World.

While this no longer holds true, the "magic" of Magic Kingdom remains, whether you are on your first visit or returning to see what has changed. It remains the largest of the four theme parks, consisting of 40 major attractions in seven theme lands on a 107-acre site.

Be prepared for a long day-visit here. However, to take in the time-less and varied new attractions, it is easier to just relax, slow down and return for a second day visit. This is especially true if you are travelling with children who want to explore every nook and cranny and visit every souvenir shop available.

Just a short hop away (actually a boat or bus ride for resort guests), Disney's "adopted child," MGM Studios, offers visitors a peek into the world of movie and TV magic.

Here you can go behind-the-scenes to see how they made popular movies such as *Armageddon* and *101 Dalmations*, take a backlot tour, or "take the ride of your life" on The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror or Star Tours which takes participants on an intergalactic voyage with R2D2 and C3P0 from the *Star Wars* universe.

If it's shows that you enjoy, then Disney-MGM Studios has your ticket, including the *Indiana Jones Epic Stunt Spectacular*, *Beauty and the Beast – Live on Stage*, *Voyage of the Little Mermaid* and, the newest of them all, *Fantasmic*, a spectacular featuring lights, lasers, fireworks and water animation.

This show takes you inside the dreams of Mickey Mouse – where his magic creates dancing waters, shooting comets, animated fountains, swirling stars, balls of fire and other wonders.

It takes place nightly at a newly constructed 6,500-seat amphitheater, which also has standing room for 2,500.

Despite its size though, guests are advised to arrive at least one hour before show time, as lineups start early and patrons are often turned away from the packed stadium.

Disney's Animal Kingdom may be the "baby" of the theme parks, but there is nothing small about it.

The Animal Kingdom sprawls across 500 acres which have been reconfigured into green jungles, forests and a vast savannah designed to resemble the animal reserves of Africa and Asia.

On Kilimanjario Safaris, passengers experience an African safari in vehicles that bounce over rutted roads, travel through swamps and pass herds of zebra, giraffe, gazelle, elephants and other animals.

More than just a show, Disney has taken great care to get the details right and to stress the importance of ecological conservation.

Afterwards, you can board a steam train to see how the park cares for its real animals.

Traditional Disney has not been abandoned though at The Animal Kingdom. There a couple of animatronic and musical shows available, as well as some wilder rides.

This month, Animal Kingdom will open two new attractions in its new Asia theme area.

The Kali River Rapids will offer a white-water rafting adventure, and Maharajah Jungle Trek offers a unique selection of animals, including the Komodo dragons, tigers, gibbons and other creatures.

If two-legged creatures are more your style, then be sure to head downtown – Downtown Disney that is.

This area is unlike any other found around the resort. It revolves around three theme areas. At the Marketplace, Disney's newly remodelled waterside shopping village has more than two dozen shops. At the other end, the West Side takes in the dining and entertainment district, including an all-new production of Cirque du Soleil, a 24-screen AMC theatre, the 100,000-square-foot interactive DisneyQuest and the House of Blues.

Situated between these two areas is Pleasure Island, a six-acre nightclub theme area, featuring seven nightclubs.

Whether big or small, young or old, Walt Disney World does offer something for all ages. I guess that's the real magic of the place; that despite its size, it really is a small world (after all).

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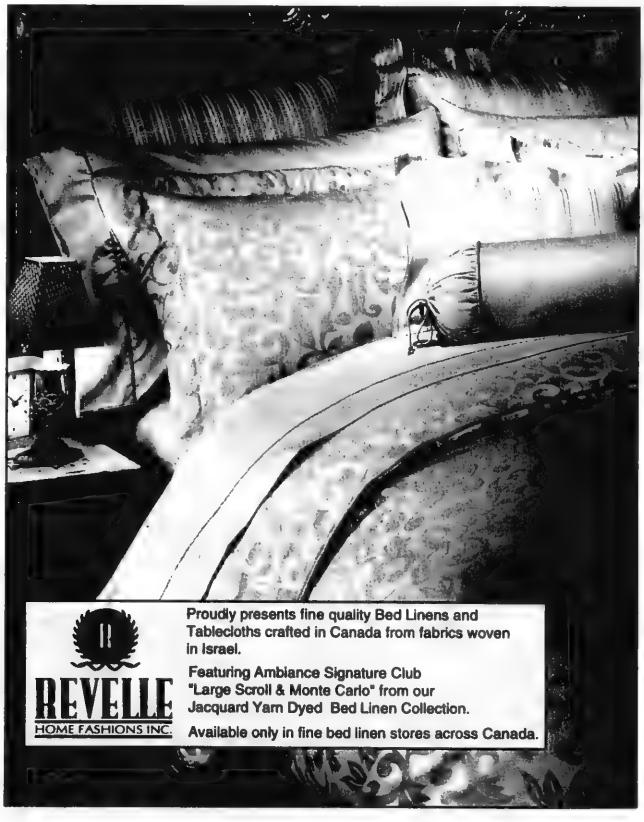

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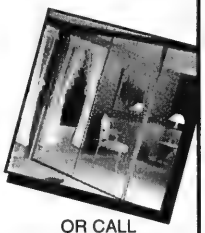

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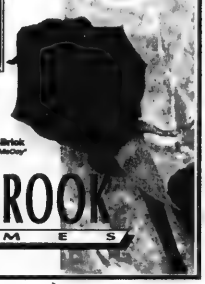

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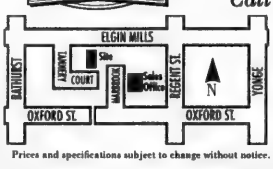

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Business Profile

Advisers help small businesses achieve success

By JAMES PASTERNAK
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — The small business sector represents the largest creator of new jobs, and is perhaps the fastest growing segment of the economy. It is often in these businesses that entrepreneurs create and develop new products and services for today's economy.

However, the small and medium-sized business sector also has a high failure rate.

One Statistics Canada study found that 80 percent of start-ups in the early 1980s did not make it to their 10th anniversary.

In an effort to address this high failure rate and to service the small business sector, consultants have emerged to provide guidance and advice to the sometimes rudderless small business owner.

This is the mandate of VenturEdge Corporation, a Toronto-based team of international business advisers that works in alliance with the chartered accountant firm of Prenick, Langer LLP. Management at the corporation has a total of 100 years of business experience.

VenturEdge which also has offices in New York and Florida, has assembled a team to provide small and medium-size businesses with the key management tools for success.

"We've taken the knowledge that was available to multi-national firms, used the criteria and benchmarks, and brought them down to the level of the small and medium-sized business," said partner Gerald Prenick.

The cornerstone of VenturEdge's approach is a classroom-style program for business owners. Each participant works in a group to design a corporate and personal objectives map.

"We run them through a school and we teach them. They haven't got the time, patience or money to be harangued for a long period of time. So we've created this model that we can deliver in a three- to five-day period. We've taken what's taught at the Harvard Business School and condensed it into modules," said Prenick.

The syllabus of objective mapping guides business owners through the following four questions: Where do you want to be in five years? What are the obstacles that stand in the way of achieving your objectives? What are the tasks to be carried out to overcome the obstacles? What resources are required to execute the tasks?

The sessions are given on a semi-monthly basis to five or six non-competing clients. The course fee is $1,500. A company may send more than one representative for the same course fee, which also includes a work book and coaching.

Building on the objectives map, businesses can be advised in such areas as strategic and tactical business planning, operations management, financial reorganization, international product sourcing, information technology management, quality assurance, organizational structuring and human resource management.

From left: Harvey Taraday, Morris Langer, Gerry Prenick and David Hui.

The principals of the company have been working out of the Sheppard Centre at Yonge and Sheppard for over 22 years. Recently, the firm expanded from the 18 staff members it had in 1998, to 22 members. It is expected that by the end of 2000, there will be 25 to 26 staff members at VenturEdge and Prenick, Langer.

The accountancy end of the business produces 1,400 personal tax returns per year. For companies looking for high levels of expertise, five VenturEdge staff members will soon acquire a Certified Management Consultant (CMC) designation, bringing to seven staff who will have this skill level.

"We have been accountants to small and medium-sized businesses since 1957."

The information has been passed down to the second and perhaps third generation owners, he said.

"We have been given this opportunity to get into the consulting field. We probably have the highest percentage of CMCs in the country for our total firm size," said Prenick.

The aligned firms have spent close to $40,000 in the past year on professional development. The objective is to enhance and re-educate the consulting team with what is current, deal with what is current, and deal with technology and professional training.

Partners and staff are asked to speak at events run by organizations such as the North York Chamber of Commerce. Recently, one of the partners spoke to a group of high school teachers about the accountancy profession, at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

By combining the CMC expertise with the financial expertise of an accountancy firm, business owners are given the opportunity to obtain total business management solutions.

"Often, small businesses fail because [the owners are poor] cash managers, not because they can't do sales and marketing. So what we do, is help them learn the tools to effectively manage their business.

"[Often], a small business owner won't have the time to manage, so what we do is create the tools and reports that are necessary. We can look at his business at a glance and see where he's at," said partner Harvey Taraday.

The firm has guided owners to meet these challenges by providing advice on revitalizing the organization, generating opportunities, launching new ventures and expanding into new markets.

VenturEdge is working to promote business, through referral from the chartered banks. The feedback from Toronto Dominion Bank, which recently heard a presentation from VenturEdge, appeared to indicate that the management was on the right track.

"They were very pleased. They put us in touch with their risk management team. They were pleased to assist business, and help clients get their loans," said Taraday.

Naturally, not all companies that require advice are growing. Some require expertise to restructure, and then they become a going concern. VenturEdge can play a role in these situations as well.

"In those cases, the banks would frequently send us clients through a receiver or trustee who will determine whether we can put some pulse back into the business. The focus is really passive protection for the bank. We would try to create some management focus and help them manage their business a little better. For example, help them re-organize their financing and give them the tools to help them measure their business a little bit better," said Taraday.

VenturEdge has also worked with companies to obtain various government grants. One example was the recent success in obtaining $225,000 of federal funding for two international expansion projects for a Canadian manufacturing and distribution company. VenturEdge also bids on government contracts to assist in the delivery of various public sector business support programs.

As many business owners are just trying to meet the next payroll, it certainly is a test for management consultants to encourage them to focus.

"We try to help them look beyond the immediate problems and try to help them see the potential. It's so easy to get mired in the day-to-day. Before you know it, 25 years later you are still mired in the day-to-day. You haven't really achieved anything," said Taraday.

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Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

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Health

March is epilepsy awareness month

TORONTO — March is epilepsy awareness month.

Unlike other common health problems such as asthma or arthritis, epilepsy is a disorder surrounded by stigma, myths and fear. Superstitions about demons – and misinformation about sticking something in the person's mouth during a seizure – persist even today.

With this in mind, the Epilepsy Association, Metro Toronto has launched a new initiative, Ambassadors for Epilepsy, aimed at breaking down the barriers of misunderstanding that surround people with epilepsy.

The initiative utilizes the expertise of a volunteer delegation of ambassadors made up of people with epilepsy, and their families, supporters and health care providers.

Dr. Roberta Bondar – the only Canadian woman to fly in space – who is a medical doctor trained in the field of neurology, is the honorary ambassador for epilepsy.

"Epilepsy is one of the oldest medical conditions known to humankind, a common neurological disorder that affects one in every 100 Canadians.

"I saw a need to become involved in the Ambassadors for Epilepsy program became of the lack of progress in public acceptance of the person with epilepsy. Our goal is to bring epilepsy out from under its social stigma by raising general awareness and understanding."

During March, local delegates sporting Ambassador for Epilepsy buttons will be blanketing the neighborhood with epilepsy awareness posters and information.

The ambassadors' mandate is to improve the public's understanding of epilepsy. Most people don't really know what epilepsy is, or understand how to handle a seizure should they encounter someone having one.

Robin Rowe of the Epilepsy Association of Metro Toronto explains: "Epilepsy is simply the tendency to have recurrent seizures. Anybody can have *one* seizure under certain extreme circumstances. The person with epilepsy, on the other hand, has an ongoing tendency to have seizures, probably because of a lesion or glitch in their brain's neurological system."

Children and seniors are the most likely to develop epilepsy: children, because their brains are still developing, and seniors, because theirs are often changed by a stroke. Medication can help control the seizures, sometimes eliminating them completely, but there is currently no cure for epilepsy.

"My father recently told me he recalls seeing me having seizures in my crib, so they obviously began very early," says Penny Pelletier, an ambassador. "Apparently my entire body would shake in a violent manner, and at first they didn't know what was causing this."

Her seizures always begin with her aura – a feeling of terror caused by a burst of excessive electricity in the part of her brain that controls her emotions. As the excessive electrical activity spreads throughout her brain, she loses consciousness, her muscles stiffen and breathing almost stops; then her limbs jerk violently for a few minutes. She sometimes injures herself during her seizures.

Contrary to popular opinion, most seizures are not convulsions. Pelletier also experiences another very common type of seizure in which she appears dazed and confused and repeats unusual gestures. "I have a tendency to pick at the sofa or whatever is handy at the moment, and usually gaze off into the distance, often with a silly grin on my face. If someone is talking to me, I don't respond. When I'm having one of these partial seizures, strangers often mistake me for someone who is drunk or on drugs, which is quite demoralizing."

Many parents of young children with seizure disorders, like Steve Lynette, have become ambassadors.

His 8-year-old daughter Jaimie's brief staring spells look like daydreaming but are actually "absence" seizures. When uncontrolled, Jaimie's frequent seizures make learning at school more difficult.

"A child with a seizure disorder needs an understanding community which recognizes, respects and supports them, says Steve Lynette. They deserve to be treated with dignity, not fear."

If you see someone having a seizure:

- Keep Calm. Start to time the seizure.
- Protect the person from injury. Move dangerous objects out of way.
- Do not restrain the person.
- If the person is having convulsions, do *not* put anything in the person's mouth. Roll the person on their side.
- If a seizure lasts longer than five minutes or repeats, call for medical help.
- After the seizure, gently reassure the person.

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. My newborn is very fussy and appears uncomfortable. I am considering trying a new formula. What do you recommend?

A. Babies are often fussy; this is in no way unusual and does not necessarily mean that the formula is the culprit. Before you try different formulas, make sure to consult your child's doctor or a dietitian for guidance. New parents are always desperate to find a solution for their crying baby and often turn to formula or bottles as the potential source of the problem. However, this is not necessarily going to help solve the situation.

Q. My 4-week-old baby appears to always be hungry. Should I start giving the baby some cereal? If so, should I add it into the bottle?

A. Giving the baby cereal at that young age is not usually an appropriate solution. Babies have immature digestive systems, and are unable to properly digest infant cereals before three or four months of age. Therefore, giving the cereal is not likely going to help. It can be dangerous to add cereal to bottles without appropriate guidance from a health care provider, as the cereal may clog nipples and prevent the baby from getting anything. Enlarging the holes can cause choking. If you are concerned about your child's eating, talk to your baby's doctor, and follow his or her guidance. All babies are different; some have larger appetites than others.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist specializing in pediatric and adult nutrition in Toronto. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to The CJN.

Mount Sinai program planned

TORONTO — Leadership Sinai, Mount Sinai's program for young business and community leaders, presents The Leadership Sinai Swing Ball 1999, March 6, 8 p.m., at The Arcadian Court.

Hosts are Evan Solomon, host of *Hot Type* on CBC Newsworld, and comedian Maggie Casella. Entertainment will be provided by The Johnny Favourite Swing Orchestra and Mandell Entertainment.

Guests, limited to 600, can look forward to swing dance instruction and other swing related activities, a golf swing contest, silent auction and a mystery envelope raffle.

The $75 ticket price includes hors d'oeuvres, dessert and a tax receipt for a portion of the ticket. Money raised will go towards The Leadership Sinai Centre for Diabetes. Tickets, which will not be sold at the door, can be ordered by calling 586-8231 or e-mail swingball@mtsinai.on.ca.

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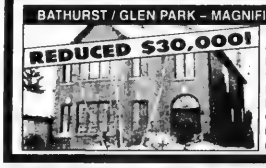

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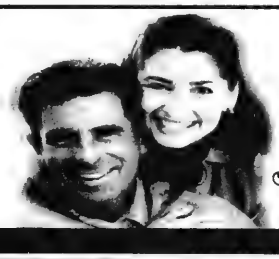

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The Meeting Place

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Women seeking Men

FRIEND OR LOVER
Single female, 38, dark hair, blue eyes, nice smile, a real people person, Kindergarten teacher, family oriented, down to earth, enjoy movies, live theater. Seeking a male, down to earth, with similar interests for serious relationship. AD#1887

WEEKEND GET AWAYS
Single female, 35, 5'4", brunette, slim, attractive, sensitive, romantic, intelligent, enjoy dining out, movies, reading, theater, weekend getaways. Seeking a sensitive, romantic male, 35-43, intelligent, attractive on the inside and out. AD#1888

SEEKING LIFE PARTNER
Single Jewish female, 39, petite, non smoker, never been married, down to earth, quiet, have a laid back lifestyle. Seeking a good hearted male, 37-42, who enjoys oldies music and Bingo. AD#1883

FUNNY AND WARM
Divorced female, 52, intelligent, financially independent, warm, funny, enjoy dining in & out, long walks, sports, movies, baseball. Seeking a male, 55+, with similar interests. AD#1879

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single female, 35, 5'4", slim, brunette, attractive, enjoy movies, theater, travelling, ethnic foods, cottage and country life. Seeking a male, 35-43, professional, intelligent, handsome inside and out, a good communicator. AD#1881

LOVES NATURE
Single Jewish female, 42, blue eyes, intelligent, unique, enjoy art, theater, nature, travelling. Seeking a male, non-smoker, unique and caring. AD#1882

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single female, radiant, smart, sophisticated, compassionate, fun, open, loving, enjoy good food, good conversation, long walks, quiet romantic times. Seeking a male, who is romantic, professional, with traditional values, emotionally and financially stable, and is ready to explore life. AD#1866

DEVELOPING NEW INTEREST
Professional Jewish female, non-smoker, warm, pretty, enjoy dancing, long walks, movies, playing Bridge. Seeking a male, 55+, who is easy going, with similar interests. AD#1867

CANDLE LIGHT DINNERS
Single female, caring, loving, romantic, affectionate, enjoy working out, travelling, candle light dinners. Seeking a male, 45-55, with similar interest. AD#1869

NUMBER ONE
Single mom of 1 teenage son, attractive, exciting, 5'5", Jewish, brown eyes & hair, very youthful looking. Seeking a handsome, single Jewish male, professional, traditional, established, tall, fit, kind, sincere, fun loving, with a zest for life. AD#1873

SIMPLE TWIST OF FATE
Single Jewish female, interesting, intelligent, unique, 34. Seeking a Jewish male, 35-46, for friendship, romance and trouble, if interested give me a call. AD#1876

LET'S CHAT
Single female, early 30's, attractive, fit, enjoy long walks, cycling, dining, movies. Seeking a single Jewish male, non-smoker, 30ish, no children, outgoing, fun, sensitive, caring. AD#1864

FULL OF LOVE
Single Jewish female, 18, 5'3", 115lbs, brown hair & eyes, non-smoker, honest, caring, enjoy moves, sports, dining and dancing. Seeking a male, 18-21, honest, romantic, trustworthy with similar interests. AD#1862

NIFTY 50'S
Single lady, hazel eyes, blond hair, love life, sense of humour, enjoy the arts, movies, the theater, music from classical to jazz, travelling, long walks, and romantic talks. Seeking a male, kind, compassionate, self-sufficient, with a good heart and a great smile. AD#1853

FRIENDS FIRST
Divorced female, 49, single mom, professional, warm, attractive, beautiful, blond hair, hazel eyes, non-smoker, university educated, down to earth, enjoy dining and dancing, sports, travelling. Seeking a male, 48-59, handsome, outgoing, honest, romantic, intelligent, who loves kids. AD#1949

FRIENDSHIP & COMPANIONSHIP
Professional Jewish widow, 42, have a 2yr old child, very outgoing, good sense of humour, open, enjoy movies, theater, dining & dancing, long walks. Seeking a single Jewish male, assertive, financially secure, professional, non-smoker, sincere, who does not focus on ones attributes. AD#1963

NOURISH MY SOUL
Single Jewish female, 51, attractive, enjoy music, fine art, outdoor activities, nature, fine food, and activities that nourish the soul. Seeking a male who is considerate, open minded, with traditional values, and similar interests. AD#1860

WINTER ROMANCE
Single Jewish female, 30ish, attractive, stylish, dark brown hair, hazel green eyes, enjoy movies, theater, roller blading, comedy clubs, music, bowling, camping. Seeking a Jewish male, 31-43, with similar interests. AD#1857

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single female, 35, 5'4", slim, attractive, brunette, enjoy theater, movies, travelling, cottage life. Seeking an attractive male, 34-44, professional, intelligent, and a good communicator. AD#1858

Questions ???
416-236-6644

Men seeking Women

LONG DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 36, tall, fit, professional, easy going, down to earth, live in Western Canada, enjoy travelling, movies, weekends at the lake. Seeking a Jewish female, active, sincere, outgoing, 25-40, willing to relocate or have a long distance relationship. AD#1886

LASTING LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 46, physically fit, easy going, sincere, hard working, enjoy movies, books, art, dining out. Seeking a female, 30-40, for a lasting relationship. AD#1892

CONSIDERATE
Single Jewish male, strong, fit, athletic, great sense of humour. Seeking a female, 30-40, who is nice and considerate. AD#1895

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single male, 36, slim, blue-green eyes, brown hair, enjoy movies, dining and dancing, travelling, good conversationalist, financially secure. Seeking an attractive, outgoing, cheerful female, who is a good conversationalist, for relationship leading to marriage. AD#1898

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 34, 5'7", athletic built, Bachelor of Science, caring, honest, reliable, romantic, enjoy movies, cooking, 60's dancing. Seeking a single Jewish female, intelligent, professional, open, and friendly. AD#1877

SPONTANEOUS
Single Jewish male, outgoing, spontaneous, adventurous, enjoy working out, swimming, scuba diving, skiing, music. Seeking a female, who is passionate, with inner and outer beauty. AD#1878

OUTSPOKEN
Single male, 34, educated, outspoken, enjoy country life, outdoor activities, dining out, animals. Seeking a female with similar interests. AD#1880

ATTENTION LADIES!
Single male, 47, warm, romantic, intelligent, 5'9", medium built, good sense of humour, enjoy movies, dining out, good conversation. Seeking a female, who is warm hearted and sincere. AD#1885

CASUAL GET TOGETHERS
Divorced Jewish male, 40's, 5'8", 136lbs, enjoy culture, art, ballet, travelling. Seeking a female who is independent, for casual get togethers. AD#1870

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Single Jewish male, 5'5", handsome, secure, athletic, enjoy tennis, swimming, jogging, cycling, skiing, theater, dancing, socializing. Seeking a female, 38-50, with similar interests. AD#1871

SOULMATE
Divorced Jewish male, 6', 240lbs, easy going, great sense of humour, enjoy sports, movies, and love to laugh. Seeking a female, 26-31, with similar interests. AD#1818

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single male, Goldsmith and an artist, enjoy music, fine arts, sports, writing. Seeking a female, attractive, single moms OK, 28-38, with similar interests. AD#1907

BEST FRIEND AND LOVER
Single Jewish male, 5'7", 30 something, Andy Garcia looks, very attractive, impeccable dresser but a cowboy at heart, fun loving, romantic, stable, resourceful, professional. Seeking a Jewish female, late 20's- early 30's, attractive, vibrant, classy and slim. AD#1823

ONCE BITTEN, TWICE SHY
Single male, 50's, financially secure, handsome, from the Thornhill area. Seeking a female, good looking, with a good sense of humour, slim, age is not important, financially secure, a picture is a must after contact is made. AD#1810

FUN LOVING
Single Jewish male, 33, easy going, fun loving, enjoy outdoor activities, movies, long walks, camping. Seeking a female, 25-38, with similar interests. AD#1777

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single Jewish male, 6', handsome, athletic built, love sports and keeping fit, artistic, with traditional values. Seeking a Jewish female, who is ready to make a commitment and start a family, who enjoys life and has old fashioned values. AD#1809

OLD FASHIONED
Single male, mid 30's, old fashioned, sensitive, stubborn, romantic, enjoy cuddling, outdoor activities, movies, camping. Seeking a female, 30-35, with similar interests. AD#1762

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single Jewish male, 36, 5'7", professional, traditional values, warm, fit, and fun. Seeking a Jewish female, late 20's to mid 30's, down to earth, creative, spontaneous, well grounded, with a good sense of humour. AD#1771

LET'S GO FOR COFFEE
Single Jewish male, 32, professional, 180lbs, self employed, own his own business, fit, enjoy all aspects of life, movies, dining and dancing, travelling, working out, motor cycling. Seeking a Jewish female, very down to earth, non-smoker, strong morals and values, clean and neat. AD#1774

LET'S CONNECT
Single male, 19, seeking a female, tall, slim, loving & caring for a meaningful relationship. AD#1814

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, early 50's, down to earth, tall, slim, caring, easy going, professional, enjoy movies & quiet times. Seeking a Jewish female, 39-49, warm, sensitive, and health conscious. AD#1718

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264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Arthur & Eva Halpert are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, **Sandi** to **Robert**, son of **Dr. Norbert & Eva Kerenyi**. An October 1999 wedding is planned.

Mazel Tov to Lara Kowarsky & David Fritz on their recent engagement. Proud parents are Cantor Paul Kowarsky, Adele Kowarsky-Gould and Earl & Gilda Fritz.Proud grandparents are Rose Austern-Kowarsky, Mary Sosnovik,Esther Benarroch, Irving Fritz and Ethel Kramintzer.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Sincere male, 50, who likes to shop and also likes to cook and enjoys good conversation would like to meet similar lady any age for relationship. CJN Box 7160.

Attractive, petite, brunette, 47, prof., fit, well red/traveled, loves cooking, gardening, theatre, hobbies, romantic, sense of humour, seeking soulmate 47-57 to share life's wonderful experiences. Lisa, 905-763-2141.

Kushi Kabbalah kibbutz or Quito? Tall, attractive prof. woman seeks someone special who understands any of these words. You are tall, attractive, male 48-60, creative, playful, financially stable. I like healthful living, the arts, travel, Judaism. Your response may begin a special friendship. CJN Box # 7152.

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M3B 3K4
Box # _____

280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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305 ARTICLES WANTED

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330 OBITUARIES

MAGILL, Robert (Bob) - Peacefully at L.H.S.C. University Campus, London, Ont., on Fri., February 19, 1999, with his family at his side. Robert (Bob) Magill of London in his 83rd year. Beloved husband of Anne, loving father of Marlene and her husband Dr. Howard Cohen of Ottawa and Shelby Jay Magill of Toronto. Dear brother of Sam Magill and Anne Grupp both of Toronto. Loving grandfather of Tamara, Jessica, Richard and Lisa. Also survived by several nieces and nephews. Funeral service was conducted at Or Shalom Synagogue,. London, on Sun., February 21, 1999 at 1P.M. with Rabbi Larry Lander officiating. Interment was at Or Shalom Cemetery, London, Ont. Friends who wish may make memorial donations to the charity of their choice. Shiva will be held at the family home. (Logan Chapel of Furtney Funeral Homes entrusted with arrangements 519-433-6181)

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Jewish man looking for a wife. She must be a good person, a good cook, good housekeeper and come with no issues. She could be in her late 20's or early 30's. I have my own home & live in the USA and I have my own business.

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ABADY, George - on Sept. 2, 1998.
KERTZER, Sam - on Feb. 11, 1999, late of 55 Prince Arthur, #601.
GRAJCAR, Szymon - on Feb. 12, 1999, late of 1035 Eglinton Ave. W., #419.
HIMELFARB, Morris - on Feb. 12, 1999, late of 11 Golf Valley Lane.
FLORENCE, Joseph - on Feb. 13, 1999, late of 88 Grandview Way, #811.
STARR, Molly - on Feb. 13, 1999, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
ESTRIN, Henry - on Feb. 14, 1999, late of 46 Robingrove Rd.
MARCOVIC, Rovena - on Feb. 14, 1999, late of 10 Fashion Roseway, #302N.
ROSNER, Bessie - on Feb. 14, 1999, late of 146 Magnus Ave., #103.
SHOPSOWITZ, Joyce - on Feb. 14, 1999, late of 131 Bloor St. W., #611.
SCHORR, Gertrude - on Feb. 15, 1999, late of 133 Torresdale Ave., #604.
ZARETSKY, Martin - on Feb. 15, 1999, late of 133 Torresdale Ave., #1706.
COHEN, Milli - on Feb. 16, 1999.
FISZMAN, Stephanie - on Feb. 16, 1999, late of 43 Mandel Cres.
FRUCHTMAN, Sam - on Feb. 16, 1999, late of 850 Steeles Ave. W., #503.
LUCATCH, Joseph - on Feb. 16, 1999, late of 34 Carscadden Dr., #404.
WITTENBERG, Simon - on Feb. 13, 1999, late of 1850 Valley Farm Rd., #308.
WEINSTEIN, Sylvia - on Feb. 15, 1999, late of 989 Eglinton Ave. W., #615.
DAVIDOW, Sally - on Feb. 16, 1999, late of 9100 Bathurst St.
JACOBSON, Zelman - on Feb. 16, 1999, late of 57 Roberta Dr.

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Coast to Coast

Calgary police chief receives letter bomb

By JUDY SHAPIRO
Special to The CJN

CALGARY — Calgary police are drawing no conclusions as to the motivation of the individual who sent a letter-bomb addressed to Police Chief Christine Silverberg.

The letter-bomb was discovered on Feb. 16 by one of Silverberg's support staff, who felt it was suspicious and alerted the bomb squad. The device was removed without incident.

Contained in a 5x8-inch bubble-pack envelope of the type that is commercially available, the device was sent through the mail and "would have caused serious personal injury, or death," had it exploded, reported Inspector Peter Copple of the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Calgary Police Force.

Silverberg, 49, was away on business when the package was discovered. Silverberg, who was the deputy chief of Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police before taking the Calgary post in 1995, is the first female chief of a major Canadian police force. She has been the target of threats in the past and is accompanied by bodyguards at all times.

Following the incident, speculation over the possible motivation of the bomber filled the pages of Calgary's newspapers. Reporters pointed to the fact that Silverberg is a woman and Jewish as possible factors in the attack. Some even linked the incident to a letter-bombing at the Calgary Jewish Centre in April 1996. No arrests have been made in that incident.

But Inspector Copple would not speculate. "We can't be so shortsighted as to say that this or that thing was a motivating factor – we don't know," he said. "Looking at gender or religion is simplistic and irresponsible, as it raises concerns where they may be unnecessary."

Copple said there is no evidence that the letter-bombing was linked to the incident at the Calgary Jewish Centre.

"We haven't dismissed anything as a possibility. We are looking at all sorts of areas. We will look at other incidents here or elsewhere to figure out what's going on."

Copple said this is the first time in Calgary police history that such an incident has occurred, and to his knowledge, "this is the first time a device of this nature was sent to a chief of police in Canada."

However, he added, this attack "goes beyond one person. It is an attack on an institution. There was a real potential that others could have been injured or killed in the postal service or our own staff."

AT THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Young visitors to the My Jewish Discovery Place Children's Museum at the Bathurst Jewish Centre (including two cheetahs) with (from left) JNF vice-president Ron Hoffman, JNF Jerusalem emissary Haen Vered and museum director Katya Rudzik celebrated Tu b'Shvat at the museum by holding a seder, singing, dancing and planting this young orange tree. The Children's Museum Passover event is taking place on March 28. Call 636-1880, ext. 390 for information.

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Sports

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The Canadian Jewish news

IHL's Hymovitz moves closer to NHL goal

By CARY SHUMAN
The Jewish Advocate

RANDOLPH, Mass. — David Hymovitz has been having an excellent third season as a pro hockey player but he reached new heights in his career on Jan. 17.

Hymovitz, a member of the Indianapolis Ice of the International Hockey League (IHL), received the Rising Star award for his play in the I's all-star game in Cincinnati. Hymovitz had two goals and two assists to lead the Eastern Conference all-stars to a 10-7 victory.

The honor, which is given to the most valuable first-time all-star, brought Hymovitz a step closer to his boyhood dream: to play in the NHL.

Should he reach that goal, the 24-year-old Randolph resident and former Boston College captain would join a handful of other Jewish players such as Mathieu Schneider (New York Rangers), Steve Dubinsky (Calgary) and Ronnie Stern (San Jose) at the pinnacle of world hockey competition.

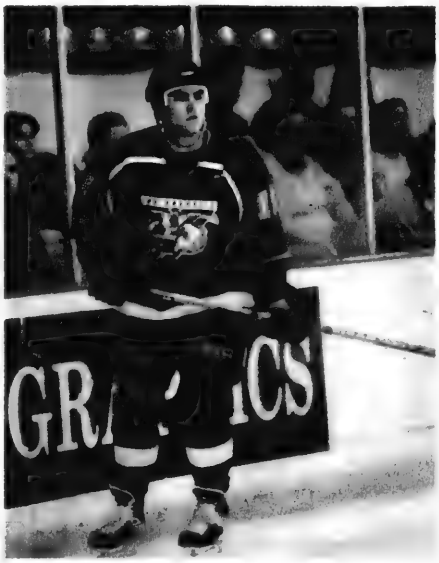
This season, Hymovitz has been attracting the attention of NHL scouts with his prolific scoring talents. A five-foot-11, 185-pound left winger, Hymovitz tallied 24 goals and 21 assists through 42 games.

Developing into the one of the league's top scorers has been especially satisfying for him in view of the fact his progress was limited last year due to ankle surgery. Now at full strength, Hymovitz has become a crowd favorite with his dazzling stickwork, passing and scoring.

Coaches recognized his special skills from the moment he laced up his skates in the Randolph youth hockey program. David's affinity for hockey was hatched when his mother Gail, would bring him to the rink watch his older brothers, Scott and Marc, play hockey.

"David was always a rink rat," Gail recalled. "I remember one of his coaches telling me when he was 5 years old that 'this kid is going to be some kind of hockey player.'"

Even as their son travelled the youth hockey circuit, sometimes playing two or three games in one day, Gail and Allen Hymovitz made sure their son attended Hebrew school and participated in religious programs.



David Hymovitz of the International Hockey League's Indianapolis Ice.

"My parents wanted me to go to Hebrew school and like many kids, I would rather have been playing sports. It was real tough doing both, but I'm so glad I did. I remember one day going to [Temple Beth Am] Hebrew School with my hockey gear on. Religion is a big part of my life," Hymovitz said.

A good student, he attended Thayer Academy where he carved out a spectacular high school career. The Chicago Blackhawks thought enough of Hymovitz's pro potential to select him in the ninth round of the NHL amateur draft.

Heavily recruited at Thayer, Hymovitz chose to attend Boston College (BC) over University of New Hampshire, Boston University and Northeastern. According to the Randolph native, he couldn't have been happier with his academic, athletic and social experience at BC where he became the Jesuit school's first Jewish hockey captain. He also earned Hockey East all-star honors and received a degree in communications.

"I would definitely recommend BC for Jewish students," Hymovitz said. "I received a great education and I experienced no anti-Semitism in my four years there."

Hymovitz said athletic personnel at BC were understanding of his special dietary requirements during road trips. "My teammates would all be eating ham and cheese sandwiches and the trainers would bring me a plain turkey sandwich," he recalled.

Since turning pro, Hymovitz has had to confront some unpleasant jeers from opposing players on the ice. "I've had a few of those throughout my career, but I just shrug it off," he said.

Hymovitz has begun to draw strong support from the Jewish community in the Indianapolis area. "I went to the team's community relations director and I told him I wanted to start speaking to kids at the Jewish Community Centre. As a little kid, I remember looking up to my brothers and their friends. I realize that I can be an inspiration to Jewish kids, especially young athletes."

While he hasn't joined a synagogue in Indiana yet, he does actively follow his Jewish heritage. "I attended synagogue on the High Holy Days and I stay in touch with my Jewish faith on road trips. During Chanukah, I lit the candles. It's tough on weekends because many of our games are on Friday nights and Saturdays but I do what I can and I keep in touch with my family. They instilled strong Jewish traditions and principles in me, and it's important for me to carry those on."

Does the former BC star have immediate goals following his all-star accomplishment?

"I just want to put together a good, solid year and stay consistent, game in and game out for 82 games," he said. "I want to improve every game."

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The Inside Back

ספרותנו

מאת: יעל זליגר

<u>מורשת השתיקה</u>

פרופסור בר-און הוא ראש המחלקה למדעי ההתנהגות באוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב וספרו <u>מורשת השתיקה: שיחות עם ילדי הרייך השלישי</u>, חוצאת הספרים של אונברסיטת בן-גוריון בצב, מעניק לנו חיבט פסיכולוגי מורכב וייחודי בחקר תופעת זוועת הנאצים.

באוקטובר 1933 החליט אביו של בר-און לעזוב את גרמניה. במנוסתה הגיעה המשפחה לגבול האוסטרי. פקיד המכס הגרמני שבדק את הדרכונים, וראה את ויזת המהגרים לפלשתינה איחל להם כל טוב. "דומה היה שהוא אחד הגרמנים הטובים" אומר בר-און. עם קריאת מחקרו המאלף של בר-און נדמה שהתקוות לגלות ולו שארית זעומה מטוב זה, היא, חיא שהניעה את המחבר במסעו הקשה. בגישתו אל חקר ילדי נאצים אומר בר-און מפורשות שהוא גם נשען על נסיונו האישי: "המאבק בפוטנציאל לרוע שלי עצמי."

בקיץ 1984 החל בר-און לחפש הסבר למה שקרה לאחר קריסת הרייך השלישי. מעבר לפחד הממשי ממשפט ועונש, האם לאחר המלחמה החומה בין 'הגאני' המוסרי של הפושעים הנאצים ובין מעשי הזוועה שביצעו לא נסדקה? מה בדבר חלומות זוועה? חרטה? בקשת מחילה? וכך הניע בר-און למסקנה שאת המענה יפסה לחפש אצל ילדי הנאצים. לצורך זה הוא שב לגרמניה. המרואיינים הראשונים נענו למודעה על חיפוש, לצורך מחקר, באנשים שהוריהם חיו באס-אס או חיו פעילים ברדיפת יהודים ובחשמדתם. המרואיינים הללו היפנו את בר-און לכתובות של אנשים שלא התלהבו מגלוי זהותם. חיו מקרים שבהם חש בר-און פחד, לפעמים חיה מתוף בזעם נוראי, בעיקר לנוכח תוקפנות גלויה או סמויה, או הכחשה וחוסר רגישות, אך ברוב המקרים החוויה הייתה פשוט כאובה מנשוא וכללה תחושת אשם שהוא בכלל נפגש עם ילדי הרוצחים. מתוך 58 איש שאליהם פנה בר-און, רק 9 סרבו להתראיין (כולל בתו של הימלר.)

בין המרואיינים בן של רופא מאושוויץ. לא, הוא לא חושב שמגלה היה בסדר, אך קשה לו לתאר שהוא היה אכזרי כמו שמתארים אותו ובעצם מגלה היה רק איש שציית לפקודות. ואושוויץ...מחנות כאלה עדיין קיימים ואין הבדל בין חומייני להיטלר ודומה יחסם של הגרמנים היום למיעוט התורכי, ליחסם אז ליהודים. מרואיין זה פרופסור בר-און אינו יכול לשאת והוא נמלט החוצה. בן אחר של נאצי מספר לבר-און שלאחר שאמו ראתה סרט על אינוס קורצ'אק, היא שיננה את צוואתה וביקשה שלא לקבור אותה על-יד בעלה (שהתאבד לפני שהועמד למשפט.) בין השאר, בר-און מראיין את תומס אחיינו של היידדיך, שהיה ראש הגסטפו. תומס חוא שחקן במקצועו וידע שדודו היה השטן. בהופעותיו תומס כולל שיר זעקה על שני ילדים יהודים. לאחר ההצגה, בר-און מוצא את תומס מתייפח בחדר ההלבשה; "זו הפעם היחידה בכל ביקוריי בגרמניה שאני בוכה עם גרמני." תומס הוא אף זה שמגלה לבר-און את זחותו וכתובתו של מנחם בירושלים.

ברחוב הירושלמי, בסמטאות הרובע היהודי בעיר העתיקה פוגש בר-און ברב אורתודוכסי שאביו השתייך לאס-אס. על הנושא היהודי לא דיברו בבית. ב- 1967 עזב הבן את בית אביו, נדד לאמריקה ומשם עלה ארצה. החכרות עם מרשבת מרטין בובר ופראנץ רוזנצווייג קרבה אותו ליהדות. השואה הייתה רק גורם ראשוני, טריגר. במרכז הרב ימכון פישר קיבלוהו יפה ובסופו של ענין התגייר והפך לרב. יש לו 5 ילדים. ספקות בדרך שבחר? בכלל לא.

בסיעתו חזרה לבאר-שבע בר-און תשש והוא תוהה; אחיינו של היידדיך שמציג בגרמניה את ואלטר מרינג, כדי שהדור הגרמני הצעיר לא יישכח את משוררינו היהודים, ומנחם, שהשואה אצלו הייתה רק 'טריגר' - אל מי הוא מרגיש קרוב יותר?

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Dressing	
2 cups sugar	1 1/4 cup white vinegar
8 tsp. poppy-seeds	3 1/3 cup vegetable oil
2 tsp. dry mustard	1/4 cup dried onion flakes
	3 1/2 tsp. salt

Stir sugar into vinegar; mix with wire whisk until blended. Whisk in oil. Add poppyseeds, onion flakes, dry mustard and salt. Mix well. Store in refrigerator for up to 3 weeks.

Salad	
4 cups fresh snowpeas, ends snipped off	1cup red seedless grapes
2 lg peeled oranges in sections	1 green pepper julienne slices
2 lg peeled grapefruit in sections	1 sm. red onion, in thin slivers
	1/2 cup dry-roasted sunflower seeds

In large bowl, combine all ingredients. Toss salad with 1/2—3/4 cup poppyseed dressing, or to taste. Yield 8—10 servings.

About families

Dear Susan,

My 19-year-old son reads *Playboy* and *Hustler*. He and his friends also watch X-rated movies in our home and in theirs as well. I am at a loss as to how to react. What do you suggest?

Dear Parent,

Young boys often foray into the world of soft porn through *Playboy* before they have engaged in a satisfying interpersonal relationship. However, young men who remain fixated on these kinds of stimuli beyond their mid-teens may be signalling future psychological problems.

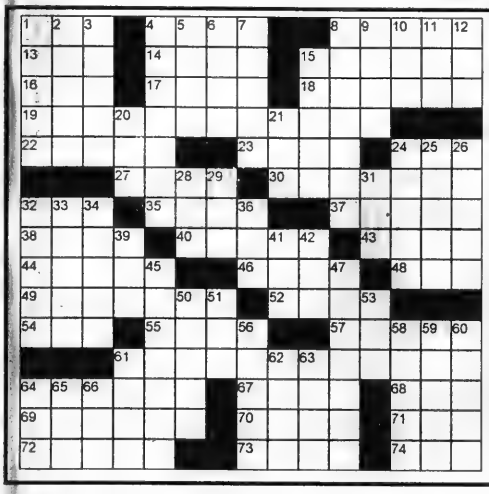
Progressing from soft porn to X-rated movies can indicate a turn for the worse, as these movies often depict women in humiliating, demeaning situations. They often feature sadism and bondage, can include underage girls who are presented as legitimate sexual partners, and can legitimize non-consensual sexual acts.

Boys and men frequently watch these movies in a clandestine fashion, which can have the effect of removing sexual activity from the normal realm. Pornography may act as a catharsis for some; however, for others, it can be symptomatic of, and a causal factor in, a dysfunctional sex life.

I would set a strict rule stipulating zero tolerance for pornography in the house, either in print or video form. You should also be aware that the Internet is a significant source of pornography. Depictions of explicit sexual activity are not only available on the Web, but interactive Web sites can lure the unsuspecting into more invasive and dangerous situations. Check your Internet service provider to determine if your children's Internet access can be censored or monitored. Otherwise, you must determine whether access to the Internet is worth the ultimate risk.

You may want to ascertain how much of your son's time is spent on these activities. If these behaviors are consuming a significant amount of his time and energies, you may want to seek counselling for him. While his apparent interest in pornography may be a harmless and passing diversion, you should be sure it is not signalling sexual dysfunction that could be compromising his ability to engage in a healthy sexual relationship.

Susan Leventhal is a family, marital and individual therapist, who has been practicing for more than 19 years.



The Canadian Jewish news

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

The Whole Megillah

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco
(QSyndicate@aol.com)

Across

1 ____-jongg
4 Basketball officials
8 Book after Jonah
13 Chicken ____ King
14 One of five greats
15 60's or 70's
16 CD-___
17 Tower city
18 "Well, ____!" (Insulted one's cry)
19 Gift-giving tradition
22 Vietnam's capital
23 Robert Shapiro client, sometimes
24 Humorist Buchwald
27 Skeleton key?
30 Noisemaker
32 Scale notes
35 Unappetizing food
37 Third-largest Israeli city
38 And so on
40 This puzzle's theme
43 Got cut
44 Collected maps
46 Type of exam
48 Before
49 _____ Palace (King Ahasueras's home)
52 Woodcutter's equipment
54 Multimedia mogul Turner
55 Actress Lena
57 Seat variety
61 Where 40-across is chronicled
64 Get back
67 Like 3-down
68 Donald Trump's is huge
69 Uris novel
70 Month of 40-across
71 Nuts
72 Pricey
73 Electric ____
74 Stout

Down

1 Swampland
2 Honolulu hi
3 Plotter killed in 61-across
4 Fixes
5 Olympic skater Heiden
6 Gefilte _____
7 Levi's measurements
8 Light for playing dreidel
9 Commits a hockey violation
10 Cleveland basketballer, for short
11 Ending for lemon, lime, or orange
12 That girl
15 Barry Levinson film of '82
20 Bagel topper
21 Sept. preceder
24 Limber
25 Allude (to)
26 Craft
28 Finsteraarhorn, notably
29 "What can ___ do?" (exasperated comment)
31 Be a yenta
32 40-across celebration
33 The Marx Brothers'
"A Day ____ Races"
34 Toast of Spain
36 Paid athlete
39 ____ Vegas (Bugsy Siegel's town)
41 Clinton aide Magaziner
42 Physicist Planck
45 Agitated
47 They're not buying it
50 Soothing plants
51 Refuse ending
53 Enjoy a divan
56 Carl Sagan concerns
58 Basic principle of Jewish belief
59 Concerning Ruth Bader Ginsburg
60 Eat at
61 Wished, as goodbye
62 Bona ____
63 Israeli flyers
64 Matter, in court
65 Tel. no. addition
66 Foot part

(This week's answers are on page 41.)

בית חנוך שלם

UNITED SYNAGOGUE DAY SCHOOL

USDS CELEBRATES 36 YEARS

The Future of our Tradition

The party's over, but the memories linger on ...

United Synagogue Day School celebrates 36 years of excellence in Jewish education!

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY which took place on February 1, 1999 at the Ford Centre, featuring Amy Skye, was a resounding success. Over 1,000 people attended!

The Board of Directors of USDS wishes to thank everyone who came and supported this outstanding evening. WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

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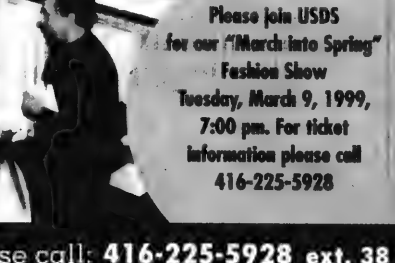

Please join USDS for our "March into Spring" Fashion Show Tuesday, March 9, 1999, 7:00 pm. For ticket information please call 416-225-5928

For information on how you can support this campaign please call: **416-225-5928 ext. 38**

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❑ University of Waterloo
❑ University of Western Ontario
❑ York University
❑ Queen's University
❑ McMaster University
❑ University of Ottawa
❑ University of Guelph
❑ Wherever Necessary

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❑ Cheque enclosed for the full amount of $_____, payable to Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University

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Canadian Friends of the HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM
האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים

T

PASSOVER FOOD DRIVE

MARCH 8 - 25

DELIVERY: MARCH 28, 1999

SHARE PASSOVER PLEASE...

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Why? There are Jewish Families, singles and seniors who are in need of assistance to ensure that they can celebrate Passover. Please help us to enable fellow Jews to celebrate this holiday.

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This Week

National

Ashkenazi Jews face unique cancer risk, study shows. *Page 3*

Jewish medical ethics explored at lecture on pediatric bioethics. *Page 6*

Richmond Hill congregation enjoying a strong growth. *Page 18*

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Distributors cash in on national Crazy Bones craze. *Page 31*

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Night life in Jerusalem? No, really. *Page 37*

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Candlelighting: 6:01
Adar 24, 5759
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Marchi busy in Mideast

Israel's Minister for International Trade, Natan Sharansky, centre, signs a document with Canadian International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi looking on. Also in the photo are Sheila Finestone, MP, David Goldstein, left, Harvey Wolfe, right, and Paul Stothart, at the back, an aide to Marchi.

By EDGAR ASHER
CJN Israel Bureau

JERUSALEM — Canada's International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi recently spent a week in the Middle East with a delegation of Canadian businesspeople.

Marchi visited Israel, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the Palestinian Authority (PA).

"This mission is to enhance the bilateral and commercial partnership with Israel," Marchi told *The CJN*. "It is important to recognize that the free trade agreement, CIFTA, signed two years ago, is not only working well, but is also important to Canada, particularly as it represents Canada's first free trade agreement outside of the Americas... It has grown by 30 percent in the two years, and that, I think, by any measure, is significant."

In 1998, he said, two-way trade between Canada and Israel reached a record $650 million.

"CIFTA was started not only to do more trade with a valued friend, but it was a win-win situation. The Israeli economy and the Israeli R and D community are very high on the list

Continued on page 36

Side by side on bus 15

By VIVA PRESS
CJN Israel Bureau

Ride the number 15 bus in Jerusalem, and you might think that all Jews in Israel live in a state of harmony.

Its route starts in the mainly Sephardi Katamonim neighborhood, passes through the middle-to-upper class and mainly Ashkenazi areas of Katamon and Rehavia, through downtown, into the haredi neighborhood of Geula, and finally over to the Orthodox majority neighborhood Har Nof.

Life in Israel

Everyone rides this bus.

But get off the bus, and you cannot help feeling the thick religious tension steering day-to-day life in this holy city. Principles and concepts such as democracy, freedom and justice are hotly debated topics.

Haredim and the rest of society are in a head-to-head conflict.

"The situation was approximately the same even before the creation of the State of Israel. In the days of the British mandate, there were the very same conflicts between Orthodox Jews and secular Jews," Amos Gil, executive director of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), said in a telephone interview.

Haredim, the term used to describe the "ultra"-Orthodox, means, literally, those who tremble before God. They have recently become more of a presence in their protests against, what they feel, is the Supreme Court's anti-religious judicial "tyranny" against them.

Their 250,000-strong rally last month outside Jerusalem's Supreme

Continued on page 34

HALF-PINT HAMAN

Ariel Zuckerbrot, 6, a Toronto Heschel School student, makes a mean face at the recent Purim carnival sponsored by the Bloor JCC, Ashkenaz and the Downtown Jewish Community Council. **Please see related story on page 14.** ***[Barbara Silverstein photo]***

INSIDE

Researching partisans' history pulled at author's heart.
Please see page 9

Syria held the key in South Lebanon — please see page 33

The News in Brief

CANADA

New Haggadah Published

VANCOUVER — A new illustrated Haggadah has been published by Lubavitch of British Columbia. The book, the first such volume to be published in Canada, was conceived, designed, printed and bound in Vancouver. The idea for it emerged from a meeting between Rabbi Yitzhak Wineberg of Lubavitch and Michael Seelig, the son of the late Israeli artist Heinz Seelig, who illustrated the story of the exodus from Egypt. Proceeds from the volume's sales will go toward educational and charitable causes. For information, call 604-266-1313.

Belt-Tightening Foreseen

CALGARY — Local agencies that receive United Jewish Appeal dollars have been warned that their monthly allotments may be reduced by three to six percent. The cuts are a result of a $77,000 shortfall in Calgary's annual UJA campaign, representing six percent less than what was expected.

ISRAEL

Court Asked To Reconsider

JERUSALEM — Israel's attorney general has asked the Supreme Court to reconsider its refusal last month to extradite an 18-year-old youth to the United States to face a murder charge. Elyakim Rubinstein argued that the ruling in the case of Samuel Sheinbein went against the spirit of Israel's citizenship law, which he said was intended to avoid prosecutions motivated by anti-Semitism or politics. The teenager, who was living in Maryland when the crime was committed, had sought to avoid extradition by claiming Israeli citizenship through his father, who was born in pre-state Israel and left the country as a child. U.S. officials have expressed disappointment at the decision.

Arab MK Faces Charges

JERUSALEM — An Israeli Arab member of the Knesset is to be charged with incitement to murder for remarks he made about the shooting of a Bedouin youth by an Israeli security official. During a Bedouin protest over the incident, Taleb Alsana called for revenge. He later said his comments were misinterpreted, adding that he is being persecuted because he is an Arab.

WORLD

Violations Cited

WASHINGTON — Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) are responsible for "serious human rights abuses," the U.S. State Department says in its annual human rights report. Israel generally respects human rights, but abuses occur because of "policies and practices in the occupied territories and from its fight against terrorism," the department reported. Two Palestinians died in the custody of the PA, the report said, noting "some improvements in the human rights situations" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. At the same time, Amnesty International condemned the PA's summary execution of Col. Ahmed Mustafa on Feb. 26, on charges Mustafa raped a 6-year-old boy.

Neo-Nazis To Defy Court

MOSCOW — Russia's leading neo-Nazi group said it will hold its national convention in Moscow despite a court ban on gatherings of the Russian National Unity movement. A Moscow police spokesperson said authorities may resort to "forceful methods" to prevent the April convention, which organizers say will attract 10,000 participants.

Skinhead Group Raided

PRAGUE — Czech police have arrested a dozen leaders of a skinhead organization, seizing magazines, CDs, cassettes and lists of supporters. Czech Jewish leaders welcomed the raid as a sign the government is serious about cracking down on hate crimes.

Neo-Nazis Sentenced

BUDAPEST — Six neo-Nazis were given two-year suspended sentences by a Budapest court after they clashed with Hungarian police last month. Another was given probation, and an eighth member of the group was set free for lack of evidence. Hungarian Jewish leaders criticized the sentences as too mild and called for stricter laws to prevent neo-Nazi gatherings.

Jews Memorialized

ZURICH— City officials unveiled a plaque to commemorate the approximately 150 Jews who were killed here 650 years ago. The flourishing Jewish community of medieval Zurich was extinguished in a pogrom, a city official said at the ceremony. Community members were burned, beaten and murdered after being blamed for the Black Death. Only a handful escaped.

Christian Pilgrims

VATICAN CITY — The director of the Vatican's official travel agency has informed Israel he expects as many as six million Christian pilgrims will come to Israel to celebrate the millennium. But the director of a tour operation in Israel disputed that number, saying he expects less than three million Christian visitors late this year and next. Meantime, Pope John Paul II has accepted an invitation from Yasser Arafat to visit the Palestinian Authority, specifically Bethlehem.

Fez Synagogue Rededicated

FEZ, Morocco — Tens of thousands of Jews once lived in the Old City of this former capital of Imperial Morocco. Now only a handful remain. Most have emigrated to France, Israel or Canada.

But earlier this month, about 200 Jews – Moroccans and visitors – braved a driving rain to sing and dance through the medieval streets here as part of a Torah procession to rededicate a historic synagogue.

The rededication of the Danan synagogue, which is more than 200 years old, is the first recent rehabilitation in the Old City of Fez. The renovation was sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which has declared Fez's Old City a historic preservation area. Two or three other synagogues in Fez also are expected to be restored under the UNESCO program.

The Torah procession and rededication was just one of many events held in Morocco to commemorate the rich tradition of the country's Jewish community, which has dwindled to an estimated 5,000, the majority of whom live in the country's capital, Casablanca. Only about 300 live in Fez.

Several days of events accompanied the rededication. The official ceremony was also attended by government representatives.

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Ashkenazi Jews face unique cancer risk, Toronto study shows

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A high proportion of Ashkenazi Jews have a unique cancer-related genetic mutation, according to researchers at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital.

The study says the mutation, which can cause colorectal cancer, is evident in one out of every 15 Jews of Ashkenazi descent.

But that doesn't mean Jews of Ashkenazi origin are necessarily more predisposed than Sephardim or even the general population to getting colorectal cancer, researchers say.

The study also points out that only one in 10 people with the mutation will get the cancer in his or her lifetime.

Using the study's own numbers, some 20,000 Canadian Jews may be carriers of the genetic mutation, and 2,000 of those are expected to develop cancer of the colon or rectum.

The study, conducted by researchers at Mount Sinai's Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute, was published in the February issue of the *American Journal of Human Genetics*. It notes that colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in Canada.

The mutation, called I1307K, seems to be present only in those of Ashkenazi Jewish descent.

"Presumably, other mutations exist in the general population," principal researcher Dr. Mark Redston told *The CJN*. "But those have not been identified yet." Genetic mutations unique to Sephardi Jews may also exist, Redston added.

He said Ashkenazi Jews present an ideal subject for genetic study because they have remained relatively homogeneous over the centuries.

This type of cancer does not appear to be more prevalent among Ashkenazi Jews than in the general population, Redston said.

The study was conducted using archival material on patients at Mount Sinai over the last 20 years.

The study "confirms a lot of scientists' suspicions: that a large fraction of cancer may be due in part to genetic factors," said Alan Bernstein, director of the Lunenfeld research institute.

Colorectal cancer is caused by polyps in the colon which can become cancerous. Redston said these benign polyps are "fairly common," appearing in 30 percent of the general population. There are no symptoms.

People can live with the polyps for up to 20 years, he said. But their removal "will almost certainly" prevent cancer.

Redston recommends that people with a history of cancer in their family undergo genetic testing.

SYNAGOGUE REPLICA
Artist Louis Weiss has created a bronze and brass replica of the Dohany Street Synagogue in Budapest. See story, page 38.

INTERGENERATIONAL PURIM PROGRAM
Students at Shmuel Zahavy Cheder Chabad and Yeshivas Lubavitch brought Purim festivities to young and old at the Baycrest Centre. A Megillah reading and a costumed Purim parade were held.

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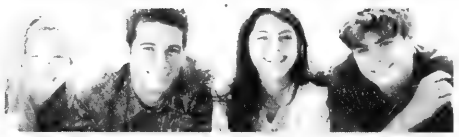

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From the editor's desk

In the name of civility

A small news item on the weekend wire services from *Ha'aretz* in Israel caught my attention. Its headline was "Radio station owner threatens on air to kill Sarid."

Apparently, Israeli police are investigating Israel Bundak, the proprietor of the pirate radio station "Voice of the East," for having broadcast death threats against MK Yossi Sarid of the Meretz party last Friday.

During the broadcast, and against the background sound of gunfire, Bundak said that he was going to kill Sarid, referring to him as Yousef – an Arab name – instead of Yossi.

Bundak was reported to have justified his threat because Sarid "did not love the religion," but rather "loved the Supreme Court."

One need not be a supporter of Sarid, or of his party's fervently secular policies, to be deeply alarmed by the story. If true, it is simply the latest example of the dangerous intra-societal extremism that we are seeing increasingly in Israel, specifically, the extremism on either pole of the haredi-secular conflict.

Viva Press of our Israel bureau has filed a report in this issue (page 1) on the aftermath of last month's "protest Sunday" when a quarter-million Haredim demonstrated against the Supreme Court and 50,000 non-Haredim staged a counter-protest.

Her report paints a stark, discomforting picture of two camps that seem dug in against each other with very little initiative from either side to understand the other's anxieties.

Her article opens and closes with the irony of bus number 15 travelling its route through the many diverse sectors of the city, a unifying ribbon of sorts, tying together in a functional way, the different and disparate parts of the wondrous ancient modern city.

But what the Egged bus in Jerusalem achieves functionally, intolerance, disrespect and incivility tear down societally.

How can we stand idly by, merely watching in anger or in disbelief as this is happening?

How can we not protest the ascendancy of ugly, triumphal extremism?

Even from our distanced vantage in the Diaspora, we have an obligation to the state and to the people and to our common history and heritage, to speak out against the extremist bullies of all ideologies whose self-centred brutishness elbows away moderation and restraint in public discourse.

The cause of a vibrant, strong, democratic, Jewish Israel is too important for us merely to shrug our shoulders with a sense of helpless hopelessness.

For that matter, the cause of a vibrant, strong Jewish society in the Diaspora is too important for us merely to shrug our shoulders with a sense of helpless hopelessness.

We must therefore, encourage, nurture and publicize any and all forces that speak out on behalf of moderation within Israeli and Jewish society.

In that vein, I bring to the readers' attention two important recent developments.

Prof. Moshe Kaveh, the president of Bar-Ilan University, the "modern Orthodox" university in Israel, has recently undertaken a high profile public campaign calling for new guidelines of respectful, civil dialogue with the Haredi community.

In an interview he gave to *Ha'aretz* and in an article he wrote for *Yediot Achronot* regarding "protest Sunday" and the events that preceded it, Kaveh called for an end to the sway of the extremists.

"The extremist statements made recently by the leadership of the Ultra-Orthodox community against the Supreme Court and its Chief Justice have crossed all the lines of legitimate, acceptable criticism in a democratic society. Every citizen of this country who is concerned for the democratic and Jewish character of our society must stand up and say loudly: no more. This has gone too far.

"I say this, despite the fact that I too am critical of the legal and philosophical approach adopted by today's Supreme Court. There is indeed what to question about the way in which the Supreme Court justices have approached and ruled on matters of faith and religion. But... this is beside the point, we must stand up and strengthen the Supreme Court, an institution critical to the functioning of our democracy.

"The demonstrations ...against the Supreme Court, and the opposing demonstrations, leave the mistaken impression that the two values – Judaism and democracy – are contradictory and cannot together form the basis for modern Israel society. This is not the case."

Around the same time as Prof. Kaveh was pleading with the Israeli public, two philanthropic foundations across the ocean – in the United States – were also striking a blow on behalf of civility in Jewish life.

Gary Rosenblatt, the editor and publisher of the *Jewish Week* reported that the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Foundation in New York and the Sapirstein-Stone-Weiss Foundation in Cleveland have decided to "hold back funds from any group that transcends the boundaries of civil discourse."

As Rosenblatt correctly points out, "the point is not to stifle debate" but rather, to welcome it only if accompanied "by respect for the other's integrity."

We must all now join the battle for civility and mutual respect in Jewish life.

MBD

SEE JN

HELPING TO PROVIDE LIGHT
Members of the General Wingate Branch 256 of the Royal Canadian Legion recently dedicated a menorah to the Sunnybrook Hospital Jewish Chapel.

Greater Toronto Area

No war crimes 'witch-hunt,' ethnics assured

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Ethnic communities should not fear that Ottawa's pursuit of modern-day war criminals is a witch-hunt, officials assured representatives of the multicultural media last week.

Officials also used the briefing to draw clear distinctions between the federal justice department's War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity unit, set up in 1987 to pursue Nazi-era war criminals; and the war crimes unit of Citizenship and Immigration Canada, begun in 1996 to pursue modern-day war criminals.

Officials attached to the Ontario region of the citizenship ministry's war crimes unit repeated their assurances that their efforts are not targeting members of any specific nationality or ethnic group.

"We have laws we abide by. This is not a witch-hunt," said Susan Davis, an advisor to the unit and a former national director of Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada.

Over the past decade, the Immigration Act has been amended several times to allow Canada to remove or refuse entry to anyone who has committed war crimes, crimes against humanity or crimes against peace, Carrie Storms, manager of the citizenship ministry's Ontario Region War Crimes Unit told journalists from several ethnic media outlets.

There were about 400 cases identified when the unit started up. Of those, some 100 people have been kicked out of Canada or refused entry.

"The objective is simple: to ensure Canada is not a safe haven for people who have committed war crimes or crimes against humanity," said Craig Goodes, the unit's senior director "We will be visible and aggressive, but we will respect the rule of law."

The unit was established out of a "nagging concern" that war criminals were among the thousands of new immigrants to Canada each year.

Recent media reports have painted Canada as a haven for war criminals and for those associated with Middle East terrorist groups.

Last summer, Ottawa earmarked an additional $47 million over three years to pursue war criminals inside Canada. The lion's share – $27 million – went to the citizenship and immigration ministry's war crimes branch; $17 million was allotted to the justice department's Nazi-era unit; and $2 million went to federal police and investigative operations.

The newer unit's mandate overlaps with several jurisdictions, including the Criminal Code, border controls and the Immigration and Refugee Board. Changes to the Immigration Act mean Canada can refuse entry to anyone suspected on "reasonable grounds" of having committed a war crime that would have been against the law in this country.

As well, the act prohibits entry to senior members or officials of a government, including heads of state, engaged in "terrorism, systematic or gross human rights violations, or war crimes, or crimes against humanity" within the Criminal Code's definition. An exception is made for those who have satisfied the government that their admission would not hurt the "national interest."

The Immigration Act specifies six governments and regimes where human rights abuses were prevalent. The law, however, is not limited to crimes committed in just those places.

The six are: Afghanistan's former Marxist regime; Haiti's Duvalier regime and a period following; Iraq's Saddam Hussein regime and that of his predecessor; the former Bosnia Serb republic of Srpska; several periods since 1990 in Rwanda; and the entire regime of President Siad Barre of Somalia.

Unit members recently toured the Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre's museum and heard an address from a Holocaust survivor on the importance of pursuing war criminals.

RUSSIAN PURIM PARTY
Aaron Krupnic (left) and Hirsh Lat perform a Purimshpiel at the recent Purim party held by Maon Noam, an Orthodox Russian congregation.

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Jewish medical ethics explored at forum

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Circumcision, the separation of conjoined twins, and even body piercing were addressed in a wide-ranging lecture on pediatric bioethics held recently for staff at the Hospital for Sick Children (HSC).

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl of Beth Tzedec Congregation was the second speaker in a monthly series on Jewish Medical Ethics organized by Judy Kopelow, a registered nurse in the hospital's critical care unit, and sponsored by HSC's department of bioethics.

Kopelow is hopeful the series will lead to the development of a Toronto-based journal and conference. Upcoming speakers include Rabbi Gunther Plaut, rabbi emeritus of Holy Blossom Temple; David Novak, chair of the University of Toronto's Jewish Studies program; and Dr. Michael Gordon of the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care.

Preservation of life is of paramount importance in Judaism, said Rabbi Frydman-Kohl to an audience of about 30 Jewish and non-Jewish staff.

Although there is a prohibition against inflicting injury, it is permissible and even obligatory to cause injury (as in the case of surgery) for the purpose of preserving life, the rabbi said. The idea generally refers only to a well-established procedure, he added.

But even hazardous therapy and experimental surgery are permissible to secure relief from ongoing severe pain, he said.

The benefit to the general community is a consideration in the case of experimental surgery, the rabbi said. "Because of the rapidity of communication, every patient around the world is considered immediately before us."

For a long time, rabbinic authorities prohibited organ transplantation, said Rabbi Frydman-Kohl, but "as the benefits became clear and with the advent of treatment to deal with [rejection], we've now moved to an entirely different position."

In the event of a child's death, parents may authorize the donation of organs or tissues, he said. Anencephalic babies may not be kept alive for the purpose of donation, but donation is permitted if the child dies naturally, he added.

Parents are not in a position, however, to authorize living children under bar or bat mitzvah age to be kidney or bone marrow donors, said the rabbi.

Some of the most difficult cases from a medical ethics standpoint are those of conjoined twins. "If it's obvious that without surgery, both will die, there is significant rabbinic opinion that says you have to go ahead, and you select for survival the twin that is most likely to live. These cases are so difficult that whenever they've involved someone of a religious family, there's extensive rabbinic consultation."

On a lighter note, the rabbi said the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly (the umbrella body for Conservative rabbis) recently ruled that body piercing – which has been permitted at different times in Jewish history – is permissible provided it does not create a health hazard.

"We don't consider it self-mutilation, which is prohibited."

On this and other issues, the rabbi made a point of saying, there is a range of rabbinic opinion.

Tattooing, he noted, is prohibited by biblical law, although it doesn't preclude burial in a Jewish cemetery.

Cosmetic surgery can be a contentious issue, he indicated, adding that it is always permitted in the case of congenital or post-traumatic abnormalities. It is important from the perspective of Jewish law that esthetic surgery be defined in terms of medical indications rather than as cosmetic procedures, he said.

Rabbi Frydman-Kohl encouraged medical personnel to be sensitive to the needs of Jewish families who may have specific requests such as opening sterile packages before Shabbat, or that a smaller dressing be used so a boy over 13 can put on tfillin.

The topic of circumcision generated the most discussion, with questions about the impossibility of a baby giving consent and about inflicting pain "given we have the ability to control it."

Anesthetic for circumcision has been "the subject of a lot of debate," said Rabbi Frydman-Kohl. The use of topical anesthetic seems to be permitted by many authorities, he said. Its use is not universally favored, however, because it tends to be slippery, according to both the questioner and the rabbi.

"It seems to me that the use of some mild anesthetic to reduce pain is beneficial, and I think that over the next few years we're going to see rabbinic opinion move in that way," said Rabbi Frydman-Kohl.

From a religious standpoint, it is considered beneficial to circumcise an infant rather than to obligate him to undergo the procedure as an adult, the rabbi explained.

Under certain circumstances or medical conditions, he noted, circumcision may be postponed or even cancelled.

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Community seders

TORONTO — For those who would like to share Passover seders with other members of the community, there are many taking place in the Greater Toronto Area. Some are at the following locations:

Association of Jewish Seniors Clubs, 635-2860; Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda, 633-3838; Beth Radom, 636-3451; Beth Tzedec, 781-3511; Beth Torah, 782-4495; Bloor JCC, 924-6211; Jewish Russian Community Centre, 222-7105; Shaar Shalom, 905-889-4975; Solel Congregation, 905-826-5300; Temple Emanu-El, 449-3880; The Terrace, 785-2500, ext. 2267 or 2430; Holy Blossom Temple, 789-3291.

* * *

A number of volunteer opportunities are available for the Passover season:

The Community Integration Program of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) is seeking volunteers interested in assisting in the placement of Russian families in Canadian Jewish homes. If you have room for a new immigrant family at one of your seders, call Dina, 630-6481.

Drivers are needed to deliver Passover boxes on March 28. Call the National Council of Jewish Women, 633-5100.

Blind and visually impaired adults and children can obtain Haggadot in large print by calling the Jewish Braille Institute 212-889-2525.

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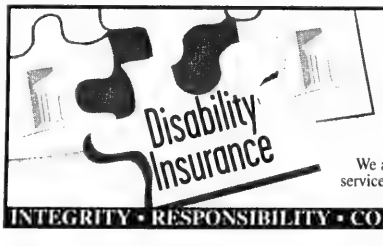

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Greater Toronto Area

Seniors' craft work helps keep homeless warm

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Mildred Margulies and her corps of crocheters and knitters at the Dorothy Klein Seniors Residence are on the hunt for donations of wool – Sayelle or any four-ply worsted – to make hats, scarves and mittens for homeless people at Holy Blossom Temple's Out of the Cold program.

Margulies, a member of the temple, wanted to help the weekly program (which offers dinner, overnight accommodation, breakfast and clothing to homeless people), but the thought of waking up at 5 a.m. to take a breakfast shift or committing to volunteer on winter evenings didn't seem practical to her.

Margulies, coordinator of the two-year-old knitting and crocheting group that meets weekly in her building, liked the idea of donating their handiwork.

The first time they made a donation, according to Margulies, a recipient said, "I can't remember the last time I had something to wear that nobody before me had worn."

That comment fuelled Margulies' determination to continue the project. Her group also collects money and toiletries to donate to the program. They have been using a combination of donated wool and material they've bought themselves.

The group's work is warm and colorful, adding a "homey touch," according to Bob Smolkin, chair of the temple's Out of the Cold committee, who is assisting them in seeking corporate donations.

"Just because we're old, don't write us off, you know," said Margulies, 76.

Group members range in age from 60 to mid-80s, and represent a variety of ethnic and religious backgrounds. They're – pardon the pun – a close-knit group, thriving on the companionship as much as the task at hand.

Not everyone knits or crochets for Out of the Cold, although over a dozen – more than half the members – do. But they all support each other in their efforts.

"It was too much money to get a teacher, so we decided we'd all teach and we'd all learn," said Margulies.

Octogenarian Nora Rennie is "an extremely good knitter, and she helps people who are just learning. One woman made a scarf. It took her a year to do it, but it's keeping somebody warm," said Margulies.

"The thing about the group," said 82-year-old Dena Sugarbroad, "is that everyone is so different. We come from all ethnic groups, and talk to each other, not just like friends but like sisters."

Sugarbroad, like Margulies, is a native of London, England. Others hail from Romania, Denmark, Ireland, Greece, Scotland, Portugal and Canada.

There were also a Lebanese and an Israeli woman who used to sit together and talk in Arabic, said Margulies.

Most of the women have other volunteer commitments as well. Sugarbroad serves on two committees of the Canadian Hearing Society and used to knit for premature babies in hospital. Anne Johnson, 82, a Roman Catholic nun, works on behalf of the Alzheimer Society.

Patricia Dinardo, at 60 the baby of the group, once knit 30 afghans for nursing home residents.

"If you're doing something for somebody, it makes you feel good," she said.

"They say, [if you want something done,] ask a busy person," said Sugarbroad.

Julia Sealy, 84, whose voice still carries the lilt of her native Trinidad, summed it up this way. "I like to help people."

Anyone who can help the group by donating supplies should call Margulies at 781-0200.

Mildred Margulies sits behind a table displaying some of her group's handiwork. With her from left are Julia Sealy, Dena Sugarbroad, Anne Johnson, Gloria Carr, Nora Rennie, Patricia Dinardo and Hirklia Hronopoulos. **[Frances Kraft photo]**

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- LACHISH - Ashdod - Tuesday, 14.36 hours - Call - 2 year old child hurt by fall of television set. One mobile intensive care unit sent. The severely injured child was taken to Tel Hashomer Hospital where she immediately underwent brain surgery.
- JERUSALEM - Givat Zeev - Friday, 04.30 hours - Call - Explosion due to gas leak in two floor apartment building. Husband killed, wife and 2 year old daughter in serious condition, taken to hospital. Neighbours injured and taken to hospital. 10 lightly and two severely wounded. 5 standard ambulances and one mobile intensive care unit sent.

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The message the premier refuses to hear

The National Assembly of Quebec reconvened last week with the expected, heated but tired rhetorical flourishes from Premier Lucien Bouchard. "Who cares what Quebec wants? This is the message [from English Canada] Quebecers must ponder." It was a variation of his standard demagogic theme that federated Canada oppresses independence-seeking Quebec.

Using the social union agreement recently signed by the federal government and the other nine provinces as his dramatic foil, the premier self-servingly reinterpreted that event using the dark and sinister images that have become his political trademark.

"English Canadians have decided that they want to be governed as a single, unified nation... We in Quebec have no quarrel with that resolve... *as long as we are not bullied* into following someone else's vision." (Our emphasis)

But no one is bullying Quebec. No one has forced Quebec to surrender its jurisdiction. Nor has anyone deprived Quebec of its share of the funds that will be transferred from the federal government to the provinces under the terms of the social union agreement, although in the weeks leading up to the opening of the Assembly, the government in Quebec did its best to suggest otherwise.

In a provocative three-part campaign of billboard propaganda described by Jeffrey Simpson in the *Globe and Mail* as "a series of wildly misleading ads," Bouchard's government suggested that Canadian federalism discriminated against Quebec in a number of ways: by giving disproportionately larger shares of transfer and investment funds to other provinces, notably Ontario, and by honoring the bills, in this case hydro bills, submitted by other provinces, namely Ontario again, but avoiding those of Quebec.

The truth of course was quite the contrary. The people of Quebec receive about a third of the total of federal transfer payments even though they comprise about one-quarter of the Canadian population. As for the unpaid bills, the federal government pays the bills approved by the auditor general. To their credit, federal ministers Stephane Dion and Marcel Masse quickly responded to the misinformation being officially disseminated by the government of Quebec.

The use of the language of confrontation, "*as long as we are not bullied*," and the images of deception are clearly intended by the premier to stir visceral responses among the "soft" federalists in Quebec, presumably as part of his efforts to help create "the winning conditions" for the next referendum.

But the people of Quebec understand and recognize the truth. They will not be fooled by amateurish and petty tirades from their government. They expect a mature, honest debate of the issues.

Part of what they expect is for the government as well to understand and recognize the truth. But most of the premier's political discourse suggests that he is either incapable of accepting or unwilling to accept the truth. For example, in his remarks at the opening of the Assembly, Bouchard told the deputies: "We must be frank and tell Quebecers that in the present Canadian context, there is a political price to pay for remaining *undecided too long*." (Our emphasis)

The truth, however, is that Quebecers are not undecided about their future. They have expressed a distinct and clear direction for their future. Twice now, even in the ambiguous, confusing referendum language drafted by two different separatist governments, the people of Quebec have rejected separatism. In the last provincial election, the majority voted against the Parti Québécois and its core separatist program.

Most Quebecers consistently send the same anti-separatist message to their separatist provincial government.

The premier of Quebec, however, refuses to hear it.

This is the real message that Quebecers must ponder.

WISDOM OF THE AGES

"You will work six days, and the seventh day will be set aside, sanctified, a Shabbat Shabbaton of rest for the Lord." (Parshat Vayahkel)

Dry Bones

A PALESTINIAN IS ARRESTED AND AFTER A TWO HOUR TRIAL IS PUT TO DEATH?
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Tuition leaves less for estates

Rabbi Marvin Pachino (*CJN*, Feb. 11), suggests that we should not accept government funding for Jewish day schools because they "might" reduce their support for education at some point in the future.

Due to the Ontario government's blatant discriminatory funding policy in education, not only are our children excluded from the type of education that the government provides to hundreds of thousands of others, but we are also unable to participate in the broad debate of government funding of education as do other citizens of Ontario.

Chicago's five percent solution is an interesting proposal. Before proceeding with an approach like this, I would first rather see that the $70 million that is lost annually due to tuition fees be restored to members of the Jewish community. Then we'll have much more for our own wealth in our estates to bequeath to Jewish education and other worthy causes at the time of our passing.

Wayne J. Levin
Toronto

Reader responds to CJN's Gerber

In her Jan. 28 article, Jean Gerber attempts to connect the Jewish situation of 2,000 years ago to the Jewish situation today. Gerber makes a claim that ultra-Orthodox Jewry of today resembles the group known as the Zealots. From her article it is clear that she has very little grasp of Jewish history.

Unlike Gerber's assertion, the Zealots were not religious zealots, but rather political ones. The Zealots wanted to try to expel the Romans, in order to rid the Jewish people of oppressive Roman rule. In this respect, they are quite similar to the Jews who fought during the Warsaw Ghetto uprising in 1943. Both groups fought against a foreign power which had more troops and better equipment. Both groups had initial success, but were defeated. We may look back 2,000 years and decide that the Zealots fought a hopeless battle which was doomed to failure. However, just as the Warsaw Ghetto uprising is remembered by Jews all over the world as a symbol of courage, bravery and freedom, so were the battles between the Zealots and the Romans, such as Masada.

Finally, in her article, Gerber considers Rabbi Akivah a marginal figure. She seems to be unaware that he is a major figure in the Talmud and even in the Passover Haggadah. Another reason for his fame is his statement V'Ahavta l'reiacha kamokha – Zeh klal gadol ba'Torah – You should love your fellow (Jew) as you love yourself — this is an important clause in the Torah.

Perhaps Gerber should consider this the next time.

Mark Sidloi
Cote St. Luc, Quebec

A despot receives mercy

It has been reported that Erich Priebke, who ordered the mass murder of 350 innocent people in the caves of Italy during World War II, has been released from jail to spend the rest of his sentence under house arrest. The reason given – Priebke's poor health.

The irony consists in the fact that mercy is being granted to him, though he did not show any to his victims. He deprived them of reaching the age he himself succeeded to. Their souls are probably crying that for what he did to them, he should not only spend the rest of his life in jail, but rather rot in hell. That would also send a message to future despots.

Bronka Zimmerman
Montreal

Can life be beautiful in a concentration camp?

Concerning the movie *Life is beautiful*, I am waiting for a comment from one of our Jewish leaders on the propriety of using a concentration camp as a background for a kind of fun game.

The Holocaust deniers will jump on the opportunity to start "educating" the next generation with this kind of movie. For example, *True love in Treblinka: The SS commander and the rabbi's daughter.* Or maybe a musical, *The merry SS women dancers of Majdanek.* An insidious way to "bagatellise" the horrible past, and show that it really was not so bad. After all, they will say, "I saw it in the movies."

Oswald Klinghoffer
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Researching partisans' history pulled at the heart

By ALLAN LEVINE
Special to The CJN

Never before had historical research invaded my dreams and tormented my sleep; never before had tears come to my eyes while sitting at a desk in the library. But then, there is nothing normal or routine when it comes to writing on the Holocaust.

My research project concerned the wartime fate of the thousands of Jews, mainly in eastern Poland, Belorussia, Ukraine and the three Baltic States, who had miraculously survived the war by hiding or fighting in the forests as partisans. They lived a precarious day-to-day existence, eluding Nazi hunts as well as unfriendly Soviet, Polish and Ukrainian guerrilla fighters who often killed first and asked questions later.

The tears came on a day in April 1996. Perhaps it was the accumulation of many hours of full-time listening to Holocaust survivor testimonies, each one a catalogue of misery and death. I am not sure. But alone one afternoon in the majestic surroundings of a large wood-paneled reading room at the Yale University library, this particular story told in a video testimony by a woman named Fruma pulled at my heart.

The odd thing, was that Fruma's recollections were similar to so many others that I had already researched: how during the chaos of an aktion (a Nazi raid on a ghetto), final farewells were said to parents and siblings, and survival was usually a combination of courage, an instinct for self-preservation and sheer luck.

Fruma and her sister-in-law saved themselves by hiding in a cesspool of human waste, where they remained for six excruciating days. But Fruma's father had stubbornly refused to flee. As she remembered many years later, he stood in his small ghetto shack wearing his tallit, waiting for the Nazis to find him.

"He looked at me and did not say one word," she related. "He was saying goodbye with his eyes. I could not say [anything]."

After that day, Fruma did not see her father again.

My nightmares had begun much earlier than April, soon after I had started research on the unspeakable brutality perpetuated by the dreaded Einsatzgruppen, Hitler's mobile death squads that were dispatched east following the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union (and Soviet-occupied territory) in June 1941. The soldiers had been specifically trained to cleanse the regions of Jews, or in the language of the German bureaucrats, to make it Judenfrei (free of Jews).

Outside of Vilna, near the Polygon, a locked compound four kilometres from the town of Swieciany, and at the massive death pits at Babi Yar, close to Kiev – among only a few of the killing sites – the annihilation of European Jews began in earnest.

After a day of reading Nazi reports and eyewitness accounts of the mass murder, I shut my eyes at night only to be besieged by vivid images of young children being flung into the pits alive, of naked Jews lined up like animals for the slaughter, of the Germans filming the killings for posterity, of the blood-soaked ground still convulsing two days later after wounded men, women and children were buried alive.

Partisan fighter Ben Lungen (right) and Red Army soldier Max Banschick in Munich, Germany in August 1945.

It is, of course, one thing to read and hear about such tragic events, quite another to have such terrible memories etched in your mind forever. That is just one of the many burdens Holocaust survivors have been forced to live with.

Forty years ago, there were only a handful of books about the Holocaust; today there are hundreds. The trial of Adolf Eichmann, one of the architects of the Nazi's Final Solution, in Jerusalem in 1962, is generally credited with generating this remarkable output of scholarship documenting each tragic step in the destruction of European Jews.

As the Holocaust became an acceptable subject of academic and journalistic inquiry, the victims of this horror gradually began to grant interviews, write their memoirs and speak publicly about their ordeal.

Archival projects in Israel and the United States – including most notably Steven Spielberg's impressive Shoah project, which when completed will have recorded on video the testimonies of more than 50,000 survivors around the world – probably now makes the Holocaust one of the most documented events in the 20th century. And yet despite this prodigious record, serious questions, selective memory and outright distortions about the basic facts of the Holocaust continue to be raised.

The recent and heated debate about Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's visit to Auschwitz makes it clear that sensitive and emotional controversies still swirl around the history of those dark years. Perhaps they always will.

The process of preserving the survivors' own stories thus has taken on an even more important significance. But the work has been slow and painful. When they first began rebuilding their broken lives after the war had ended, mainly in North American and Israel (then Palestine), the survivors rarely spoke of what had happened to them – how they had watched the Einsatzgruppen murder their families, how they had been herded into ghettos, how they had survived in concentration and slave labor camps or by fleeing into the forests to fight as partisans.

For many, not only were these memories too immediate and too painful to recall, but also, their North American friends and relatives initially did not want to hear about those terrible times. Who would have believed such wild stories in any event? "During the [50s], we met with a number of American Jews, and I have to say it was extremely difficult to talk with them about the Holocaust," former partisan Jack Sutin, now living in Minneapolis, told me. "Not because we were unwilling or afraid to speak, but because they simply could not understand. Especially when I started to tell them about our time with the Jewish partisans. I had the feeling that they didn't believe what I was saying."

So Sutin, like others, remained silent, troubled in sleep by nightmares of attack dogs and whips, racked by guilt that they alone among their loved ones had walked out of the woods to start their lives over again.

Many married and had children (some, who had lost their first spouses and families during the war, for the second time) and continued the Jewish traditions that they had been taught in another world, in another time.

As they reached middle age, many former partisans, more able to speak and cope with the memory of their experiences than those who had suffered the horrors of Auschwitz, Majdanek, Dachau and the other death camps, began to write their memoirs and deliver public presentations to high school students. They realized, finally, that it was their duty and obligation to set the historical record straight, as painful as it was. Who else could tell the world about the Jewish people who were nearly obliterated from the face of the earth? Who else could recount the amazing chronicle of their resistance?

As I began contacting survivors who I wanted to interview, many were instantly agreeable to my requests to speak with them, some were initially skeptical and wondered about my motives, given that my parents were not Holocaust survivors. A few refused, citing one excuse or another. It took nearly a year of negotiation before one man finally consented to sit down with me.

One highlight was when – with the help of my brother-in-law Jeff Morrison, who speaks Yiddish – I was able to track down Chil Grynszpan, who once led a renowned Jewish resistance detachment in the forests of eastern Poland. After the war, Grynszpan immigrated to Brazil where he now lives. In a lengthy telephone conversation, Jeff was able to communicate with his wife in Yiddish and then with his son Mario, who eventually interviewed his ailing father for me.

As it turned out, on my research travels throughout North America, Europe and Israel, I was able to visit the Parczew forest, south- east of Warsaw, where Grynszpan and his courageous men once fought. That day in May of 1996, standing among the tall pine and birch trees, it was difficult to envision what had transpired so many years earlier.

The best way to describe my visit to Poland is to compare it to a visit to a museum of lost civilizations. You can still see the remnants of a rich and diverse Jewish culture in old synagogues now serving as restaurants and movie theatres.

In time, I understood the apprehensions of some of the survivors. Indeed, interviewing Holocaust survivors or reading their testimonies and memoirs is an experience you can never forget.

To hear a survivor's personal account is traumatic and moving. The interview sessions, which always began with happy memories of childhood, parents and schools, eventually ended in tears and recollections of horror no person should have to live with.

Each time I concluded these interviews, I could not help being awed by the survivor's strength and emotional will-power. Though an emotionally draining ordeal, these last survivors of the Holocaust persevere, now more than ever.

As they reach their late 60s and 70s, they know they have a special mission to perform. It is not to lay blame, but rather to record and preserve the past – to fulfil a mitzvah. No one could or should ask anything more from them than that.

Allan Levine is a Winnipeg historian and writer.

Opinions

Election sure to sharpen divisions

Like the country itself, elections in Israel are intense and unpredictable. But this election campaign will have one predictable outcome – it will sharpen, rather than attenuate, differences and divisions.

Shira Herzog in Toronto

If the Knesset after the 1996 election was a mirror image of divisions in Israeli society, the current election campaign reflects them with even greater force. In a crowded political arena, politicians and would-be politicians are jostling for position and are exploiting any possible issue to guarantee them a moment in the spotlight, which they hope will translate into political support.

The media, in a talk-show frenzy, are catering to the need for exposure, which they in turn, hope will translate into stronger ratings. The result is an aggressive, personalized and confrontational campaign, unsavory to the observer, and troubling to those involved.

First, there is the show of political power by the haredi community, ostensibly challenging the judicial activism of the Supreme Court under the leadership of Chief Justice Aharon Barak. In truth, the issue cuts far deeper.

The concern of the haredi parties in Israel is that the independent, activist court will challenge legislative gains that they have made through the pressures available to them in the political process. The potent mix of political power, religious ideology and virulent personal attacks has made it virtually impossible to conduct the debate on the merits of the issue. And mounting the assault on the court at the height of an election campaign has guaranteed that the reaction of other political figures is tempered by their own political agendas.

A second, hot-button issue is the so-called ethnic factor. In both Labor and Likud, the senior slot – after Ehud Barak and Shimon Peres, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu respectively – on the party list was won by a politician of Middle Eastern origin, Mizrachi in the current Israeli parlance. The ascendance of Silvan Shalom, minister of science in the Likud government, and historian and former diplomat Shlomo Ben-Ami, the neophyte Labor politician, has been hailed as further evidence of the ethnic revolution in Israeli politics. But the focus of ethnic dissatisfaction has moved to other minority groups. The Ethiopian community's grievances are the rallying cry of former Labor MK Addisu Massala, who has lost the chance of a realistic seat in the next Knesset.

Politically, the more significant developments are within the Arab Israeli community and among the Russian immigrants. Both Labor and Likud can count on a hard core of supporters, but both also require significant blocs of other voters to gain a majority in the Knesset, or for that matter, in the prime ministerial election. If for Likud, the haredi vote has been virtually assured over the last several elections, Labor has been able to depend on the Arab vote and the Arab parties' support in the Knesset.

The new electoral system, in which the voters vote directly for the prime minister, has created new opportunities and new strains in this pattern. Arab voters can now cast the vote of their choice for the Knesset party, and can offer their prime ministerial vote to the highest bidder. Like other Israeli voters, the Arab citizens care about domestic budgets for education and development, and Netanyahu is making big promises to buy their vote.

Since Ehud Barak is not viewed as an authentic "dove" on the peace issue, and since his message to the centrist Israeli voter is bound to sound too hawkish for most Arab voters in any case, the Arabs are making it very clear that they cannot be taken for granted.

Within the Russian immigrant community, the situation is no less fragmented. Natan Sharansky's seniority as the premier Russian-Israeli politician is being challenged by Avigdor Liberman, formerly Netanyahu's right-hand man. Speaking as the ultimate outsider, Liberman's announcement of his new party was accompanied by a scorching attack on the country's "elites" – the police, the judiciary, and the media.

He will call on his supporters to vote for Netanyahu, while Sharansky will have to differentiate his message to gain support for his party and for the prime ministerial candidate of his choice. It is unlikely to be Barak, but it may be Itzik Mordechai of the centrist party.

Finally, there is Labor's attempt to broaden its base through One Israel, an umbrella that can accommodate both Labor and satellite parties. Admittedly, at the expense of some seats for aspiring Labor politicians, Barak has signed agreements with the moderate religious party, Meimad, and with David Levy's party, Gesher.

For Barak, these represent an appeal to groups in the community that may find it difficult to cast a vote for Labor. For the satellite parties themselves, the Labor umbrella guarantees post-election positions. In this case, the coalition negotiations have, in effect, already taken place.

Holocaust overload in fiction and art

The Oscar season is upon us. Among the contenders for best picture is Roberto Benigni's *Life is Beautiful.*

I have not seen Benigni's acclaimed tragi-comedy about a father and son relationship set against the backdrop of the destruction of Italian Jewry. For some time, I have declined to see any films directly dealing with the Holocaust, although I made an exception for *Schindler's List.* I have also been observing a self-imposed moratorium on the reading of Holocaust-related fiction and viewing of similar theatre.

Morton Weinfeld in Montreal

I am well aware of the wonderful works of art that have wrestled with the horror and ambiguities of the Holocaust, and I used to consume them regularly: *The Pawnbroker, Sophie's Choice, The Dance of Gengis Cohn, The Man in the Glass Booth,* the writings of Elie Wiesel and Primo Levi. Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis' *Mauthausen* is deeply moving. So is artwork from or about the Shoah. I recommend them all.

But for some time, I have felt Holocaust overload from the world of the arts and entertainment. I obviously do not reject the possibility or desirability of artistic treatment of unspeakable horror. And I still read works of historical analysis about the war and its aftermath, like Daniel Goldhagen's provocative *Hitler's Willing Executioners.*

But no more movies or best-selling fiction, at least not for me, and not now. I recall my father, alav hashalom, watching the TV show *Hogan's Heroes* and getting angry at the depiction of the clownish German officers, Col. Klink and Sgt. Schultz. My father, a survivor, knew that those in charge of PoW camps were not soft-hearted buffoons.

I think I can understand the muse that inspired Benigni's treatment of survival in the camps as a game for his child, replete with its moments of hilarity. After all, I recall laughing at *Mad* magazine's satires of Nazis, with articles like *The Warm and Witty Side of Heinrich Himmler.* But I am not certain of the message that this sends out and its impact at this time. I can understand voices in the Jewish community who have felt that his treatment also demeans the ordeal of the survivors and the victims.

Of course there was still humor in the ghettos, and even – albeit less – in the camps. Perhaps that is one of the subliminal messages of this film. But the Shoah was, and is, no joke, and the camps were no fantasy.

The Holocaust denial movement seems to be thriving. The *Globe and Mail* recently ran a lengthy op-ed story about the failed deportation of an alleged Canadian Nazi war criminal. These stories trigger a barrage of criticism of Jewish organizations for supporting vengeful "witch hunts" against old men and are used by deniers for their ends.

The Holocaust seems to be growing in importance in news events. We have new claims, and not only by Jews, against German and other European banks, corporations and museums for bank accounts, stolen gold, insurance policies, works of art and slave labor. This is not vengeance but justice long delayed and denied, a much needed moral cleansing, which I support fully.

But in the midst of this swirl of legal events, the Jewish community continues to use the Holocaust as a central vehicle of identity and socialization. Alienated Jewish intellectuals can use Holocaust books and films as a tie to their heritage, a non-demanding alternative to keeping kosher or going to synagogue. Everywhere there are symposia, institutes, academic chairs, museums, memorials, centres, curricula, political sloganeering, pilgrimages of adults and teens. Perhaps we are still making up for the silences of the immediate post-war period. But what does this mean for the Jewish present and future?

I feel the need for some communal introspection and stocktaking. On a personal level, I now feel sufficiently confused that I am no longer receptive to artistic interpretations of the Holocaust, of ever increasing subtlety. This is a reflection of my own search, not a comment on those works or their audience.

Outlawing the panhandlers

A recent article in the *Globe & Mail* by Arthur Schafer highlights the fact that an increasing number of communities in Canada, led by Winnipeg and Vancouver, have outlawed panhandling and made it, in fact, a criminal offence. Just in case my readers think that we in Ontario are exempt from this latest cure for poverty, let me add quickly that Ottawa, Oshawa, Kingston and others have also introduced similar legislation. In Winnipeg, the bylaws circumscribe the possible activities of beggars, and if they violate the regulations, threaten them with a thousand-dollar fine or a jail term of up to six months, or both.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

I presume that the introduction of these restrictions and threats against the weakest part of our population has three reasons:

- That begging is done agressively and threateningly. But if that were the case, it would be unnecessary to enact these bylaws, for the Criminal Code already prohibits such behavior.
- Increasingly, people feel annoyed or embarrassed when they see the outstretched hand and the open hat, and feel that their enjoyment of life is somehow curtailed when they come that close to the other side of existence. (Maybe they even think that most beggars and squeegee kids are really entrepreneurs with bank accounts, who have chosen to make such activity their living.)
- There is embarrassment when somebody begs us to contribute money, while we are unwilling or unable to reply with the request and therefore feel we have been put on the spot.

None of these reasons is sufficiently compelling to take away from a tiny proportion of the population the right to ask for charity. Begging is a demeaning activity to start with, and I rather think there is not one in a thousand who enjoys doing it.

Another feature of our dubious sentiments is this: It brings to our minds the inadequacy of our social safety network and therefore leaves us with a feeling of systemic inadequacy. We don't like our day's activities soured by that recognition, for we know well enough that the poor and the homeless are still amongst us. The Torah says, in fact, that this will always be the case – despite its oft-repeated injunction to take care of those with whom life has dealt harshly.

Managing to sweep one aspect of poverty under the rug of public conscience does not eliminate the problem. Schafer admits that in some instances, businesses or even neighborhoods may feel imposed upon when too many panhandlers appear to bar one's way. But that too is the exception.

Maybe, as long as people are compelled to ask someone else for help, we ought to be prepared with some change in our pockets to make these small payments a part of the daily routine. I always remember, on my first visit to Tel Aviv many years ago, a young man's careening from one side of the street to the other. When I asked him what he was looking for, he said: "It's erev Shabbes, and I must find someone in need to whom I can give tzedakah."

That was Judaism at its best: a religion that makes tzedakah an act, not of occasional charity, but of constant obligation.

The Kirshner File

Niv Fichman reaps success in film

"It was a nerve-wracking night," said Niv Fichman. "You can never be sure you'll win. So many factors come into play. You never know. You can't call it."

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Fichman, 41, one of the founding partners of Rhombus Media – a Canadian company which specializes in films about the performing arts – was certainly nervous on the eve of last month's Genie Awards ceremony in Toronto.

Two of the movies he had produced, *The Red Violin* and *Last Night*, were up for prizes. "I was very, very much involved with these films. Both are my babies." He needn't have worried. *The Red Violin* and *Last Night*, directed respectively by Francois Girard and Don McKellar, made off with 11 Genies, presented by the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television. "It was a great night," gushed the normally reserved Fichman, who holds dual Canadian-Israeli citizenship.

It has truly been an astonishing year for Fichman and Rhombus Media. Besides winning kudos in Canada, *The Red Violin* and *Last Night* garnered critical recognition abroad. And two of its documentaries, *Yo-Yo Ma: Inspired by Bach* and *The War Symphonies: Shostakovich Against Stalin*, captured an Emmy.

Fichman's pleasure in winning the raves of his peers, though, is tempered by his perception that Canadians generally give homegrown movies short shrift. "I wish more people would go see more Canadian films," he groused. "And I wish the press was more supportive."

Fichman, who has produced and directed dozens of films, and who has collaborated with such musicians as Yehudi Menuhin and Seiji Ozawa, founded Rhombus Media 20 years ago with Barbara Willis Sweete when they were in the same cinema class at York University. "We worked well together and decided to continue." Since then, they have taken on additional partners: Larry Weinstein, Sheena Macdonald and Danny Iron.

Rhombus Media's first film, *Opus 1 Number 1*, a documentary which traces the evolution and performance of oven piano concerto, encouraged Fichman and Sweete to remain in the business.

The partners have made, among other movies, *Thirty-Two Short Films About Glenn Gould*, *Long Day's Journey Into the Night* (adapted from Eugene O'Neil's play), *September Songs: The Music of Kurt Weill* and *When the Fire Burns: The Life & Music of Manuel de Falla*.

In the main, their films either break even or eke out a modest profit. But, Fichman hastens to add, the per capita return is impressive, and perhaps the best in the Canadian industry.

Rhombus Media's films are so financially structured that big profits are not absolutely necessary. "We have to recoup $3 million for *The Red Violin* to break even. The chances are good, since it hasn't yet opened in the United States. As for *Last Night*, its gross so far is good relative to its budget."

Fichman, who once studied piano and who's on the board of the Canadian Opera Company, clearly enjoys making films about the performing arts. And so does Sweete, a pianist. "We have a preference for arts films. It's our niche. Maybe I'm sensitive to music. All our contacts are in that field. We kind of got slotted into that subject area. There are few companies like ours in North America. We're fairly unique. It's a great field. It's fantastic."

Based in a rustic old building in the downtown core, Rhombus Media is run along cooperative lines, and profits are plowed back into the firm. "We've created a utopian, idealistic kind of company," explained Fichman, an amiable man whose curly salt-and-pepper hair matches his black clothing.

"We all take an equal, modest salary, and we have never had any fights about money. We haven't grown wealthy, but in terms of quality of life, we have amazing lives. We've stuck by our ideals. I wouldn't trade this life for anything."

Fichman, who's single, is constantly on the road, but is frugal with his spending. He travels economy class on trans-Atlantic flights and stays in lower-cost hotels whenever possible. "As poor as I am, I'm an air miles millionaire," he chuckled.

Born in Tel Aviv, he comes from an arts-oriented family. His brother, Yuval, who appeared in *Opus 1 Number 1*, is a pianist. His sister, Dalit, used to be a dancer. Ted, his Romanian-born father, is an amateur pianist. Ziva, his mother, a teacher and a Sabra from Jerusalem whose parents hail from Odessa, loves music.

The Fichmans left Israel in 1967 after Ted Fichman, a structural engineer, decided there were more opportunities in Canada. He arrived in Toronto several months before the outbreak of the Six Day War, and sent for his wife and children shortly afterward. Fichman, who hardly spoke a word of English when he set foot in Toronto, graduated from George S. Henry Secondary School in Don Mills.

Raised in the Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Aviv, he has vivid reminiscences of Israel. One of Fichman's sharpest memories is of Yitzhak Rabin personally driving him and his mother to a school concert in 1963 or 1964, when he was chief of staff and his son, Yuval, was Ziva's student.

"He made me sit beside him, and I asked all kinds of questions about the gadgets in the car. My mother was none too pleased, but he insisted on patiently explaining everything."

Fichman also recalls visiting Jerusalem before the Six Day War and peering past coils of barbed wire into the Jordanian side of the divided city.

Eight years old during the Six Day War, he remembers it as an exciting time when air raid sirens sounded and civilians rushed into shelters.

Since leaving the country, Fichman, who speaks a passable Hebrew, has been back to Israel four or five times. The last occasion was nine years ago, when he was a guest of the Jerusalem Film Festival and toured Israel in the company of Canadian director, Atom Egoyan, and his wife.

"I haven't had the urge to go back on a return visit because most Israelis are not sympathetic to ex-Israelis," he admitted. (He has, however, toyed with the idea of a film about the Israel Philharmonic, which he describes as "an amazing orchestra.")

Niv Fichman

"I constantly had to explain and defend myself, even though it was not my decision to leave Israel. I've made a meaningful life here, and I don't feel I have to justify myself. Plus, I'm against what's happening in Israel today."

Succinctly put, Fichman, who follows developments in Israeli politics, is no fan of Benjamin Netanyahu and his Likud government. In recent years, however, Fichman's views have become more centrist.

He supported Rabin's rapprochement with the PLO in 1993. "I was excited by his initiative. I felt there was an end in sight to all the problems." He believes that the Palestinians are entitled to statehood, so long as Israel's security needs are met.

Fichman, whose films are unabashedly apolitical, is currently developing a number of new projects, but declines to elaborate. "We're in the very early stages, and the situation could change next week."

He is confident about the future of the Canadian film industry. "We've spent time building a critical mass of innovative filmmakers, and all of them, from Egoyan to Girard, are maturing and are at the top tier of world cinema. We've reached a good place."

And so has Rhombus Media.

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JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

The paschal lamb today

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

The seder is a wonderful paradigm for education precisely because it confounds our notions of what constitutes an appropriate question or a fitting answer.

For example, the "wise son," who asks all about "laws and statutes" of the holiday, receives an answer that seems obtuse and almost absurdly limited: "Don't eat anything after the korban Pesach." (Today we have no paschal lamb, so it means we don't eat after the afikoman.) Why is this a good response for the wise child?

The origins of the paschal lamb sacrifice can be found in Chapter 12 of the Book of Exodus. After sitting by and watching God perform the 10 plagues, the Jewish people are commanded by God to take an extraordinary step, one that would indicate their willingness to leave the ways of Egypt behind, for as Rashi explains, "sheep were regarded by the Egyptians as deities."

Before I redeem you, God asks, are you willing to spurn the ideology of Egypt, with its polytheistic worship of nature? The Jews had to exhibit the courage to buck the trends of the prevailing culture as a prelude to receiving the new way of life embodied in the revelation of the Torah.

When we inform the wise child that nothing comes after the consuming of the lamb/afikoman, what we're really telling him is that total commitment to one God, symbolized by the korban Pesach, is the ultimate goal of Jewry, and that allegiance to it is ultimately the last thing that we should "taste of" on this night. So the paschal lamb becomes a kind of group identity symbol, a way of saying that I identify with the Jewish nation, with its struggles and triumphs and needs. In line with this, the law in Temple times was that non-Jews were forbidden to eat of the korban Pesach.

Whether the ancient pagans experienced this social ostracization as a blow to their ego is open to historical guesswork. But in contemporary Jewish life,we all know who is coming to dinner: your intermarried brother and his spouse; your non-Jewish friend from work who is "just curious." But Passover is not a spectator sport, nor for all of the attempts to make it into such, a primarily universalist holiday. Nonetheless, non-Jewish seder participation is a current inevitability. So why not put that participation to a serious challenge, free of awkward politeness or patronization?

No doubt the politically correct manoeuvre at the seder table would be to utterly avoid any reference to the distinctions between Judaism and other religions, between Jews and gentiles. To focus on the idea of Exodus as a universal symbol of liberation.

But wouldn't it be far more powerful, and in an odd way, probably a big favor to all concerned, to at some point in the evening, confront the whole idea of whether Judaism is unique and in what way? And why to be attached to a Jewish person through marriage or otherwise, should entail a serious understanding of what Judaism is. That is, if only the Jewish partner could take it seriously.

We didn't escape from slavery only to soft-pedal our identity as Jews. Torah as the Talmud insistently reminds us, is a treasure house, and there should be entrance requirements to gain the benefits of that treasure. The korban Pesach is a symbol of our national unity and purpose. No matter what you achieve as an individual, there's "nothing that can be consumed," that goes beyond, as it were, our destiny as a nation.

The humble matzah

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The panic is beginning to set in. With only three weeks until Passover, kitchen cupboards are getting a meticulous cleaning, store shelves are being stocked with unbelievable new Passover products and shoppers are careening down aisles tossing everything in sight into their carts.

But today, I want to focus that classic, simple food that is the heart of the holiday: matzah.

It all started in Exodus where we are commanded to "eat matzah for seven days. By the first day, you must have your homes cleared of all leaven." (Exodus 12:15) **[http://bible.ort.org/bible/htm/exodus/torah/12151215.htm]**

Much has been written about the symbolic meaning of matzah and its place in the formation of a people **[http://www.knet.co.za/matzah/symbolis.htm]**. "The ritual surrounding the consumption of the plain, simple matzah has become a symbolic way of removing the 'puffiness' (arrogance, pride) from the soul, as well as a call to assist those who are in need. The eating of this humble food is said also to assist one to cultivate to the trait of humility, as humility is the beginning of liberation."

Although most of us are used to stopping by the store to pick up a few boxes of machine-made matzah from companies like Manischewitz **[http://www.manischewitz.com/]** or Israel's Matzot Rishon **[http://www.matza.co.il/]**, hand-made shmurah Matzot are gaining in popularity. David Kibbe has captured the dedication and devotion to detail needed to make these matzot. He follows Satmar Chassidim of Kiryas Joel, N.Y., who work for three months next to the stifling heat of 1,200-degree ovens to bake kosher hand-made matzot **[http://www.th-record.com/Archive/April/22-30/bakers.htm]**.

Apparently, shmurah Matzah is gaining in popularity outside the ultra-Orthodox community **[http://www.jta.org/features/17-matz.htm]**. Randi Jaffe says members of her Reform temple don't care that it's shmurah or ritually perfect:

"It's the fact that it's round and bumpy and doesn't look like the square, perfect ones. It's a much more palpable connection to the ancient tradition. You can really imagine it going on someone's shoulder and baking in the desert sun as the biblical Exodus story tells us the original matzah did while our ancestors fled their slavery in Egypt, heading for a new world."

Many children and adults now get a chance to bake their own matzot at Model Matzah Bakeries operated by Chabad Lubavitch. You can follow along as the kids of Congregation Beth Sholom of Corona, Calif., transform flour and water into the ancient food **[http://www.uscj.org/pacsw/corona/Matzah.html]**. If you don't have access to a matzah bakery, you can watch an online video of how matzah is made **[http://www.matzahs.com/matzo_video.html]**.

And if you'd like to try it at home, take a look at Marcy Goldman's recipe for homemade matzah. **[http://www.marketnet.com/mktnet/kosher/Resource/matzoh.html]** As Marcy mentions, her recipe is *not* in accordance with Passover law and should not be used for the holiday. But it can be fun to see how your work compares to that of the professionals.

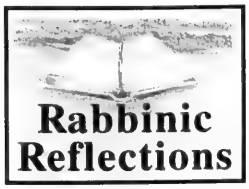
Matzah has been around for over three centuries. But what of its future?

As a sure sign that matzot have really made it, we need only look to the centre of the trend universe – Hollywood. After last year's Academy Awards, chef-to-the-stars Wolfgang Puck tried something different **[http://www.flashnews.com/news/9tin5th1.htm]**. He served 1,600 Tinsel Town biggies high-calorie hors d'oeuvres including salmon on Oscar-shaped matzah crackers.

No word on their availability at your local supermarket. Yet.

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at [mdm@inforamp.net].



The season of miracles

By RABBI JOSEPH KELMAN

As soon as we finish celebrating Purim we get ready for Pesach. We can learn a great deal from both the differences and the common features of the two holidays.

Both celebrate significant historical events when the Jewish people were in great peril due to the stubbornness and foolishness of kings, yet in both cases we were ultimately redeemed.

On Pesach, the Almighty, through astounding miracles, brought the Jewish people out of Egypt, an event we recall not only at the seder but in our everyday prayers.

The miracles of Purim teach us that while we must always have faith in God, at times God challenges us to take the first steps in dealing with problems.

While Mordecai and Esther fasted and prayed, they also devised a plan to thwart Haman and save the Jewish community. Thus, we see that the Jewish people have the capacity to overcome almost impossible odds through a combination of devotion to God and creative action.

The miracles of Purim and Pesach to a certain degree parallel some of the modern miracles we have witnessed since the darkest days of the Holocaust, when darkness and despair reigned in the Jewish world. The establishment of the State of Israel, its victories in wars over vast Arab armies, the miraculous happenings of the Six Day War, and the successful integration of millions of Jews from Russia, Arab, Ethiopian and western democratic countries will go down in modern Jewish history as a series of unbelievable miracles.

Yet, perhaps we can find smaller miracles in our own backyards. While in 1999 the high percentage of assimilation and intermarriage is staggering, there is nevertheless much room for hope and optimism.

Many young Jews besides renewing or beginning Jewish studies are reviewing and strengthening their commitment to Judaism on various levels, often influencing their parents to make certain changes in their lifestyle. One of the best ways of insuring greater observance of Judaism is to understand the importance and need for Jewish studies for children, teenagers and adults.

In fact, the real goal of Jewish education is to strengthen the Jewish home, cementing the bond between parents and children.

A wonderful example of this is the Pesach seder, whzere young children are encouraged to ask their parents questions, creating dialogue and excitement in the home. Ideally, it is the parents' responsibility to teach their children the importance of the seder and Pesach as it is written in Exodus, chapter 21, verse 8 – "and you shall tell your son (or your daughter) on that day."

Furthermore, the Torah calls upon the parents throughout the year to teach their children the observance of mitzvot, as we say in the Shema every day "and you shall tell your children."

A Jewish education, whether through day or afternoon school, is not complete without reinforcement at home. If the child learns about the beautiful rituals and customs that encompass Judaism, but then sees little interest at home, he or she receives a confused message and the lessons learned in school will not likely have the permanent impact they deserve.

Children should also see that their parents are interested in the Bible and in Jewish learning. This will ensure that Hebrew education has a practical application at home and elsewhere and be the most positive factor for vibrant, dynamic, observant families in Israel and throughout the Jewish world.

Rabbi Kelman is rabbi emeritus of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue in Toronto.

Extremism in Israel

Books
Bernard Baskin

***Brother Against Brother*, by Ehud Sprinzak (The Free Press, $41).**

This is an alarming book. The author, a professor of political science at the Hebrew University, summarizes 30 years of study and observation of extremism and violence in Israel public life.

In June 1948, the very year of Israel's creation, there was a bloody confrontation between left and right political factions over the *Altalena*, an arms ship brought from Europe by Menachem Begin, head of the Irgun, an underground organization. The ship, beached at Tel Aviv with weapons and passengers, was shelled, and sunk under the orders of Prime Minister Ben-Gurion, who insisted on a unitary army and a single line of command. This battle between the newly formed army and the Irgun led to the loss of some 20 lives. "It was the closest the nation ever came to civil war," concludes the author.

Among the many episodes of violence discussed, are the assassination of Count Bernadotte, the UN mediator in the 1948 war; the gunning down in 1957 of Israel Kastner, a leader of wartime Hungarian Jewry under German occupation, who was charged by the extreme right of collaborating with the Nazis; the seamen's strike of 1951, which led to the dissolution of the leftist Palmach striking force; and the sporadic violence of the Haredim, who wage fierce struggles against transportation on the Sabbath, archeological digging in ancient graveyards, the facilitating of human organ transplantation and sexual deviation within the community.

The author also pays attention to the disaffection and alienation of the Sephardi community, which led to the Black Panther protest movement of the early 1970s as well as the earlier Wadi Salib, food riots in Haifa, Acre and other places.

Many readers will be unfamiliar with the formation of a Jewish underground that conspired to blow up the Muslim Dome of the Rock on Jerusalem's Temple Mount in the late 1970s, the attack on Arab mayors in 1980, and the attempt to blow up five buses full of Arab passengers.

Not overlooked, is the message of violence preached by Rabbi Meir Kahane, who founded the Kach party, as well as the consternation in Israel that followed the murder of the peace activist Emil Greentzweig in 1983.

In 1994, Dr. Baruch Goldstein, dressed as a captain in the Israeli Army, entered the Cave of the Patriarchs in the West Bank town of Hebron and opened fire on Muslim worshippers. In fewer than three minutes, 29 were killed and more than 100 were wounded.

Perhaps the apex of violence was reached with the murder of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by Yigal Amir. The author believes that Amir was not part of a cabal or conspiracy, but was influenced by an uncompromising nationalism, combined with religious extremism, that demonized Israeli leaders.

Despite the history of political violence, Sprinzak feels that given the foreign and domestic pressures in Israel, things could be far worse.

He argues that Israeli political life is, in fact, marked by relative restraint, and that a violent civil war remains only a remote possibility.

The author writes, "Having long observed violent movements in several western societies, I am convinced that had the French, Italians, Germans, Americans, and most likely any other westerners been subject to existential threats as well as divisive issues similar to the ones experienced by the Israelis, blood would have flooded their streets.

"The brutalities committed by Israeli extremists pale in comparison with the atrocities committed by other nationals in the modern era. There is only one explanation for this exceptional self-control: Jewish internal solidarity and the presence of non-violent taboos in Jewish society and culture."

The book's underlying assumption, is that when peace finally comes and the great debate over secure boarders is resolved, political violence will decline dramatically. A hope, to which one must offer a fervent Amen.

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Dozens of pint-size Queen Esthers decked, out in an array of beautiful gowns, took part in the Bloor JCC's annual Purim carnival, which was also sponsored by Ashkenaz and the Downtown Jewish Community Council.

[Barbara Silverstein photos]

Purim at the Bloor JCC

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — Purim revellers stepped from the busy downtown street of the '90s into a time warp at the Bloor Jewish Community Centre (JCC).

The gym had been transformed to recreate the old downtown Jewish quarter for the annual Purim carnival sponsored by the JCC, Ashkenaz: A festival of new Yiddish culture, and the Downtown Jewish Community Council.

The sights and sounds evoking memories of Jewish cultural life during the early decades of this century drew an estimated 400 people.

"It has a wonderful feeling…The music, the Yiddish, these are the sounds of the Jewish life that my kids don't hear until they come here," said Andy Sos, who escorted his 2-year-old daughter.

This view was shared by Bill Emery, the JCC's executive director. Noting that this was the third year Ashkenaz had co-sponsored the Purim carnival, Emery said it adds a "whole different level.

"The emphasis now is on culture, which we were incapable of giving at that level [before Ashkenaz got involved]," he said.

Florence Moranz, the JCC program director, praised the work of the volunteers who contributed to the success of the event, among them B'nai Brith Youth Organization and the youth group of the First Narayever Congregation.

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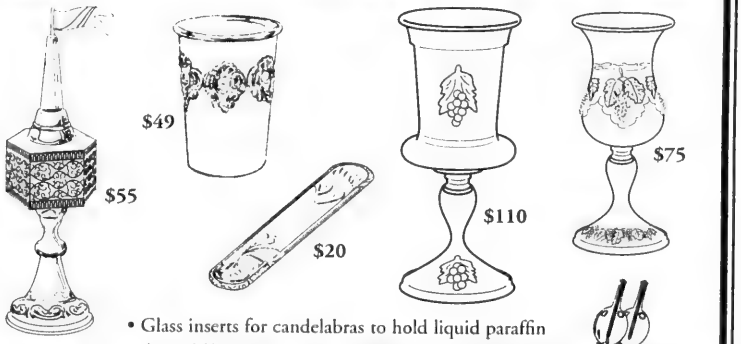

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This listing, to be published occasionally, acknowledges donations from memorial funds set up over the previous months, to the charities named:

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The Jewish Camp Council of Toronto/ Memorial Scholarship

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Jewish Family & Child Services/ Shelley Goldstein Memorial Fund/Camp Shalom

Ruth Gordon Memorial Fund
Yeshiva Gedola Merkaz Ha Torah

Gertrude Goodman Memorial Fund
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Sunnybrook Hospital Foundation

Monty Grant Memorial Fund
York County Hospital Foundation/ Special Care Nursery

Joseph Greenberg Memorial Fund
Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation/Breast Centre Fund

Evelyn Gudofsky Memorial Fund
Sunnybrook Foundation

Nancy Gulko Memorial Fund
United Jewish Appeal

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Eva Kantor Memorial Fund
Mount Sinai Hospital Auxiliary
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Life in Boston's high-speed lane

By SUSAN BERRIN

Guest Voices

On an airplane heading from Boston to Vancouver I reach for the *Globe and Mail*. This is my first trip back to Victoria since leaving in July.

These five hours of flying offer some time for reflection after nearly six months in the high-speed lane of Boston's Jewish community.

Erik Erikson and Gail Sheehy have both chronicled the passages of life, one poignant moment leading to the next one. I truly believe in life as a series of passages, a spiraling of stages, a confluence of moments which lead us – often without our prior understanding or permission – to new places.

This period of transition has been an interior as well as an exterior journey for me. Although we are essentially the same people – the same spirited, compassionate, serious individuals and family we were in Victoria six months ago – we are also different. That is what a journey is about: travelling new ground, absorbing new experiences and making them part of the fabric that is our new daily life.

The honeymoon is over. We have passed through that initial period of excitement when we unfurled our new lives, reacquainted ourselves with the Shabbat-lunch lineup, we have recounted the stories of our departure, of our house-hunting, of the transitions for each family member.

While I can say honestly I have no regrets about our move from Victoria, I have an enormous aching for that Garden of Eden. The pace in Boston, while at times exhilarating, is more often exhausting. Shabbat is the moment of rest, when demands of the world simply cease. It is a gift I hold dearly.

Our desire to return to Boston was based on the experience of our sabbatical year here: three children in Jewish day schools; two shul communities; possibilities to enrich our spiritual lives.

To the amazement of everyone, including ourselves, we've accomplished most of it. My work, as editor of *Sh'ma*, a monthly journal addressing the cutting edge issues for North American Jews, is challenging, stimulating and engaging Jewish work.

Victor misses the human exchange

Victor, who had been the rabbi of Victoria's only synagogue, is teaching and doing outreach for the Conservative movement. He misses the pulpit, the human exchange where on a daily basis he touched the lives of many, transforming the mundane into the profound.

Now that our children are in Jewish schools, we have a new view of the Jewish educational experience, and new questions to ask educators and administrators of Jewish learning.

While we are thrilled that our children are studying in a Jewish milieu, that they are learning Hebrew as naturally as English, questions arise, especially in terms of how Judaic subjects are taught in the upper grades. For example, how do we measure a relationship to the Bible or the impact of studying Jewish thought?

I've been saddened to see Jewish children turn away from *limudei kodesh*, the study of Jewish subjects, because the subjects are treated like general studies with grades and tests, and taught without passion.

It is also disheartening to witness the lack of kavanah, of intentional thought, children give to the morning prayer service in many Jewish schools. Who inspires them and challenges them to look into themselves and outwards at the larger world as they grow and develop Jewish identities?

Our three children, while content in their new schools, are stretched and overwhelmed with school work. Balancing this new dual curriculum is a daily (and due to homework, nightly) challenge.

One of my primary roles has become the encourager – each night assisting the children, rewarding their incremental gains and helping them see the whole picture – the Jewish in the Jewish school, the enormous strides they've made, their incidental accomplishments because the level of discouragement they feel is often immense.

Finding some balance will likely be the goal of this next stage in our acclimation. Some semblance of play in our work week, some light-hearted love in the classroom.

Susan Berrin has been sharing the experience of moving with her family from Victoria, B.C., to Newton, Mass.

MINYANIM IN THE GTA
WEEK OF MARCH 12-18/'99

Synagogue	Address & Tel.	Fri. Night	Shabbat	Sun. A.M.	Daily A.M.	Daily P.M.
Beth Jacob V'Anshe Drildz (O)	147 Overbrook Pl. (416) 638-5955	6:01 PM	9:00 AM	6:45 & 7:30 AM	Mon. Thurs. 6:40, 7:30 Tues. Wed. Fri. 6:45, 7:30	6:15 PM
Beth Tzedec (C)	1700 Bathurst St. (416) 781-3511	6:00 PM	8:45 AM	9:00 AM	7:45 AM	6:00 PM
B'nai Torah (O)	465 Patricia Ave. (416) 226-3700	6:18 PM	8:45 AM	7:00 & 7:20 AM	Mon. Thurs. 6:45, 7:10 Tues. Wed. Fri. 7:00, 7:20	6:15 PM
Chabad Lubavitch Community Centre (O)	770 Chabad Gate (905) 731-7000	6:01 PM	9:30 AM	8:00 & 9:00 AM	Mon. Thurs. 6:50, 7:30 Tues. Wed. Fri. 7:00, 7:30	6:15 PM
Clanton Park Synagogue (O)	11 Lowesmoor Ave. (416)633-4193	6:04 PM	9:00 AM	7:30 AM & 8:15 AM	Mon. Thurs. 6:50, 7:15 Tues. Wed. Fri. 7:00, 7:25	6:15 PM
Darchei Noam (Rec.)	15 Hove St. (416) 638-4783	----------	10:00 AM	----------	----------	----------
Pride of Israel (C)	50 Lissom Cres. (416) 226-0111	6:00 PM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	7:30 & 8:30 AM	6:00 PM
Shomrei Shaboth Chevra Mishnayoth (O)	583 Glengrove Ave. W. (416) 787-1631	6:04 PM	9:15 AM	7:30 & 8:15 AM	6:45 & 7:30 AM	6:15 PM
Soleil Congregation (R)	2399 Folkway Dr. (905) 820-5915	7:30 PM	10:00 AM	----------	Tuesday 7:00 AM	----------
Temple Sinai (R)	210 Wilson Ave. (416) 487-4161	8:15 PM	10:00 AM	9:30 AM	7:30 AM	----------

This is not a comprehensive listing of the synagogues in the Greater Toronto area. The information is provided by the Vaad Harabonim of Toronto and the Toronto Board of Rabbis. The Vaad and the Board will periodically revise the listings. For statutory holidays, please call the Synagogue for any changes in times.

Visiting Israeli teens meet their Canadian counterparts

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Some two dozen 12th graders at Oakwood Collegiate Institute discovered unexpected similarities and differences when a pair of Israeli teens visited their class recently as part of an annual program run by Israel's foreign ministry.

"Do most people in Israel speak English as well as you guys?" asked one student in the twentieth century world history class, one of two classes they visited at the school.

Most Israelis finish high school with good English, said 17-year-old Herzliyah native Or Ellencweig, explaining that they learn the language from Grade 1.

"Also, we get all the [television] programs in English – *Melrose Place*, *Dawson's Creek*," said Yael Rosen of Kochav Yair.

"We're a season behind you," she added, prompting one student to offer an update.

Most surprising to the Canadian students was their Israeli counterparts' obligation to serve in the IDF after high school.

"How do you guys feel about that?" asked one girl.

Ellencweig, having grown up hearing army stories from his family, said he's "pretty much looking forward" to the experience. "It's difficult, but we have to do it and we realize that."

Today's IDF, now that the peace process is under way, isn't all about fighting, said Rosen, 16.

She and Ellencweig are among 74 Israeli youth delegates meeting with their peers in dozens of communities in Europe, North and South America, Africa, the Far East, Russia, Australia and New Zealand.

The pair's month-long visit to Canada, which began Feb. 21, includes stops in Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Calgary, Vancouver, Montreal and the Maritimes.

Their presentation at Oakwood included a video on Israel, and a talk by Rosen and Ellencweig touching on Israel's geography, climate, history and political situation.

Youth in Israel are very politically involved, said Ellencweig. He is a member of a right-wing youth movement, he said. "We go to demonstrations and give flyers."

Both right- and left-wingers want peace, said Rosen, whose views are left of centre. "There's just a difference of opinion as to how we should achieve it."

The right wing believes that security in Israel will "lead to a good peace treaty that will last for decades," said Ellencweig.

The left is more willing to trade land for peace, and believes that once there is peace, security will follow, explained Rosen.

Israeli teens Or Ellencweig, left, and Yael Rosen discussed everything from night-life to army life when they visited students at Oakwood Collegiate Institute. [Frances Kraft photo]

"How do you feel about the future of Jewish-Arab relations?" asked a student.

"I think there will be peace eventually, because both sides want it so much," said Rosen. "The problem is, the issues being discussed now are so important to each side, so I think it will take a little longer."

At least one student was shocked to hear that Israelis attend school six days a week. "Oh my God!" she said.

"What do you do for fun?" asked another.

Ellencweig told the class about Friday nights at Tel Aviv clubs and discotheques. "We listen to the same music," he said.

"It was good to have kids talk to us," one youngster told *The CJN* at the end of class. "You can relate to them more."

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Richmond Hill congregation enjoying strong growth

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

RICHMOND HILL — In few places is York Region's Jewish explosion better reflected than at Beit Rayim Synagogue.

The Conservative congregation has experienced two consecutive years of 30 percent annual growth, bringing its membership to about 210 families – and it is still expanding.

The fully egalitarian Richmond Hill shul at Bayview and Weldrick avenues boasts adult education classes, youth programs, a family choir, a women's group and over 20 committees. Housed in the northernmost campus of United Synagogue Day Schools (USDS), which now owns both the campus and the synagogue building, its sanctuary is regularly packed to capacity, and life cycle ceremonies take place regularly.

Prof. Sol Tanenzapf of York University is the rabbi, and Eli Bard is the lay cantor. Some 170 children are enrolled in the Beit Rayim Hebrew school. Programs like Davening for Dummies and a full array of youth activities for Yeladim, Kadima and USY age groups have won the synagogue several gold Solomon Schecter Awards from the Conservative movement.

Dr. Irving Siegel is president of Beit Rayim Synagogue.

[Ron Csillag photo]

Beit Rayim rose from the ashes of the former Shaarei Haim Congregation, which became the first synagogue in Canada to go broke.

Shaarei Haim closed its doors to its 310 families in June 1992, after it ran out of operating funds and the bank refused to extend further credit. Many feared the closing would leave a void, as the nearest Conservative synagogue was Shaar Shalom, several kilometres south near Steeles Avenue and Don Mills Road.

But in 1993, about 60 families who had been members of Shaarei Haim formed Beit Rayim (literally, House of Friends) to satisfy the need for an egalitarian Conservative synagogue in mid-York Region.

So successful has Beit Rayim become that it's already outgrown its quarters. The congregation is in the second phase of a fundraising campaign geared to finding a free-standing, permanent building in the area. Shul president Dr. Irving Siegel says about $200,000 has been raised so far.

"It's really amazing when you consider how shaky our beginnings were," Siegel told *The CJN*. "But there's no turning back now. We're optimistic we'll have a permanent home in York Region."

That region is the fastest growing Jewish community in Canada. Now 50,000-strong, officials estimate it will balloon to 75,000, a 50 percent jump, in just 10 years. Community planners are giving thought to a Lipa Green Building/Bathurst Jewish Centre-style "campus" for York Region, pulling several services and programs under one roof.

Late last year, Cliff Hendler, a Thornhill resident, put out feelers for a new Conservative synagogue in the area bounded by Dufferin Street, Steeles Avenue, Yonge Street and Highway 7. Jews represent nearly one-third of the population in the area, and the response was strong.

Siegel said Beit Rayim has been "in touch" with Hendler.

Beit Rayim can be reached at 905-770-7639, or on the Web at www.beitrayim.org.

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"CHERISH THE TOGETHERNESS OF PASSOVER"

Kosher butcher shop celebrates 45th anniversary

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Herman Perl came to Canada in 1950 with nothing.

Now, the company he founded, H. Perl Products, is one of the major Canadian suppliers of kosher deli products.

On March 8, Perl celebrated the business' 45th anniversary by giving out free hot dogs at his new restaurant, Bais Burger, at Bathurst and Caribou, selling chicken for 99 cents a pound, and offering 10 per- cent off most meat.

Born in Transylvania, Romania, Perl spent the war years in Esperachen concentration camp. When he was liberated, he went to Brussels, where he worked as a diamond cleaver.

In Toronto, he had trouble settling in a job, because he insisted on remaining shomer Shabbat. Finally, in 1954, he opened a small kosher butcher shop at Bloor and Euclid.

"I didn't know about being a butcher. I had one worker who said I would go broke if I kept on paying him. So he taught me how to do it, and I used to spend the day in the store, and in the early morning and in the evening, I would deliver."

In 1962, he moved up to his present location at Bathurst and Lawrence. Perls now occupies 3011, 3013 and 3015 Bathurst St. Bais Burger, a small restaurant, opened in February. There is also a branch of Perls in the Promenade Village Shops in Thornhill.

Perl is proud of his accomplishments. He was the first in Ontario to sell meat and chicken already kashered (soaked and salted), the first to sell cut-up chickens, and the first to have self-service, prepackaged meat.

"It was very tough at first," he said, because consumers weren't used to such services. But he persevered, and his ideas are now universally used in the Toronto markets. "I modernized kosher meat shopping," he said.

He firmly believes that "if meat was still sold the old-fashioned way, 80 percent of young people wouldn't keep kosher today," because of the time consuming process of eviscerating and cutting up chicken, and soaking, salting and rinsing meat and poultry.

He began selling prepared foods in the late 1960s. "I used to make three dozen knishes and two dozen kreplach" and that was that. Now, he makes a wide variety of foods, from egg rolls, to chicken dishes to stir fry. His salamis, wieners and deli products are sold, not only in his own store, but in various supermarkets.

Customers' needs and wants are different from the early days of the business, Perl said. "Then, we couldn't sell expensive meats – only chucks. Now, we mainly grind chuck."

He said that people have more money now and so eat better, more roasts and steaks, for example.

Another difference is that people are buying more chicken than red meat. "Chicken is cheaper and easier to prepare. Besides, people are concerned about cholesterol, even though that isn't really such a problem with lean meat. But beef is mainly for company, yom tov, and Shabbes."

Constantly on the lookout for the innovative, at one point Perl even tried to sell venison. "I made arrangements with a farmer, and packaged and froze some. But no one bought it. I guess you really have to know the proper way to cook it."

The latest endeavor is Bais Burger. Perl said that he opened it because he was concerned about the many youngsters in the area who needed kosher food that was not too expensive. Bais Burger offers a limited menu, french fries and hot dogs for 99 cents, and hamburgers for $1.99.

In 1956, Perl married Esther Langner, the granddaughter of the Strettiner Rebbe, one of the very few chassidic rebbes to have a court in Toronto. They have six children (two work in the business with him) and 25 grandchildren.

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School emphasizes Yiddish culture, social justice

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — Early on a Sunday afternoon a group of 10 children bustle around the kitchen of the Winchevsky Centre.

Some hover around the stove putting the final touches on the chicken soup while others are gathered at the counter making cookies. One child pours cinnamon and vanilla into a decorated box and encourages her classmates to take a whiff of the spice box.

This particular week it's Shabbat on Sunday at the Morris Winchevsky Community School. As part of their studies on the Sabbath, the students of the Grade 7 class, the b'nai mitzvah, are preparing a traditional Shabbat dinner for their families and friends.

They have also invited senior members of United Jewish People's Order (UJPO), a progressive secular Jewish organization that has provided a Jewish educational program through the Morris Winchevsky School for more than 70 years.

The school, or *shule* as it is called by its students, has traditionally placed a strong emphasis on the teaching of Yiddish and Yiddish culture, rather than Hebrew and Jewish liturgy, says school administrator and UJPO executive director, Maxine Hermolin, who's there for the Shabbat festivities.

She notes that during the formative years of the school some of Toronto's foremost Yiddishists – Mania Lifshitz, Nechama Yanovsky and Label Basman – taught there, but by the '90s, formal Yiddish language studies had lapsed.

The formal study of Yiddish was resumed and the students also began learning some Hebrew last year, she says.

This supplementary education program provides some 70 students from kindergarten to Grade 7 with the opportunity to learn about Jewish heritage and traditions, within a secular humanistic framework, through a curriculum that emphasizes Jewish history and holidays, Yiddish language and literature, and social justice issues, Hermolin says.

Learning is enhanced by creative activities such as dance, song and drama, she adds.

The b'nai mitzvah class follows a program which culminates in a formal graduation, she says.

The students work on individual and group projects connected to Jewish themes, which they present at the graduation or bar mitzvah ceremony, where the group celebrates this life cycle event together, Hermolin explains.

In the kitchen, her words are echoed by Elisha Wagman, the teacher of the b'nai mitzvah. She stresses that the graduation ceremony is a cooperative effort: the students are "dependent on each other" for its success.

Wagman enthuses about her students' projects – they've chosen to do films – noting that one group plans on making a dramatic film about the Warsaw Ghetto, while the other will do a film on Jewish food. The projects are to be filmed by York University film students.

Wagman says she's pleased with the social justice projects carried out by the class, including creating a new poster for the Humane Society and giving financial support to the Shalom Food Project. They have planned to have a ribbon sale at the next major *shule* event to raise money for, and awareness of, child abuse.

Wagman turns her attention to the last details of the Shabbat dinner as family and friends file into the social hall, seating themselves at the festively decorated tables.

The children recite UJPO sayings as the Shabbat candles are lit, wine is sipped and home-made challah is passed round to all the guests.

Jeremy Hall pours wine for Molly Myers (left) and Eva Lidsky at the recent Shabbat dinner held Sunday by the b'nai mitzvah of the Morris Winchevsky School. [Barbara Silverstein photo]

Seated together, UJPO stalwarts Molly Myers, Izzie Fine, Helen Ura and Eva Lidsky, take part in the Shabbat meal.

"It's an effort to come, but I made it," says Myers, a young-at-heart octogenarian. "This is something that's important."

She stresses that after spending 54 years in UJPO, she believes that passing on the ideals to the younger generations and supporting them in their endeavors is crucial to preserving the organization.

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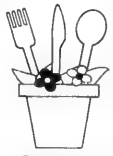

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Creating the Jewish future

By RABBI BARUCH FRYDMAN-KOHL

Commentary

Since the closure of the Bible, prophecy has been given to fools and infants. So teach our Talmudic sages. Yet many of us – some wise, some understanding, some learned in the Torah – periodically peek around the corner, to imagine the future, to speculate about what will occur, and to articulate a vision of what should be.

During the past 50 years, the concerns of the Jewish community grew from an agenda of civic freedom and economic integration to a concern with Jewish defence and advocacy. Emboldened by the establishment of the State of Israel, and with full recognition of the horrors of the Holocaust, we became public advocates for Israeli security and economic development, as well as for freedom for oppressed Jews throughout the world. Our "civil religion" became ethnic consciousness, Holocaust awareness and support of Israel.

Recent studies by Steven Cohen for the Jewish Community Centres Association indicate that many ethnic patterns – friendship and social associations, residential neighborhoods and concern for Israel – which formerly linked Jews, have atrophied.

In contrast, commitments which we associate with religious practice remain steady. Many concerned Jews have come to realize that assimilation can be limited only by renewing the Jewish soul through conscious Jewish practice, prayer and study. In keeping with a general cultural trend, people are desirous of a spiritual path which will enrich their personal lives.

Steven Bayme of the American Jewish Committee and Jack Wertheimer of the Jewish Theological Seminary have argued for targeting the majority of communal funds and programs toward those Jews who already demonstrate an interest in Jewish life, rather than those Jews who are less involved in our community. They call for a system of communal triage to strengthen those programs which already reach large numbers of Jews, and can be upgraded by better planning and an influx of communal funds.

Some of the programs which work well and deserve greater support, are synagogues, family education programs, day schools, summer camps and Israel experiences. While I agree with the need to support the broad middle of the community, we must also recognize that so-called "marginal" or "peripheral" Jews may surprise us by what they can bring to our community both in the short and long term.

For the foreseeable future, synagogues will remain the primary gateways for those seeking entry to and a deepening involvement with Jewish life.

Synagogues must be strengthened to enable them to serve this purpose. Day care and early childhood education programs, congregational schools, bar/bat mitzvah celebrations and high school youth programs remain among the most wide-spread ways our community can intersect with young Jews and their families. While these have been part of synagogue educational ventures, they require an infusion of creative programming, and the development of linkages to other communal activities.

To enable synagogues to develop new and creative programs which will attract and hold young Jews, we must be willing to invest in them.

Federations and private foundations must revise their conceptions of synagogues to conform to reality. Rather than see synagogues as semi-private entities serving their members, they should recognize that synagogues are public, communal institutions which are open to all. They provide for daily, Shabbat and festival prayer, adult education and pastoral counselling, and offer dues abatement and school bursaries to enable families and students, regardless of their financial status, to participate in the life of the congregation.

However, synagogues, supported by membership dues and sporadic fundraising efforts, are woefully under-funded and understaffed to serve the many people who might benefit from their array of programs and services.

I am an advocate for intensive Jewish education. I believe that day schools provide a holistic framework for education, which best integrates diverse aspects of Jewish life. The greatest success of day schools lies in skill building and intellectual knowledge.

The development of enduring commitment among day school students appears to be dependent on the duration of the experience through high school and on the correlation of family values with the orientation of the school. That is, day school students who continue their education through their teen years have a higher level of adult Jewish involvement than those who end their education after elementary school.

Recognizing this, a group of private donors has recently begun to fund efforts to seed new Jewish high schools. In addition, we know that young people who accompany their parents to synagogue and who practice Judaism in the home have a much higher level of commitment than those adolescents who merely receive an academic education.

Despite the growing enrolment in day schools throughout North America and the high percentage of Canadian youth who receive a day school education, congregational Hebrew schools have served and will continue to serve the vast majority of North American Jews. Congregational Hebrew schools have an important future as part of a mix of Jewish educational opportunities.

We should realize that after-school programs actually mirror the experiences of most adult Jews whose Jewish involvement tends to be either early in the morning, after work or on weekends. These afternoon and weekend schools face many challenges. They occur at a difficult time of day, are staffed by undertrained or overworked teachers, have insufficient resources, and despite their voluntary nature, reveal low motivation by students and families. Nonetheless, we have some models for successful programs, and must apply these "best practices" to a wider audience.

One of the primary problems of the congregational school, is a disconnection between the priorities of the program and those of the home. However, schools which have been able to build bridges between the classroom and the family do experience success.

The Downtown Hebrew School, Temple Sinai, Holy Blossom and Beth Tzedec are among the strongest local practitioners of family education. During the past few years, the Toronto Jewish Federation and Board of Jewish Education have brought training and financial resources to the area of family education. The schools which meet their qualifying standards will receive funding to develop new programs to involve the family.

As parental support is developed for the goals of the congregational school, students receive the clear message that their families value the after-school program. This is one of the critical markers of successful schools.

In addition, schools which carefully define their expectations, for example in Hebrew language study, are more likely to enable students to achieve basic competency in this or other areas of study.

Funding for staff development, for the recruitment and training of qualified retirees or other individuals, and

Continued on page 23

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Youth groups, Israel critical for Jewish identity

Continued from page 22

for participation in cutting edge conferences such as those of the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education or the Whizzen Institute for Family Education of the University of Judaism, also help to build teacher competency and morale. We need communal funding to assist these afternoon Hebrew schools to maintain standards for their programs, develop new and creative ways to teach skills, information and ideas and expand Jewish social opportunities for their students.

Congregational schools should be seen as essential to the broad spectrum of educational opportunities available in a community.

Youth groups and summer experiences in camp and Israel are critical to the development of Jewish identity. Educational research has begun to confirm the importance of these informal educational opportunities for young people. Recent research suggests that personal transformational experiences cannot be formally planned. However, their impact on the development of adult Jewish identity is quite significant.

Communities need to develop and support frameworks within which those affective opportunities can occur.

Synagogues and schools can be encouraged to work together with federations and other Jewish agencies to foster memorable peak experiences for youth with Shabbatonim (weekend retreats) and trips which build group solidarity and shared memories. With proper communal support, they can develop incentives for their children to attend Jewish camps and join summer programs based in Israel.

In the context of those programs, young people and their prospective role models have the time and opportunity to generate the unplanned "teachable moments" which transform lives. When these types of experiences are linked to ongoing synagogue and school programs, they create the possibility of continuity, even after the spiritual and psychological "high" has passed.

There has been an explosion of opportunities for adults to study Torah. We have benefited from independent and synagogue-based classes such as the ones available at Beth Tzedec. Learner's Shabbat services and other "walk in" programs have made Jewish study more accessible. We have learned that small scale seminars provide people with an exciting engagement with traditional Jewish texts.

One of the major sources of new energy in our community comes from adults who do not take the Jewish experience for granted. Converts to Judaism bring interest and involvement to Jewish life. Often, they see the moral grandeur and spiritual richness that born Jews take for granted. They demonstrate to Jews that our tradition is enriching and encourage Jews by birth to take a closer look at their own tradition.

In all streams of Judaism, women are seeking greater involvement. For some, it is inclusion in public worship, often taking the form of an adult bat mitzvah. For others, it is increased opportunity to study traditional texts at an advanced level. As women deepen their skills and knowledge, they stimulate men to also do so.

We are also seeking a new interest in programs of healing, seeking to bring to bear the resources of the Jewish tradition to the personal struggles so many face as they deal with debilitating illnesses.

A generation after the founding of Israel, this small country has evolved from a "miracle" to a complex real nation. Still, the intensity of the various expressions of Jewish life in Israel can serve to heighten awareness and involvement of young Jews from the Diaspora. The increased attention to what is being termed the "Israel Experience" and the newly announced "Birthright" program to enable all Jewish youth between the ages of 16 and 25 to visit Israel are expressive of the importance Jewry attaches to Israel, and a recognition of the profound impact a peer visit to Israel can have.

However, such trips, if they occur in splendid isolation from other "home based" Jewish experiences, will have little long term effect. Combined with significant educational preparation and/or followed by communal service, the impact of the trip will be magnified and a deeper connection to Jewish life developed.

I have no doubt that Judaism has a future. The type of future will depend on our choices. As we search for a paradigm to guide and direct Jewish life, we return to core elements from an older model: Torah study, prayer, family life, concern for Israel, and acts of tzedakah. These building blocks will be framed and expressed in a new way, as each generation has done in the past.

Rather than a wholesale reworking of existing communal structures, we should seek to improve those which continue to be effective – synagogues, camps, schools, youth programs and families – to meet the needs and yearnings of the 21st century.

Culminating all this discussion of structures, institutions and programs, we must always realize that life is with people. Personal contact and passionate conviction remain the keys to the Jewish future. We must speak with the language of care and concern for our fellow Jews, out of the commitment that a life linked to Torah matters to the individual and to God.

Baruch Frydman-Kohl is the Senior Rabbi of Beth Tzedec Congregation, Toronto and the President of the Ontario Region of the Rabbinical Assembly.

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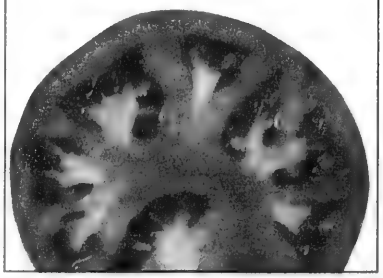

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Kosher for Passover
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Kosher for Passover
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FRESH SALADS 2.99 400g tub
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MATZOS 9.99 5lb bundle

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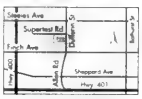

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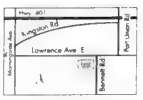

148 BENNETT RD. AT LAWRENCE AVE.

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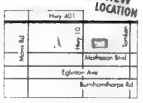

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On Campus

Calgary, Atlantic provinces host Jewish students

By DAVE GORDON
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — At each end of the country, a week apart, Jewish student groups gathered for their annual conferences.

The Atlantic Provinces Jewish Student Federation's (APJSF) annual RISE conference and ski trip took place February 5 to 7, and the Calgary Hillel conference called From Stern to Seinfeld: Jews in the Media was held February 12 to 15.

According to Yakov Feig, director of the APJSF, the RISE conference has always been held, "in some form," for at least seven years.

The conference, which takes place at Cape Smokey, in Cape Breton, attracted students from Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island.

This year, Michael Soberman and Susan Jackson from the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto addressed the group. Soberman spoke about the uniqueness of the "Israel experience," and how Israeli cultural differences can often come as a surprise to North Americans.

As a part of Jackson's session, Schmoozing with Susan, she commented on how often Jewish customs are handed down, often out of respect for older generations.

Rabbi Benjie Jacoby, from Toronto, performed the havdalah service, getting students to sing spiritual songs in parts and in unison. Candles were placed in the middle of the room, and the group held arm-in-arm in a swaying circle, in rhythm to the blessings made by Rabbi Jacoby.

Saturday night provided time for the students to enjoy the music of Dave Berger, a Jewish folk singer from Nova Scotia, who entertained the group with songs from his latest CD.

Calgary Hillel's conference, according to Vered Koren, one of the student organizers, "focused on issues that affect young Jewish lives." The western Jewish student conferences have also been running for at least six years.

This year's conference involved sessions such as analysing anti-Israel and controversial anti-Semitic advertisements and editorial cartoons, discussing the differences between Jewish culture and Jewish faith, and a mock up of a famous game show called *Jewpardy*.

The purpose of these workshops, says Koren, were to, "provoke thought...see how the media affects our lives, to see different perspectives and opinions, and not to make the assumption that everyone is the same kind of Jewish."

Appropriately, the media conference in Calgary offered students an opportunity to see a film, *Life is Beautiful*, which elicited mixed reactions from the group, from being an important commentary, to another student's feeling that humor within the context of the Holocaust was inappropriate.

The conference concluded with a trip to Banff, where students spent the day skiing.

The best part of the Calgary conference, according to Koren, was the, "chance for [the students] to meet other Jewish students from outside of their area...everyone's there to bond."

Jonathan Waldman, a participant from Winnipeg, and editor of the *Jewish Student Association News Bulletin*, had said that the best part for him was, "examining certain [editorial] images that opened my eyes to some tough journalistic ethical questions."

Waldman, who had attended for the first time this year, also believes that one of the highlights was meeting people. "I think for most people, myself included, one of the best parts was seeing old friends – people I haven't seen in a while."

Among the students at the conference in Calgary were (from left) Lorne Grintuch, Leanne Ksieski, Vered Koren and Leslie Herstein. [Dave Gordon photo]

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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HOLIDAY DEADLINES:

Please note these deadline changes due to Passover holiday:

Monday, March 15, is deadline for March 25 issue.

Monday, March 22, is deadline for March 31.

Thursday, March 25, is deadline for April 9

Monday, March 29, is deadline for April 15.

I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Sunday, March 14

THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS

Mordechai Ben-Dat, editor of *The Canadian Jewish News*, speaks on The Israeli Elections 1999 at noon, presented by PNAI (Parents of North American Israelis) and Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am, at noon at the synagogue (nominal charge for lunch). 633-5500.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY

To mark International Women's Day, United Jewish People's Order (UJPO) presents **Prof. Barbara Cameron**, chair of Political Science Department, Atkinson College, York University, speaking on The Social Union Agreement and Fight for Women's Equality, 11 a.m. Light brunch included. $2 members, $5 non-members.

YIDDISHLAND CAFÉ

Workmen's Circle Yiddishland Café evening, *Abi Gezunt!* features singer **Michael Smolash**, pianist/guitarist **Brian Katz** and clarinetist **Martin Van de Ven** in a program of favorites from Yiddish musical theatre. 7:30 p.m., 471 Lawrence Ave. W. $12 in advance, $15 at door. 787-2081.

Monday, March 15

PESACH COOKING

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Sisterhood Pesach cooking demonstration with **Margo Grosbein** plus question and answer period with **Barbara Schneider**, 7:30 p.m. members $6, non-members $8.

ATTENTION ALL ALUMOT!

Yehoshua Rubin, contributor to *Kol Chevre: The Shlomo Carlebach Annual Anthology* and *Chicken Soup for the Jewish Soul*, is appearing at the Lipa Green Building 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by Livnot U'Lehibanot in an Alumot activity.

YIDDISH WRITERS

Cranbrooke Friendship Club of United Jewish People's Order (UJPO) and Winchevsky Centre afternoon, Celebrating Classical Yiddish Writers, featuring **David Abromowitz**, interpreter of Yiddish culture. 12:30 p.m., 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Program is in English. Preceded by light lunch. $5.

NAGILLAH CHAPTER JWI

Nagillah chapter, Jewish Women International, (40+ singles) general meeting followed by a talk by nurse **Alina Isaac** on Over-eating and Other Addictive Behaviors, 7:30 p.m., Pride of Israel Synagogue, $2. Prospective members invited. **Helen** 638-4326 or **Fran** 638-2716.

SUPPORT GROUP

Jewish Parents and Families of Gays and Lesbians meets 7:30 p.m., Jewish Family & Child Service, 6th floor, Lipa Green Building. Phone in confidence. **Ruth** 763-9111.

Tuesday, March 16

CHOOSING TO BE JEWISH

Patricia Rucker, former editor of *The Canadian Jewish News*, speaks on Choosing To Be Jewish at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Sisterhood meeting, 8 p.m. Guests $3. 633-5500.

CONCERT READING

I Never Sang For My Father, a concert reading by the Medina Theatre Ensemble, 8 p.m., 15 Hove St. Members $4, non-members $6. 785-1074.

SISTERHOOD LUNCHEON

Shaarei Shomayim Sisterhood luncheon features singer **Faye Kellerstein**, accompanied by pianist **Jordan Klapman**, in a program of Broadway, Yiddish and Hebrew

Continued on page 27

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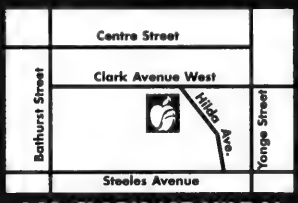

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What's New

Continued from page 26

songs, 12:30 p.m. $8. Reserve. **Kay Berger** 787-8463.

Wednesday, March 17

GRAND OPENING

Sephardic Kehila Centre grand opening of the Mikveh Ma'ayan Hasimcha, 6:30 p.m., 7026 Bathurst St., Thornhill. Dinner, entertainment, speaker, tour. 905-669-7654 ext. 233.

LUNCH AND LEARN

Holy Blossom Temple Lunch and Learn in Retirement program is A Man of Conscience, by speaker **David Fleishman** in tribute to his grandfather **Morris Saxe,** the first Jewish student at the agricultural college in Guelph. Noon. Bring lunch. Coffee, tea, cookies served. $1 fee for program.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

Holy Blossom Temple Library lecture, The Lives of Canadian Holocaust Survivors, by Holocaust historian **Paula Draper.** 7:30 p.m.

And What Else Is New

PESACH COOKING

Beth Radom Sisterhood Pesach Cooking Workshop – low-calorie and easy kosher for Passover dishes – with **Esther Schwartz** of the Toronto Kashruth Council, Sunday, March 21, 7:30 p.m. $5. Register by March 14. 636-3451.

WOMEN'S EXODUS

Canadian Women for Reform Judaism creative study day, Women's Exodus: From Seder to Celebration, workshops ranging from the study of the women in the Exodus story to holiday ceramic painting. Facilitators include rabbis, educators, artists. Musical presentation by Kolot. Sunday, April 4, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Temple Sinai. $36, $25 students and seniors. Register by March 17. **Janice Babins**, 781-4338.

KOSHER GOURMET GALA

Join in the celebration of Toronto's inaugural Kosher Gourmet gala Monday, March 22, 6:30-9 p.m. at Roy Thomson Hall. Enjoy wine and food donated by some of the best caterers, restaurants and wine distributors. Event benefits Mazon Canada, A Jewish Response to Hunger. $50 (50 percent tax receipt). Mazon office 783-7554.

JEWISH LIBRARIANS

The Association of Jewish Librarians Mini-Conference Workshop, Sunday, March 21, 1-4 p.m , Holy Blossom Temple. Theme: Jewish Librarianship, Reaffirmation and Renewal. Pre-register, **Anne Dublin**, Holy Blossom Library, 789-3291 ext. 235.

YIDDISH CLASSES

Conversational Yiddish, new semester of 10 lessons starts Monday, April 12, 7:30 p.m., at Adath Israel Congregation with teacher **David Newman**. Shul office 635-5340 or **Louis Gula** 495-0919.

DOWNTOWN MINYAN

Downtown Reform Minyan is no longer holding Shabbat services at the Bloor Jewish Community Centre. For new dates and location, call **Shelley** at 469-4287.

KABBALAH CENTRE

Kabbalah Centre, 678 Sheppard Ave. W., 631-9395.

Wednesday, March 17, Rosh Chodesh Nisan, lecture, meditation, food. Register 7:30 p.m., lecture at 8 p.m.

New beginners course (level 1) starts Monday, March 22, 8:30 p.m. for 10 weeks.

SINGLES SCENE

Events for 25-35 age group:

Monthly meeting, Wednesday, March 17, 8 p.m., Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue.

Comedywood evening, Thursday, March 18, 7:30 p.m. Meet at Comedywood. $7.

KENTON TINY TOTS

Recreational co-op program for children 2½ -4 years, five mornings a week. 9:15-11:45 a.m., weekly themes, Jewish holidays, special events, kosher snacks. Sponsored by City of Toronto Parks and Recreation. **Randi** 398-6055 or **Rose** 663-1830.

ST. JOHN'S COURSES

Register now for Infants/Child CPR or Heartsaver CPR, Sunday, March 21, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. **Rhonda** 905-731-9441.

VENDORS WANTED

For craft and gift sale to be held at Bayview Village Shopping Centre Monday, May 24, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Under the auspices of Beersheba Club, Na'amat Canada. Days 636-5425, or evenings and weekends **Malka Mirsky** 633-6538 or **Ruth Jacobson** 493-1089.

HEBREW CLASSES

Downtown Jewish Learning Council Hebrew classes, Intermediate/Advanced, Tuesdays March 16, 23, 30, April 13, 20, 27, 7-8:30 p.m., at the Bloor Jewish Community Centre. Instructor **Marilyn Strauch.** Register 924-6211.

CRAFTSPEOPLE/ARTISANS

For showcase synagogue windows, Judaic content preferred. **Rhonda** 905-731-9441.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups. **Pat Lieberman** 638-7800, ext. 215.

Parenting: 1,2,3 Magic!, three sessions, groups to learn behavior management techniques based on **Thomas Phelan's** book *1,2,3 Magic*. Groups are age specific and begin after Passover.

Bereavement: For younger persons who have recently lost a spouse, begins April 8; Do Your Kids Have Trouble Making Friends?, begins March 15; Divorce: It's Not My Idea, begins March 27.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

CORRECTION

Rabbi Moshe Stern's Tuesday classes at Shaarei Tefillah on the Haggadah will be at 8 p.m., not 9 p.m. as listed in the March 4 column. We regret the error.

FOR SENIORS

Jewish Centre's Learning Experiences presents ABCs of Fraud, Tuesday, March 16, 1 p.m., Room 206. Scam recognition, prevention tips and available community resources. **Teme** 636-1880, ext. 364, Fifty-Five Plus Department of Adult Services.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club: Aug. 25, morning cruise, matinee, *Move Over Mrs. Markham* at Gryphon Theatre. In the planning, early summer trip to Ottawa, kosher meals, interesting tours. **Lena** 785-5773. Golden Book donations go to Laniado Hospital in Israel. **Dorothy Bloomfield** 787-1526.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: March 15, *Dini Petty Show*; March 16, bingo resumes; March 17, Buffalo; March 28, dance with live band; April 14, 28, Casino Rama; May 5, *Fiddler on the Roof* at Stage West; May 23-25 Ottawa. 395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). March 11, sing-along, **Mickey Lewin**; March 18, bingo ; March 25, video, **Ehurom Gaon,** *Toledo to Jerusalem*; No activities April 1 and 8; May 8, Yom Ha'atzmaut. **Jerry Bengall,** president, 905-707-7334.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

Literary Luncheon with **Richard Bassett** reviewing *Turbulent Souls,* a Catholic son's return to his Jewish family, by **Steven Dubner.** Wednesday, March 17, noon to 2 p.m. Full lunch served. Members $10, non-members $12. Register at Ticket Sales Desk.

Healthy Cooking – dietician **Susan Knowles** presents Cooking for One or Two, Tuesday, March 16, 1:15 p.m.

Vitamin Information for the Elderly, by a representative from Vitamin Information Centre, Thursday, March 18, 1:15-2:15 p.m.

Orders for kosher meals for Passover must be received by Monday, March 24. **Sonia Krass** ext. 114.

Israeli Club Etrog meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays for movies, sing-alongs, lectures, bingo, dances. March 16 is a lecture. **Anna**.

Movie, *Fried Green Tomatoes*, Sunday, March 14, 2:30 p.m.

BLOOR JCC

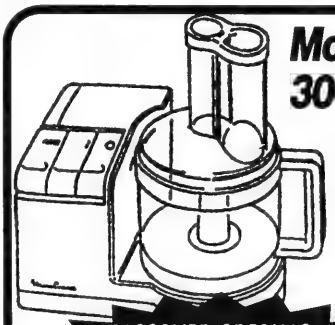
Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

Toronto Jewish Film Society offers two Canadian-made documentaries, *Mischa*, about musician **Mischa Weisbord,** directed by his nephew **David Vaisbord,** and *The Colors of My Father*, directed **Joyce Borenstein,** who pays homage to her father, artist **Sam Borenstein.** Screenings Sunday, March 14, at Art Gallery of Ontario, Jackman Hall at 5:15 and 7:45 p.m.

Seniors Club: Thursday, March 11, 2 p.m., a talk on Stress and How it Relates to the Flow and Energy Inside Our Bodies by **Karen Hill**, Reiki practitioner. **Judy**.

HURRICANE MITCH RELIEF

Students at Associated Hebrew Day Schools recently raised $2,800 for victims of Hurricane Mitch. Students Miriam Cross and Jacob Kepecs presented a check to Franci Williams (left), a volunteer for Ve'ahavta who recently returned from a relief mission to Honduras. Looking on is Associated's education director, Rabbi Avraham Soffer. [Stephen Epstein photo]



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STUFFED ROASTED WHOLE TURKEY WITH GRAVY - STUFFED 13 LBS. $10 CHARGE TO CARVE TURKEY	$9.00 PER LB.
BONELESS ROAST TURKEY SLICED - WITH STUFFING & GRAVY	$17.00 PER LB.
GRILLED SALMON 1 SERVING PER PORTION	$10.50 PER SERVING
STIR FRIED VEGETABLES (3-4 SERVINGS PER LB.)	$8.75 PER LB.
POTATO KUGEL UNCUT (4-6 SERVINGS PER PAN)	$10.00 PER PAN
CARROT TZIMMES (4 SERVINGS PER LB.)	$8.75 PER LB.
ROASTED BABY RED POTATOES (3-4 SERVINGS PER LB.)	$7.75 PER LB.

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350 יאָר נאָך גזירת ת״ח ות״ט

פון אַלעק סילווער

נאָציאָנאַלע טרויער־טעג פאַרמאָגן מיר שוין איבער גענוג. זיי ציען זיך שוין טויזנטער יאָרן — דער גאַנצער יאָרך־גאַנג פון יידישן גלות. אָנהויבנדיק פון תשעב באב אין מיטלאַלטער ביזן יידישן חורבן אין 20־סטן יאָרהונדערט, איז יעדע תקופה אין אונדזער גע־שיכטע דורכגעזאַפּט מיט יידיש בלוט, וואָס איז פאַרגאָסן געוואָרן אַלס רעזולטאַט פון אַנטיסעמיטישע אויסברוכן קעגן יידישן פאָלק. אַזעלכע אויסברוכן זיינען געווען געווענדט טיילמאָל קעגן גאַנצן פאָלק און טיילמאָל קעגן יחידים. זיי זיינען דערשינען אין דער פאָרם פון אינקוויזיציע און גירוש, פון עלילת דם און פּאָגראָמען, אָדער אין דער פאָרם פון גענאָסיד. נאָך יעדן אויסברוך איז פאַר־בליבן אַ פּנקס, אַ טרויער־באַשרייבונג און אַ יזכור־דאַטע.

איז עס גוט, וואָס דער קאָלעקטיווער זכרון פון פאָלק קען דאָס אַלץ אויפנעמען, כאָטש עס איז טיילמאָל אוממעגלעך צו קענען דערמאָנען אַלע טרויער־טעג אין דער יידישער געשיכטע. איך האָב ערגעץ־וואו געלייענט, אַז עס איז פאַראַן אַ מדרש, וואו עס שטייט געשריבן, אַז ווען נבוכדנצר האָט חרוב געמאַכט ארץ־ישראל, האָט ער אַרויסגעגעבן אַ גזירה, אַז יידן טאָרן נישט וויינען. אין אונדזער צייט האָט היטלער, ימח שמו וזכרו, דערקלערט אין איינער פון זיינע רעדעס, אַז ער וועט מאַכן זיכער, אַז יידן זאָלן שוין מער נישט לאַכן. . . עס זיינען אויך געווען אַנדערע אַזעלכע גזירות אויפן יידישן פאָלק. אָבער איין זאַך האָט קיינער נישט געקענט פאַרוועהן אונדזער פאָלק: זכור — געדענק! עס איז אַ געבאָט פון דער תורה און עס איז אונדז געבליבן ווי אַ צוואה פון די קעמפערס אין וואַר־שעווער געטאָ.

פון דעם אַלטן היסטאָרישן מלוכה־לעבן אין ארץ ישראל איז מיטן יידישן פאָלק מיטגעגאַנגען אין גלות אַריין דער טרויער־טאָג פון תשעב באב. אַ צווייטע טראַגישע תקופה איז געווען דער גירוש שפּאַניע. ערשט נישט לאַנג צוריק האָט די יידישע וועלט דערמאָנט די דאַטע פון 100 יאָר נאָכן דרייפוס בילבול. מיט עטלעכע יאָר צוריק האָבן מיר געוויינט צום 50־סטן יאָרטאָג נאָכן קעלצער פּאָגראָם. היינטיקס יאָר צייכענען מיר אָפּ 90 יאָר נאָכן קישענעווער פּאָגראָם. מיר פאַרצייכענען מיט טרויער יעדן יאָר די דאַטע פון די מאָדערנע פּאָגראָמען איבער די רוסיש־יידישע שרייבערס און קול־טור־טוערס. מיר פירן דורך יערלעכע הזכרות נאָך די זעקס מיליאָן קדושים, וואָס זיינען אומגעקומען אין דער שואה.

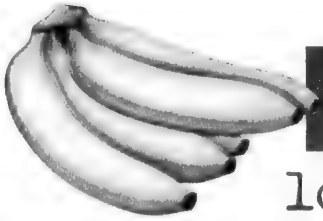
איז עס אפשר נישט קיין וואונדער, וואָס אַ וויכטיקע דאַטע אין דער יידישער גלות־געשיכטע איז אַדורך אומבאַמערקט פון דער יידישער עפנטלעכקייט. היינטיקס יאָר ווערט 350 יאָר, ווי עס זיינען אויסגעבראָכן די גזירת ת״ח ות״ט, וועלכע האָבן זיך אָנגעהויבן אין יאָר 1648. אָנגעהויבן האָט זיך עס מיט אַ רעוואָלט פון די אוקראַי־נער פּויערים, וועלכע זיינען אוממענטשלעך באַהאַנדלט געוואָרן פון די פּוילישע פּריצים און הויכע באַאַמטע. אין יענע צייטן זיינען די פּויערים באַטראַכט געוואָרן ווי דאָס פּערזענלעכע אייגנטום פון פּריץ — „פּאַנשטשיזנע" — וועלכער האָט געקענט טאָן מיט זיי, וואָס ער האָט געוואָלט. אַזעלכע בונטן זיינען נאָך פריער אויסגע־בראָכן, אָבער זיי זיינען שנעל אונטערדריקט געוואָרן.

אין יאָר 1648 האָט דער מיליטעריש־אויסגעשולטער באָגדאַן כמעלניצקי באַוויזן צו אָרגאַניזירן די אוקראַינישע קאָזאַקן און די פּויערים אין אַן אויפשטאַנד קעגן די פּוילישע פּריצים און גיט־באַזי־צערס. ס׳איז אים אויך געלונגען צו קריגן מיליטערישע הילף פון די שכנות־דיקע טאַטאַרן. די כמעלניצקי־האָרדעס האָבן באַשולדיקט די יידן אין העלפן דעם פּריץ אונטערדריקן די אוקראַינער. דאָס האָט אויפגעהעצט דעם המון רב, וועלכער האָט זיך בעסטיאַליש גע־וואָרפן אויף די אומשולדיקע יידן און זיי געמאָרדעט.

מיר וועלן נישט איבערחזרן די איינצלהייטן, ווי אַזוי די קאָזאַקן האָבן זיך אחדיעקעוועט איבער די יידישע איינוואוינער. ס׳וועט זיין גענוג צו דערמאָנען, אַז עס זיינען אין יענער צייט אויסגעשאָכטן געוואָרן איבער אַ פערטל מיליאָן יידן — מענער, פרויען, אַלטע לייט און קינדער. גאַנצע יידישע קהילות זיינען אָפּגעווישט געוואָרן. עס איז אָנגענומען, אַז אַרום 300 יידישע קהילות זיינען חרוב גע־וואָרן. אַ גרויסע צאָל יידן זיינען אויך פאַרכאַפּט געוואָרן פון די טאַטאַרן און פאַרקויפט ווי שקלאַפן.

די דאָזיקע שחיטות האָבן זיך געצויגן, מיט קליינע הפסקות, איבער 10 יאָר. עס איז נאָך דעם געשאַפן געוואָרן אַ גרויסע ליטע־ראַטור אין יידיש און העברייאיש. צווישן די מער באַקאַנטע זכרונות זיינען וויינרייכס „שטורמווינטן", דר. יעקב שאַצקיס „גזירת ת״ח" און דער ספר „יון מצילה" פון נתן נטע האַנאָווער.

אַ שוידערלעכע טרויער־דאַטע אין דער יידישער געשיכטע, וואָס דאַרף דערמאָנט ווערן פון צייט צו צייט, כדי צו געבן דעם יידישן פאָלק און דער וועלט נאָך אַ באַגריף פון יידישע ליידן.



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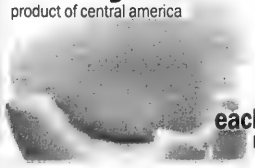

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Sharansky predicts large Russian aliyah

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Natan Sharansky says he'll run for prime minister if another million Jews emigrate from the former Soviet Union (FSU). And he's only half joking.

That's what he told a gathering of 1,000 Jews during his trip to Moscow last month.

"They know everything that's happening in Israel. They asked, 'Why are you not a candidate for prime minister?' I said, if one more million Jews come, I'll run. It all depends on you," Sharansky, now industry and trade minister and leader of Yisrael b'Aliyah, a party advocating the interests of immigrants, said in an interview.

Sharansky was in Montreal on a brief private visit, his first time here since 1987. He was accompanying his wife Avital, who spoke at a Women of Lubavitch event.

Sharansky is certain Israel is about to receive another major wave of Russian Jewish olim, swelling the ranks of the million already settled. "Over the next year, it could easily reach 40,000, and possibly 60,000 or more."

Sharansky's party now holds seven seats in the Knesset, and received 40 percent of the vote among Russian immigrants. He is confident he can increase that to nine seats in this May's election.

"We will use all our influence to encourage the leaders of the [Labor and Likud] parties to form a national unity government," he said, because it is the best way to heal the divisions among Israelis. "In particular, the problem between Orthodox and non-Orthodox will only be solved by broad consensus, not one side imposing itself through legislation or the Supreme Court.

Sharansky, 51, the best-known leader of the Refusenik movement in the 1970s, who spent nine years in Soviet prisons on charges of espionage for the CIA, has been in Israel since his release in 1986. He was first elected to the Knesset in 1996.

"It's the first time in three years that I see a very clear rise in interest in making aliyah," he said. That is due to the political and economic instability, and fears of anti-Semitism. This was his fifth trip to Russia since January 1997.

Saw KGB files

Sharansky said he was pleasantly surprised by the response he received when he raised the issue of anti-Semitism with Vladimir Putin, head of the KGB's main successor, the Federal Security Bureau. Sharansky said he feared Jews will be made scapegoats for the country's ill, not officially by the state, but among nationalist forces.

"I was expecting him to say nonsense, it's nothing like that. I was surprised that his answer was 'we are taking the situation very seriously at the top level, and we will react in a very tough way and immediately.'"

The fact that Jews in the FSU are now free to know what is going on in Israel is another factor favoring their immigration, he said. They are aware that their predecessors have become an integral part of the country, including at the political level. "They feel that they can be an active participant in their own absorption," he said.

A highlight of his Moscow trip was being permitted, for the first time, to see the files the KGB kept concerning his dissident activities – 15,000 documents in 52 volumes, the work of 18 investigators.

Sharansky could not resist the urge to gloat a bit. "Here I was sitting in the [former] room of [Yuri] Andropov (then the KGB head), who signed my arrest papers, and I was saying to them give me this book, or make me a copy of that and they were doing it...It was a feeling of triumph. It was a scene appropriate for the week of Purim."

He recalled that after his 1977 arrest, a KGB interrogator showed him a tape of a demonstration abroad on his behalf, in front of a Soviet embassy. The interrogator had suggested to him that he was deluding himself if he thought mere "students and housewives" could help him.

"An army of housewives and students fought day after day. The result is they not only defeated the KGB, but one million Jews emigrated to Israel and the Soviet Union is history," he said.

Sharansky said he found the names of several Canadians in the files, including Irwin Cotler, who acted as his attorney, and members of the Group of 35, a women's organization for Soviet Jewish emigration.

Personally, he says he feels pity for the people of the FSU, but he does not underestimate the country's resilience. "Nobody should have any illusions. In 10 to 15 years, it will return to a super-power. How close it will be to a democracy is not certain. The West should be much more involved in its development."

Sharansky would like to further develop Israel's trade with Russia, a natural partner because of the one million Russians in Israel. Currently, trade is worth about $300 to $400 million, about the same as that with Romania.

Sharansky made a surprise appearance at the Women of Lubavitch event, which is normally for women only.

He related that he had once shared a prison cell with a top official, jailed for bribery. The official told him many of the Soviet elite had Jewish wives.

"He said he knew it was not accidental, that a Zionist organization had a plot to penetrate the country and destroy it from within...He said he even knew the name of the organization.

"He whispered in my ear 'Hadassah.' That's when I found out about the big power of Jewish women."

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Scene in Ottawa

By G.K. SIMCOE

"Shlemiels" is the way one seasoned, non-Jewish political hack characterized the recent United Alternative convention in Ottawa. He was referring to the decision reached by the delegates to form a new political party – ostensibly, to replace the current right-wing offerings.

By not supporting the option championed by Hal Jackman (and privately endorsed by Tory leader Joe Clark) to coordinate candidates at the local riding level, the convention doomed the conservative forces of Canada to another long chapter in opposition. In the next election, the Reform Party will again compete against the Tories rather than direct all of its energies at unseating the Natural Governing Party (a.k.a., the Liberals).

When he offered the comment "shlemiels," our friend was confident that no one around us would understand or appreciate the remark. He was right, but that got us to musing about the absence of any real Jewish presence at the convention.

Reform's failure to attract Jews to its ranks has been a source of great frustration to the party's political leadership. Preston Manning has reached out to the Jewish community on numerous occasions and has held frequent meetings with Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith. Despite these efforts, Reform continues to be viewed with suspicion.

In part, this can be attributed to the chronic tendency among Reform MPs to put their feet in their mouths. At one meeting with CJC, congress representatives were appalled at some of the comments made by Reform caucus members concerning the prosecution of Nazi war criminals in Canada. Comments on Israel also betray a tenuous grasp of the issues.

The problem, of course, is that for many Jews, it is the party itself that is offensive. Separate from the fact that Jews have traditionally felt more at home with political parties that are viewed as small 'l' liberal, they are apprehensive about the right wing, moral majority-like, Christian agenda that laces Reform's social policies. There is a sense that while Preston Manning and Deborah Grey may be tolerant, their cause is a magnet for views that are less so. At the United Alternative convention, social policy debate was purposely suppressed. Perhaps Jews and other minorities would feel less uncomfortable and more welcome when concern for social issues features more prominently on the Reform agenda.

G. K. Simcoe is a pseudonym.

Features

Distributors cash in on national Crazy Bones craze

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — Children are crazy for Crazy Bones, one of the hottest selling toys in Canada.

Crazy Bones, small plastic pieces with cartoon character-like features used to play a game similar to marbles or alleys, are a hit with children between the ages of five and 12.

And that's good news for All 4 Fun Toy Products Ltd., the company with the Canadian rights for this popular toy.

Eric Segal, 33, and Wayne Fromm, 44, co-presidents of All 4 Fun said they can't keep up with the demand for the bones, which are manufactured in Mexico. As soon as a shipment of bones arrive at the warehouse, they're immediately shipped off to the stores, among them, Toys R Us, Zellers, and many independent dollar and toy stores.

They noted that Crazy Bones made $300 million (US) in European sales after it was introduced there in 1996, and predicted that with the crazy bone craze sweeping the country, sales in Canada could reach the $20 million mark.

While there are many comparisons between crazy bones and pogs, a toy fad that lasted several months in the mid-90s, Fromm was quick to point out the differences. He said pogs, round cardboard pieces, were easy to emulate, and thus never became collector items.

He stressed that Crazy Bones, which are released in limited editions, are modeled after the successful Beanie Babies, the popular stuffed animals with names and characters, that have become hot collector items.

Eric Segal and Wayne Fromm of All 4 Fun.

Crazy Bones – they retail for about $2 for a package of three – are also collected and traded. So far, two series, each with 40 characters, all with names and available in 15 colors, have been issued. The company is now launching Series 3, which will be introduced March 16 to 21 at the SkyDome's Spring Fling.

Fromm said there will be giveaways and Crazy Bone tournaments at the SkyDome, with all proceeds from the sale of Series 3 at that venue going to the Starlight Children's Foundation of Canada.

Other plans for this popular toy include a Crazy Bones Go Go return top or yo-yo style toy; Crazy Bones party kits, candy, licensed clothing, a CD-ROM and possibly an animated television show, Fromm said. "We're creating a brand."

A toy inventor who designs products for toy giants like Crayola, Irwin and Mattel, Fromm became a partner in Crazy Bones in December, a year and a half after a chance meeting with one of Segal's employees.

Segal's involvement with this toy, which began at the end of 1996, was also serendipitous. Friends of his in-laws, who own a packaging plant, happened to have the Canadian rights to the product.

He said they approached him – he has a background in toy marketing, and plastic moulding production – about acquiring the product, after they were turned down by many of the larger Canadian toy companies.

"They (the toy companies) couldn't envision the product," Segal said. "At that time it was presented in a raw form foil pack...It did well in Spain and Europe, Mexico and Latin America. Toy companies weren't prepared to risk it."

He said those companies didn't know if Crazy Bones would work in North America where kids were accustomed to playing with "high-end high-tech items," but he "saw the opportunity."

Segal set up a company headquartered at home. The garage was his warehouse for the product, then imported from Spain.

Through his previous contacts in toy sales, he was able to place the product in Toys R Us and Zellers, setting up video displays on the store shelves.

He also did "gorilla marketing" to conduct market research, which is setting up demonstrations at schools and fun fairs, and he ran a demo tent outside the Toys R Us in Newmarket, handing out fliers and free samples.

With the success of sales, Segal was able to license his product to a larger, more established toy company. At the time Fromm did not get involved because the project was too speculative, he said. However, Play Toy Industries licensed the Crazy Bones, spending close to $1 million to promote the product.

Crazy Bones in Canada took off in the fall of 1998, Segal said. He

Continued on page 41

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Novel addresses Mideast issues

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Peter Ginsberg, a 44-year-old Israeli army veteran, has written a newly published novel which, he hopes, will serve as a kind of bridge between Jews and Arabs.

The Middle East is trapped in a "war culture," said Ginsberg, the author of *Katifa*. But if Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs are ever to move from war to peace, they will have to change their attitudes.

The Oslo peace accords were supposed to end the Arab-Israeli dispute, yet both sides still regard the other as enemies rather than partners and friends.

"This book is supposed to be a bridge to bring both sides together by changing the way they think about each other. The Arabs are not Nazis and the Jews are not in the Warsaw ghetto."

Katifa, set in 2018, is a politically tinged romance which unfolds against the backdrop of a civil war which rips apart a Palestinian state. Israel remains neutral, but opens its borders to Arab refugees.

In a refugee camp under Israeli control and United Nations administration, Danny Levinsky – a shy, kind and hopelessly romantic Israeli soldier originally from Canada – falls in love with one of the refugees, Katifa Mansour, a beautiful, headstrong lieutenant in the Palestinian army.

Their budding, seemingly dysfunctional romance provokes heated discussions. How can a Jew possibly date, much less marry, a Palestinian? Danny's friends and Katifa's commander both agree that they must sever the relationship. Even Katifa has doubts. She wonders whether Danny is not really a Mossad agent trying to turn her against her people.

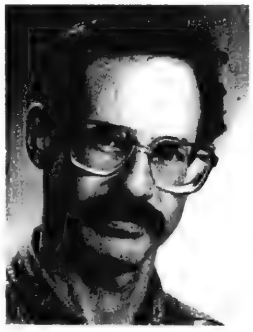
Published by Jam Ink Publishing in Kincardine, Ont., in cooperation with Ages Publications in Los Angeles, *Katifa* is "speculative" in terms of plot, events and characters.

But, as Ginsberg pointed out, there are important elements of truth in *Katifa*, which is carried by the Indigo book store chain.

"A writer is like his characters," he said. "There's a little bit of me in all of them."

In addition, Ginsberg drew on historical parallels. In 1971, following the civil war in Jordan, a small number of Palestinians fleeing Jordanian retribution streamed into Israel. And during the early phase of Lebanon's civil war, the Israeli government opened the Good Fence on the Lebanese frontier to allow Lebanese civilians to take jobs in Israel.

Ginsberg, a mechanical engineer who wrote *Katifa* over a six-month period, was inspired by personal experiences as well. He lived in Israel between 1972 to 1978 and was a private in the Israeli army from 1974 to 1977. Furthermore, his wife Cathy, the mother of his three children, is a Christian convert to Judaism. They live in Holland Landing, near Newmarket. At one juncture, he was president of Newmarket's Or Chadash synagogue.



Peter Ginsberg

Born in Montreal, the son of the late Hyman and Adele Ginsberg, Ginsberg was raised by his grandmother, Asna. As a teenager, he was a member of the Hashomer Hazair Zionist youth group. After graduating from West Hill High School, he went to Israel to study at the Hebrew University's special program for overseas students.

He joined the Israeli army to integrate himself into Israeli society. "I decided that if I was serious about staying in Israel, I would have to do what Israelis my age were doing. And so, in the summer of 1973, I volunteered for the army."

Drafted after the Yom Kippur War, Ginsberg was never in combat. He was in an infantry regiment and then in an armored formation as a tank gunner. He served in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula, but also along Israel's border with Lebanon.

As he suggests in *Katifa* – a novel with appropriately steamy segments and deliberately profane language – the basic training regimen was psychologically stressful and physically brutal. Indeed, he was almost broken by it. In boot camp, however, he learned idiomatic Hebrew. The army, meanwhile, taught him much about himself and Israeli society.

After being demobilized, he lived for a while on Kibbutz Rivadim, but returned to Canada in 1978. He missed the four seasons. He was disappointed by kibbutz life. He was repelled by the "basic hatreds" held by some Israelis about Arabs.

Ginsberg believes that Israel has no viable alternative to the Oslo peace process. He is convinced that Israel, in its own best interests, should support the establishment of a Palestinian state. However, he allows for the possibility that it might be unstable.

Ginsberg, who spends from one to four hours a day on his writing, is completing another novel. The working title is *The War of the Fairies*, and it is not about the Middle East.

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Top brass disagree on best strategy for Syria

By ZE'EV SCHIFF
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

When the subject is South Lebanon, all the politicians and top brass in Israel are essentially making two statements: Israel wants to pull out of Lebanon, and Damascus holds the key to the South Lebanese question. But they don't all give the same meaning to the two statements – especially the one concerning Damascus.

Former defence minister Yitzhak Mordechai and his successor, Moshe Arens, apparently have different views, possibly indicating a policy change on the connection between Syria and the Lebanese issue. The substantial difference between the two camps is whether the key held by Damascus is diplomatic or military.

If the approach is that a solution lies only in comprehensive negotiations with Damascus or that no deal concerning Lebanon can be made without approval from Damascus, the key is defined in terms of the peace process.

This is the approach favored by Mordechai, who did not allow the fighting against Hezbollah to develop into a military confrontation with Syria. It is also the view favored by Chief of Staff Shaul Mofaz, who maintains that as long as there is a chance of peace talks with Syria, a military confrontation should be avoided, unless the government decides otherwise.

There are those with a different perspective. Arens is one of them. They believe that since Syria backs Hezbollah and is in a position to stop the activities of an organization that is killing and injuring Israelis, the key held by Damascus is military. According to this analysis, Damascus has no strategic or military aces up its sleeve, but does know how to effectively utilize the few good cards it holds against Israel, in view of our weak position.

Thus, Syria must be told categorically that it is risking war with Israel because no one can expect any responsible country to stand by and let its civilian population be shelled while continuing a "business as usual" attitude toward those providing the technical assistance facilitating the shelling.

Not surprisingly, most of the "key military" proponents oppose any link between the South Lebanese question and comprehensive peace talks with Syria because they support the existence of two separate negotiating tracks.

This is the view of both Arens and Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon. Although one must not construe that Arens and the other "key military" proponents advocate a military confrontation with Syria, they are certainly willing to take more chances than Mordechai did, as could be seen in his policy on Syrian troops in Lebanon.

This was demonstrated in the bombing of Hezbollah targets in the heart of Ba'albek, which is located in territory under direct Syrian control. They do not want war with Syria, but a wider conflict could obviously develop if the situation gets out of control.

Syria is creating the impression that it is not interested in a military confrontation with Israel. It will carry on supporting Hezbollah operations in Southern Lebanon but will act cautiously and will continue to monitor Israel's "sensitivity threshold" to avoid the eruption of a military conflict.

This is a sophisticated approach, shared by Hezbollah. After inflicting casualties and physical damage on Israel, the organization will keep a lid on its activities, but after a "cooling-down" period it will resume its attacks on Israel.

Nonetheless, Israel should exercise care when assessing a possible Syrian reaction to its operations. If the Syrians sustain a direct hit, they might not retaliate with a direct military response. It should, however, be pointed out that Syrian anti-aircraft missile batteries have been positioned close to the Lebanese border, and that they effectively cover the Lebanese valley, the scene of considerable Israeli Air Force activity.

The Syrians could respond indirectly, for example, by increasing its support of Hamas (which is precisely what Damascus has begun doing) so that this organization can step up its terrorist attacks on Israel. Syria could also disrupt Israel's relations with the Palestinian Authority or Jordan, or could upgrade its joint operations with Iran and even Iraq.

Those considering forcing Damascus into a corner in Lebanon, must take into account the entire range of possible Syrian responses. Even if the Syrians' position appears to have weakened, they can still cause a considerable amount of strategic damage. Given the make-up of the present government, the chief of staff's stature has suddenly assumed greater importance. Mofaz must exercise greater caution and self-restraint than the members of the security cabinet. Indeed, that is precisely the kind of behavior the Israeli public is expecting from him.

Arafat to ask U.S. to back statehood

By NITZAN HOROWITZ
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

WASHINGTON — Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is expected to ask President Bill Clinton to formally support the Palestinian right to establish an independent state when the two leaders meet in Washington on March 23.

Recognition of the right to statehood by the United States, which was favored by First Lady Hillary Clinton last year, could become part of a broad international effort to convince the Palestinians to postpone a unilateral declaration of independence beyond May 4, the deadline for final status set in the Oslo accords.

The Palestinians are calling Arafat's scheduled meeting with Clinton a "summit."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has not received an invitation to Washington this year.

Netanyahu was also not included in a "national prayer" ceremony Congress organized last month, but Arafat was there, despite the opposition of some members of Congress and certain Jewish organizations. Clinton and Arafat met then.

Clinton's scheduling of meetings with Arafat without extending parallel invitations to Netanyahu are viewed in Israel as an intentional affront to Netanyahu during the election period and as an encouragement to Arafat's plans to declare independence.

The Palestinians say that the upcoming meeting with Clinton will again focus on conditions for postponing the declaration. In the past, Clinton has recognized the Palestinian right to self-determination, but has insisted that the precise status of the Palestinian territories be determined as part of the negotiations with Israel and not unilaterally.

A Palestinian source indicated that Arafat would consider a delay in return for something tangible, like a guarantee that the European Union and United States would recognize a Palestinian state when statehood is declared in the future.

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Israel & the Jewish World

Sitting side by side on Jerusalem's bus 15

Continued from page 1

Court to protest the court's authority, was an unprecedented demonstration in size and unity.

According to Rabbi Uri Regev, director of the Israel Religion Action Centre, which is part of the Reform movement in Israel, "What is happening now, is a direct onslaught on the judiciary, because the judiciary has emerged as the only independent source of authority in Israel which threatens the Orthodox establishment's hold over Jewish life in Israel."

Rabbi Menahem Porush, the driving force behind the rally last month, said the protest took place because the court wants to break the status quo.

"They tried to have us go back 50 years in time, to the days before the state was established. Because when the residents of this land appealed to the United Nations and asked, 'Give us a state of our own,' it was clear that the secular would rule us. [David] Ben-Gurion came and gave me the letter of the status quo. It was comprised of four clauses: Kashruth in public kitchens; education for everyone as they saw fit, in other words, that we would be able to build yeshivot of our own; marriage and divorce solely in accordance with Halachah; and the observance of the Sabbath," Rabbi Porush told *Ma'ariv*.

"Were people like Judge [Aharon] Barak not to come along right now and try to finesse these issues, we would have been able to continue living together peacefully and quietly. But as soon as someone comes along and says the status quo can be moved to the left and to the right, and that its flexibility can be tested, we get up and say, no way," he added.

Not surprisingly, Regev, a rabbi and a lawyer, disagrees with Porush. "I think the status quo is more a myth, than the reality."

When Rabbi Regev moved to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv at the end of 1978, he says there were "maybe three restaurants open on Shabbat." Now, he says, "there are probably well over 50 restaurants open on Shabbat. All of this the religious establishment doesn't really challenge. So, what's the status quo?

"What they're challenging are the areas which…deal directly with them, for instance, the issue of drafting Yeshiva students…Back in 1948 there were 300 students. You now have well over 30,000 students of draft age. So, they oppose that," said Rabbi Regev.

"They oppose areas that symbolically mean legitimization of the non-Orthodox stream, such as civil registration of Jewish identity for non-orthodox converts. It doesn't really affect their rights, but it symbolically affects their monopoly and it gives symbolic credence to the non-Orthodox streams. They can handle the secular; they have a difficult time handling the Reform and Conservative. So it's not as if they are reacting to a change in the status quo – some changes in the status quo are in their favor – but it is those areas in which they were able to oppress others and deny the non-Orthodox their freedom to practise their religious rights."

While the Haredim used the demonstration as a call to end tyranny against themselves, many Reform and Conservative Jews in Israel feel it is they who are being put in a stranglehold.

"[Haredim] are pro-democracy in any country other than Israel. In all other countries, they abide by the laws of the state except for here, where they try and blackmail the Knesset and the Supreme Court to approve laws in their favor," said Marne Rochester, who describes herself as an observant non-Orthodox Israeli Jew.

"The Haredim are politically very powerful…But democracy also means protecting the rights of all minorities, not just the Haredim but also the Reform and Conservative, and protecting the rights of secular majority," Rochester adds.

Many of the signs at the protest called for equality for Haredim. They called on the courts to halt the infringement on their rights.

But according to ACRI's Gil, "In the majority of the cases where religious groups talk about rights, they actually mean their communal wishes and goals…which are not rights."

Gil said it's a conflict between rights on the one hand, and interests of a community on the other.

Moshe Abergil, one of the owners of Drugstore 2000, a new supermarket in downtown Jerusalem that is open for business on Shabbat, agrees with Gil.

"The time has come to break the haredi grip on Jerusalem," said Abergil, during a demonstration that ensued outside his store on a recent Shabbat.

A conflict between rights and interests

"We have to hope the Haredim will understand the needs of the secular public in Jerusalem," said MK Avraham Poraz, outside Abergil's store on the first Shabbat that it was open.

But the fact that Israel is a Jewish state and a state that intertwines religious and secular laws makes these issues all the more problematic.

"You can't divorce Jewish laws from secular ones," said a modern Orthodox woman who didn't want to give her name. "This isn't an ordinary state. If I wanted to live in an ordinary state, I could have stayed in America or Canada. But I moved here to live in a Jewish state. The secular laws have to include the Jewish ones."

"This is a structural problem, like the problem always in America between the federal government and the states," said novelist A. B. Yehoshua. "In 200 years, there will still be someone who will speak about why the Supreme Court has too much power. It is built into our nature, because we will never entirely separate religion from state."

And it is here that the question of authority comes into play. Rabbi Regev suggests there can be two courts in one land, so long as there is one court that has overall authority.

Which court that is depends on who you talk to. The Haredim want their religious courts to have the final say. The majority of society wants secular law to rule.

Asked whether he sees a resolution to the conflict between the Haredim and the state, Gil bluntly said no. But he quickly added, "There are different measures that can be taken. This problem is old…the problem goes on as the State of Israel goes on, which is one proof the problem in itself does not risk the State of Israel.

"On the other hand," he said, "all measures must be taken to lower [levels of] tension and to come to agreements, at least in those areas where agreements are just a little possible."

In the Knesset, in the courts and on the streets, the conflict is far from being resolved.

But on the number 15 bus, religious and secular, haredi and modern Orthodox, Jews and Muslims sit side by side until the next stop.

Israel approves national security council concept

By DAVID MAKOVSKY
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The government has unanimously approved the establishment of a national security council (NSC) to focus on complex strategic issues such as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorist use of non-conventional weapons, and the Russian transfer of ballistic missiles to Iran.

The council will be headed by David Ivry, a former air force chief with 46 years of experience, most recently serving as senior strategic adviser to the defence minster.

Ivry's NSC will be stationed in the Prime Minister's Office. In an arrangement with Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon the new NSC will not deal with the peace process.

The cabinet decision said that the new body would not take powers from other government bodies, but instead, would be a coordinating body integrating various arms of the government.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hailed the move at the cabinet meeting, noting that it culminates a quarter of a century of efforts by key figures calling for its establishment. In particular, he thanked Defence Minister Moshe Arens and Sharon for their support.

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Israel Election Notebook

May 17

• Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his main challenger, Labor party leader Ehud Barak, both pledged to withdraw troops from Lebanon within a year after the May 17 elections. The pledges by Netanyahu and Barak followed two weeks of increased hostilities in south Lebanon in which seven IDF soldiers were killed, including Brig.-Gen. Erez Gerstein.

The pledges by the leaders evoked strong rebukes later in the week from some military officials who complained that the losses suffered the previous week should not be "politicized."

• The Labor party rejected Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon's call for an emergency unity government to address the pressing problems facing the Jewish state. Sharon, who has previously expressed his support for a unity government, said only a broad consensus could resolve the issues of Israel's presence in south Lebanon and the peace process. He added that, if necessary, the elections should be postponed.

• The Knesset House Committee approved splits in the Likud-Tsomet list and in the National Religious Party (NRP) list, bringing to more than 20 the number of MKs who have left their parties since the date was set for the upcoming elections.

MKs Hanan Porat and Zvi Hendel quit the NRP and announced the formation of a new faction called Emunim.

Rafael Eitan and Haim Dayan of Tsomet left the joint list they had formed with the Likud.

• The Labor party's central committee approved by a majority of 90 percent the formation of the One Israel Knesset list, headed by Ehud Barak, that includes Gesher and Meimad representatives.

The agreement stipulates that David Levy will rank third on the new list and will be appointed a senior minister and member of the security cabinet in any government formed after the elections.

In addition, to Levy, Gesher will have the 18th, 29th and 39th slot on the One Israel list.

The agreement with the moderate Orthodox party, Meimad, stipulates that the group's most senior representative will be appointed a minister in a government headed by Barak. Meimad will get the 17th, 33rd and 38th slots on the One Israel list.

The group had not yet selected its representatives but it was assumed that Prof. Avi Ravitzky would become the senior representative.

A NEW CANDIDATE FOR THE CENTRE PARTY
Dalia Rabin Philosof, daughter of the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, has joined the as yet still unamed centre party. [Isranet]

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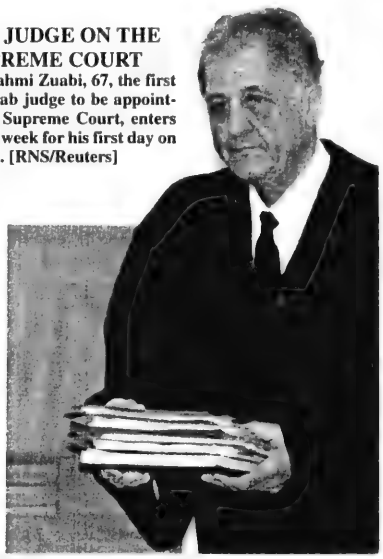

NEW JUDGE ON THE SUPREME COURT
Abd al-Rahmi Zuabi, 67, the first Israeli Arab judge to be appointed to the Supreme Court, enters court last week for his first day on the bench. [RNS/Reuters]

Marchi encourages investment in Israel

Continued from page 1

of any country in the world wanting to widen its overseas commercial ties," Marchi said.

"We saw the win-win for Canadian industry in partnering and knowing Israeli companies better, so this is also an added value for Canada. Not only is it based on friendship and the ability of an economy to produce, but also the high grade nature of its economy.

"The second part is: How do you make the good story even better? That occupied most of the time I was with Trade Minister [Natan] Sharansky: Let us not just look at how successful the two years have been and sit on the status quo. Let's have the relationship grow even more."

Marchi wants to promote the benefits of the trade agreement in the two business communities so that they can understand the advantages and openings available to them. In particular, he wants to encourage small and medium-size firms to take advantage of the opportunities in the Israeli market. He therefore wants to establish a strong business advisory council attached to the CIFTA.

"It's not just the job of government to promote the free trade agreement; in fact there needs to be a partnership with the private sector. Clearly it is the private sector and not government that is to be the engine of job creation and ingenuity," he said. "The private sector can advise governments where there are perhaps certain barriers or problems in either regulations or standards and we [the government] can hopefully respond accordingly and facilitate more two-way traffic."

During the visit, Marchi signed a new telecommunications agreement to encourage further cooperation between Canada and Israel, to promote more joint ventures and to extend invitations for telecommunication firms to bid for contracts in each other's countries. It also has provision for the two countries to come together to bid for contracts in third countries.

"We should really be joining hands today in the future of high-tech and improving people-to-people links in culture and education," Marchi said. "As we strive to promote a bigger community presence in Israel, we also invite Israeli business to create investments in Canada.

"I know that everybody in Israel looks to the United States, as they all want a piece of the American pie, but Canada is a wonderful place to invest in, not only as a country, but as a gateway for unfettered access to the United States, Mexico and increasingly the Americas. Investment is creating the trade today, not the other way round."

During his visit to the PA, Marchi met with Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza and signed a trade agreement in Ramallah between the PA and Canada. The Canadian government maintains an economic office in Ramallah. The agreement with the PA, although not as far reaching as CIFTA will be, in Marchi's words, "elevated to a higher status only after progress in the peace process. Economic prosperity is intertwined with peace and vice versa. We see this as a modest Canadian contribution to bringing peace a little closer. We would like to see a bridge between Israeli, Canadian and Palestinian companies."

The Week in Israel

March 1

• Israeli media reported that Turkey's ambassador to the United States repeated denials that Jerusalem had anything to do with the capture of Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan. "That is something beyond the scope of our bilateral relations with Israel," Ambassador Baki Ilkin said.

March 2

• The chief rabbis and the leaders of the religious political parties discussed ways to block the implementation of the court-ordered appointment of Reform and Conservative representatives to local religious councils. One of the proposals was to dissolve the councils altogether.

March 3

• Israel and the White House denied as nonsense allegations that the Mossad had tapped Monica Lewinsky's phone conversations with President Bill Clinton and blackmailed him into calling off a search for an Israeli mole in the White House. The allegations were made in a book by a British author due out next week.

• Sorek Gefen, 24, an Israeli security guard shot last week during a training accident at the embassy in Amman died. He was critically wounded by a bullet from the gun of a senior Israeli official.

March 4

• Israeli media reported that King Abdullah named Abdul-Waouf Rawabdeh, a leading supporter of Jordan's 1994 peace treaty with Israel, as his new prime minister.

March 5

• A leading water expert warned of possible shortages if policies regarding water usage are not altered. Hillel Shoval said two-thirds of the potable water in Israel is used for agricultural purposes. His comments came after meteorologists described this winter as the driest in Israel since the early 1950s.

• In a further aggravation of already strained relations between Israel and the United States, *Ha'aretz* reported, the Clinton administration decided to hold up the transfer of $1.2 billion (US) in special aid promised Israel upon the signing of the Wye accord last October.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Joke's over, Jerusalem offers plenty of night-life

By HEIKE ZAUN-GOSHEN
Special to The CJN

JERUSALEM — Until a few years ago, Tel Avivis used to joke about Jerusalem's non-existent night-life.

What are the three places in Jerusalem that remain open after midnight, they used to ask. Answer: The Western Wall, Angel's Bakery and the Hadassah Hospital emergency room.

But, things have changed since then, and there are quite a few pubs, bars, cinemas and discotheques to enjoy, and visitors and locals happily take part in the city's night-life.

I admit, that to the casual observer, Jerusalem still seems to pack it in by 10 p.m., but there are reasons for this somewhat misleading impression. Jerusalem has a reputation to protect. It is a serious town, and Jerusalemites are sophisticated in a different way than those fast-living folks in Tel Aviv.

For the tourist or traveller, night entertainment can be as important as the preceding day's sight-seeing. And it's there – one just has to look a little closer to find those places that are open late. You can hang out in bars with the best beer and live music, dance away in discotheques with the loudest beat and the longest drinks, or attend one of those magnificent outdoor performances held at night in the Tower of David's stunning ancient courtyard, or at the Sultan's Pool – provided you bring a sweater.

The Pool metamorphosed from a first-century water reservoir into an amphitheatre right below today's Yemin Moshe neighborhood. Some time ago, Toronto writer Bronwyn Drainie lived there for a couple of years, and in her book, *My Jerusalem*, describes how residents receive free tickets for each concert, to mellow their opposition to the nightly disturbance.

Up-to-date information about theatre performances, concerts and movies are easily obtained from the English-language publications available – *The Jerusalem Post*, *This Week in Jerusalem*, *Hello Israel*, and *Your Jerusalem*, the first being Jerusalem's daily, the latter brochures lying out in hotels and malls. The *Traveller*, a well-informed grassroots weekly, can be obtained at the bars and pubs it often reviews.

In addition to the climate and the non-flashy approach of its residents, Jerusalem is also a religious city. As such, public life comes to an almost complete halt on Friday afternoons. Many restaurants and cafes shut down, to reopen on Saturday night, and as soon as Shabbat ends, the streets in the centre of town become alive again with people out to have a good time.

Every now and then, the Haredim try to get those places which do stay open on Friday nights, to close down, but so far without much success. Without doubt, their demands are met in certain neighborhoods and this should be respected. Yet, as cultural life goes, pubs and bars are just as important as theatre and concert halls. As Jerusalem's former long-time mayor, Teddy Kollek, once explained in an interview, "The cultural institutions meet the needs of the non-religious, including, last but not least, the government officials. Culture is vital to Jerusalem, if it wants to remain a modern city."

The area best suited for a foray into the pleasure of Jerusalem nights, is found downtown. Concentrating in three main areas, the places are easily accessible. They offer alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, music and food, or at least snacks. Often, they have a happy hour in the late afternoon.

There is a pedestrian mall in Nahlat Shiv'a, one of New Jerusalem's first and now historic neighborhoods off Jaffa Road's eastern end. Tucked away in the network of narrow passageways, a considerable number of watering holes cater to different tastes. Here, for instance, you find The Underground on Yoel Solomon Street, a slightly raunchy meeting place for mostly younger tourists and locals that features music and dancing on the ground floor and a pub on the upper floor.

Then there is the neighboring Q Dance Bar, where things are equally busy, but can turn a little seedy when the hour gets late. Dancing activities here are hosted by a disc jockey starting shortly before midnight. The clientele is mixed, and also includes Jerusalem's gay scene.

The Blue Hole, also on Solomon Street calls itself the deepest bar in town and offers a fully stocked bar and non-stop classic rock.

Egon, a cafe and bar at Nahlat Shiv'a's In The Yard, which proudly advertises to be open until 5 a.m., also has a well-stocked bar, yet in intimate settings and a quiet atmosphere, where guests can play a game of sheshbesh and have a light breakfast before leaving.

Next is the zone near the Russian Compound, on the little streets of Jaffa Road's opposite side, a bit further west. The Glasnost Bar on Heleni Hamalka Street offers live music four nights a week, ranging from jazz, blues and reggae to salsa and samba. And they have Guiness on tap. So does Mike's Place, around the corner on Horkanos Street. In addition, this one has a reputation for an equally wide range of live music every night.

And there's Mike's neighbor, Galliano's, which some patrons fancy for its pool table, friendly service and reasonable prices. That is not to say that the other bars mentioned here are unduly expensive. The Strudel Café on Monbaz Street is Jerusalem's first and so far only Internet café offering e-mail services. It's a place to quietly hang out, to have a snack and a drink. The establishments mentioned are open every day until the small hours.

The third locale for an evening out is the Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall. Though things here calm down earlier than near the Russian Compound and in Nahlat Shiv'a, patrons get a good opportunity for people-watching when the night is mild and tables and chairs remain outside. One of Jerusalem's oldest bars in the area is Fink's, a place on Histadrut Street that reportedly is the best pub in town, and is also said to cater to local and international celebrities.

Its limited space makes for an intimate, elbow-rubbing atmosphere, especially when crowded. Fink's history started with the mandatary period, when the British introduced some good old-fashioned European traditions to the city.

Jaffa Road itself also offers a couple of choices, such as Champs at no. 19, the Arizona at no. 37 and Habustan at no. 68. Champs is a regular pub featuring a large screen TV showing MTV and sports, as well as a dart board, pinball machine and video games.

Rivlin Street is a bustling pedestrian mall and colorful night stop

The disco and two fully stocked bars at the Arizona are patronized by young travellers from all over the world. Some time ago, an affiliated hostel opened its door on the premises. The atmosphere at Habustan is more relaxing, with live music six days a week and an affordable menu. Performances here include classical guitar blues, jazz and funk.

Those interested in a more oriental ambience might try Abu Shanab's Restaurant and Bar on 35 Latin Patriarchate Road in the Old City, not far from Jaffa Gate.

Set in a cave, the Khan Club in Jerusalem's historic inn, once used by caravans opposite the only train station, offers folklore performances, including belly dancing. It stays open until very late; reservations are recommended.

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Miniature meticulously mirrors Budapest's Dohany St. Synagogue

Fashioned with love and artistry

By MIRIAM CHINSKY
Special to The CJN

TORONTO —Louis Weiss' replica of the Dohany Street Synagogue in Budapest, crafted from brass and bronze, is a wonder in miniature.

Weiss, who was born in Hungary, has spent 14 months – roughly 2,000 working hours – meticulously reproducing in 1:100 scale the elegant Moorish style building down to the finest detail.

Six steps lead to the main arched doorway below an embossed circular window flanked by polygonal pillars, each surmounted with a green-enameled dome to simulate the verdigris which forms on weathered copper. Between the pillars, standing above the cornice, are the Tablets of the Law.

Weiss has fashioned all four sides of the structure with love, artistry and superb technological skill. His grandson Alon, a computer graphic artist, formulated the reduced dimensions from photographs and other aids.

The Dohany Street Synagogue was planned by Ludwig Forster and its construction, which was supervised by architect Ignac Wechselmann, began July 40, 1854. The synagogue was dedicated on Sept. 6, 1859.

During World War II it was central to the Budapest ghetto. Extending along one side is a common grave where the remains of some of the 600,000 Hungarian Jews massacred in the Holocaust, are interred.

Close to this spot is a memorial in the form of an inverted menorah supporting a silver weeping willow, dedicated to those who died.

Weiss studied design, metal relief carving and etching at the art college in Budapest in the early 1940s and credits this training with helping to save his life after the Nazis deported him to Birkenau. He was later sent to Auschwitz where his engraving skills were required in a mammoth munitions factory.

Liberated by the Americans in 1945, he returned to Budapest and met his future wife, Lilli. In 1947 they set out for Palestine where their son and daughter were born.

Weiss served in the Israeli navy for seven years, working with highly qualified engineers from all over the world who, he says, "taught me so much!"

In 1955 he opened his own machine shop and by 1964 he became a representative for various European firms selling machine tools to Israel. Throughout these years he was heavily involved with the Israeli Ministry of Defence.

The Weisses left Israel in 1976, following their family to Canada. Here, Louis discovered that "at 50 I was over-age and over-qualified." Reluctantly retired, he turned to sculpture, mining a latent talent.

In 1987 he was selected as a member of the Canadian Sculptors' Association and has completed a series, *Expressions of Music* in Solid Brass. The 24 plaques — brass relief against a black background — focus on classical and non-classical music and dance. Also included is a miniature reproduction of the renowned Mozart Monument in Vienna, which is affixed to black marble.

Weiss has also created a scale model of the federal Parliament buildings in Ottawa.

He was not only liberated from a concentration camp but his talent, which evokes beauty and compassion, is a liberating force in his world of today.

The Budapest synagogue took Louis Weiss 2,000 hours to make.

Nostalgic film captures world that is no more

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

It has been 25 years since Joan Micklin Silver's film *Hester Street* first appeared on the silver screen. Although the slow-paced, 90-minute black and white drama is not as well known as *Crossing Delancey*, which Silver directed more than a decade later, I regard the earlier film as the more pure work of art.

A minor classic, it captures the flavor of 1890s Jewish life on the Lower East Side with succinct and delicious irony.

The film paints a realistic portrait of Russian-Jewish immigrants and their landscape of tenements, sweatshops, dingy cafeterias, market stalls, fire escapes and courtyards crisscrossed by lines of hanging laundry.

Carol Kane gives a stunning performance as Gitl, an old-fashioned wife who arrives at Ellis Island to join her husband Jake (Steve Keats), who has preceded her to New York.

Although Jake has shorn his beard and changed his shtetl clothing, Gitl initially refuses to surrender her sheitl and go out immodestly in her own hair; she protests, horrified, when Jake cuts off their 3-year-old son's ringlets. Hoping to please her husband, she agrees to call the boy Joey instead of Yossi. Jake hardly touches her; it's clear he no longer wants her.

As Gitl adapts to America, she learns that Jake is involved with a fancy modern woman, Mamie Fine, who has already been in America for seven years. Like Jake, Mamie has discarded the customs of the Old Country, and is sufficiently modern in her lifestyle to have no serious qualms about adultery.

Wanting to be Americans and not Jews, Jake and Mamie rush to embrace the newfangled values of their adoptive land. Convinced of their own cleverness, they sneer at the old-world bumpkins around them who are fresh off the boat. But the film ultimately paints them as misguided fools. They come across as far more dogmatic in their secularism than old-fashioned characters like Gitl, who cling to their Jewish roots and jokingly wish a pox (a curse) on Columbus for discovering America.

The screenplay is a smart adaptation of the novella, *Yekl*, by Abraham Cahan, the legendary first editor of the Yiddish *Forward*.

"With one tuches you can't dance at two weddings," a neighbor scolds Jake, one of many examples of how the film preserves the book's flavorful (if now somewhat clichéd) Yiddish idioms.

Besides Kane's extremely memorable portrayal of Gitl, I enjoy *Hester Street* for its various cameos: a smirking customs officer at Ellis Island, an overbearing sweatshop boss, a tenement neighbor who unhesitantly inveigles her way into other people's affairs, a rabbi's parlor, and – my favorite – an old Yiddish-speaking peddler whose pack seems to hold more goods than a department store, including a love potion that Gitl wants to give her husband.

The ending, in which the old values triumph over the modern, is supremely satisfying. Silver revisits the same theme (and locale) in

Continued on page 40

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Michelle Goldstein
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Collection of stories features 'Chekhov of the East Side'

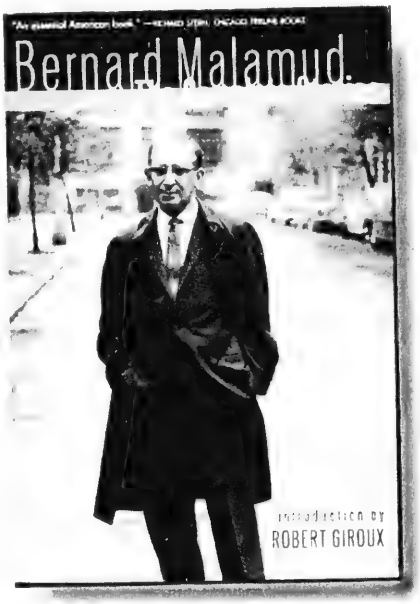
By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

In a literary career that stretched roughly from 1940 to his death in 1986, Bernard Malamud wrote a handful of acclaimed novels, including *The Natural*, *The Fixer* and *The Assistant*.

Between the novels, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author refined his artistry by writing short stories.

For the first time, all of Malamud's short fiction has been gathered together in a single book which was published a while ago in hardcover.

Republished recently in softcover by Noonday, *Bernard Malamud: Collected Stories* ($26.95) contains 55 stories – and 55 good reasons why Malamud was called Peretz's literary heir by some, and a Chekhov of the East Side by others.



The son of immigrant shopkeepers in Brooklyn, Malamud wrote beautifully crafted stories about first-generation New York Jews in a variety of peculiar but realistic predicaments. Their speech, inflected with Yiddish dialect and cadences, is the language of the stranger in a strange land, the nuanced English of immigrants and the children of immigrants.

The quality of the stories wavers from very good to outstandingly wonderful. In the latter category are such masterpieces as *The Magic Barrel*, *Rembrandt's Hat* and *The Silver Crown*.

American novelist Cynthia Ozick once heard Malamud read *The Silver Crown*, and her first reaction was reportedly to wish with all her heart that she had written the story herself.

Many of the stories combine a gritty low realism with elements akin to magic, folk-tales and the fantastic. In *The Silver Crown*, the son of a dying man, although intensely rationalistic, seeks a spiritual healing cure from a mysterious Bronx rabbi, but quibbles over the size, price and efficacy of the silver crown that the rabbi says will cure his father.

In *The Magic Barrel*, another man seeks help from another professional – this time a rabbinical student and matchmaker.

Both stories reflect Malamud's tremendous agility with the form and economy of the short story, and his skill with the unexpected ending.

The writer once told an interviewer that he learned to condense his verbal tales from his father. "*Vos haks du mir a chainik?* What tune are you banging on your pot?" Malamud Sr. once said when Bernard was conveying a long tale about his mother's cousin.

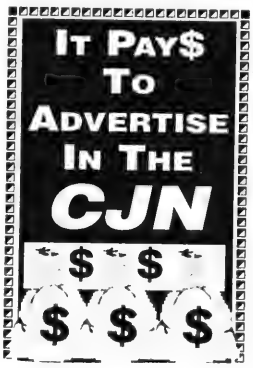
Some of the stories reflect his parents' lives more directly. Several stories are set in grocery stores, which are usually painted as drab prisons, with their proprietors trapped in small, confined lives.

To paraphrase the late-19th-century British novelist Israel Zangwill, Malamud's New York stories seem to focus largely on the children and grandchildren of the ghetto. His characters are transplanted to the vast sparkling land of America, but they are hemmed in by the small rooms and vistas of their adoptive land as much as they are still bound by old world traditions, perceptions and ideas.

Their situations are often ironic, and their attitudes are often pessimistic, as though they are just discovering that America's streets never were paved with gold.

Malamud wrote with equal talent about gentiles in his handful of Italian stories, including *The Maid's Shoes* and *Life is Better than Death*. Some of these pieces focus on Americans transplanted to Rome, a landscape they can never truly understand.

All in all, surprises and delights await the sensitive reader who picks up this wonderful collection. Presented chronologically, the stories are bound to whet the appetite for the author's larger works.



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HOLLYWOOD CLASSICS AT LEAH POSLUNS

A mini-vintage film festival opened last weekend at the Leah Posluns Theatre, with the screening of **Alfred Hitchcock's** elegant spy thriller *Notorious*. More films are scheduled for screening at the theatre on three Sundays this month and next.

On March 14, two classic films written and directed by **Billy Wilder** are on view: *Double Indemnity* at 1 p.m. and *Witness for the Prosecution* at 3 p.m.

On March 21, two films featuring **Bette Davis** are scheduled: *All About Eve* at 1 p.m. and *Now Voyager* at 3 p.m.

On April 11, two **James Hilton** novels brought unforgettably to the screen are being shown: *Random Harvest* at 1 p.m. and *Lost Horizon* at 3 p.m.

Tickets $5 per film. 4588 Bathurst St., North York. 636-1880, ext. 0.

* * *

Focus on Yiddish Writers: The Cranbrooke Friendship Club of the United Jewish People's Order and the Winchevsky Centre present a Celebration of Classical Yiddish Writers, with **David Abramowitz**. This talented interpreter of Yiddish culture will investigate the lives and works of **Mendel Moikher Sforim, I. L. Peretz** and **Shalom Aleichem**.

The program, presented in English, will be preceded by a light lunch. $5. Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. March 15, 12:30 p.m. 789-5502.

* * *

Playwriting Contest: The Jewish Theatre Committee of Toronto is looking for the best Canadian Jewish play of 1999. The play should be previously unproduced and have significant Jewish content. The winning play will receive a professionally staged reading in the fall.

The Jewish Theatre Committee has sponsored this contest for eight years. "We've always had a very high calibre of work submitted," says committee chair **Ralph Wintrob**. "Some of the authors have had commercial success with their work."

Deadline for submissions is March 31, and the winner will be selected by the end of May. For contest rules, contact Cheryl Wetstein, Bloor JCC, 924-6211.

* * *

Toronto Jewish Film Society: The TJFS presents two Canadian films about artists: the Academy Award-nominated *Colours of My Father – A Portrait of Sam Borenstein* (29 minutes, 1991) and *Mischa* (44 minutes, 1991). Filmmakers **David Vaisbord** and **Joyce Borenstein** will be present for the screenings. March 14, 5:15 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. (limited seating). Jackman Hall, Art Gallery of Ontario. $7.50. Tickets available at the door. 924-6211.

* * *

Auction of Books and Maps: Sotheby's auction house is selling two important collections of maps and books relating to the Middle East, including several 19th-century books composed by famous pilgrims from distant lands.

The work of British artist **David Roberts** is well known to many travellers to Israel, and his book *The Holy Land* provides dramatic and romanticized images of the ancient and sacred sites. The work is expected to fetch about 28,000 pounds sterling or more.

The Wilderness of Sin, an archeological report published in 1914, is included in a lot of books expected to fetch several hundred pounds. The reason is that that particular treatise was written by **T. E. Lawrence**, who later became famous as Lawrence of Arabia. The auction takes place March 23 in London. 0171-293-5000.

* * *

Arts Briefs

• *I Never Sang For My Father*, a concert reading, is being presented by the **Medina Theatre Ensemble**. March 16, 8 p.m. 15 Hove St., North York. Refreshments. $4 members, $6 non-members. 785-1074.

• *The Song*, a play based on the Song of Songs, has been held over through March 14 at Theatre Passe Murailles Backspace. 16 Ryerson Ave. 504-7529.

• The Bloorview Epilepsy Research Program and Epilepsy Ontario are holding a Gala Benefit Concert, March 21, 3 p.m., Studio Theatre, Ford Centre, North York. $20. 978-0779.

• **The Toronto Symphony** recently announced its forthcoming season. Guest artists include soprano **Kathleen Battle**, violinist **Itzhak Perlman**, the **Beaux Arts Trio**, Canadian tenor **Ben Heppner**, pianist **Emanuel Ax**, conductor **Pinchas Zukerman** and cellist **Yo-Yo Ma**.

• Encore Entertainment presents *Anne of Green Gables*, a musical based on the novel by **L. M. Montgomery**. City Playhouse, 1000 New Westminster Dr., Thornhill. March 18 to 28. Adults $20, $18 matinee. 733-0558.

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A minor film classic

Continued from page 38

Crossing Delancey, but despite the latter's wider popular and commercial success, *Hester Street* is the better work.

At times, the plot and tempo of *Hester Street* may seem too slow for modern sensibilities, but that's precisely the point; it is an intensely authentic re-creation of the "world of our fathers" that Irving Howe chronicled so well in his book of the same name. The film brilliantly captures the rhythms of life of an earlier time.

When *Hester Street* first came out in 1974, a *New York Times* reviewer acknowledged it as a minor classic but complained it had too many crowded street scenes. Modern viewers, especially those with roots on the Lower East Side, may find the rich street fabric one of the film's most appealing elements.

Beyond the particular world of its characters, *Hester Street* shows us the mythic landscape of America (i.e. New York), which some two million Jews from eastern Europe experienced in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The movie is a deeply nostalgic and insightful portrait of a world that is no more, lovingly recaptured on celluloid.

If you saw *Hester Street* when it first came out, it's definitely worth a second look. It is available on videotape from First Run Features, 153 Waverly Place, New York N.Y., 10014.

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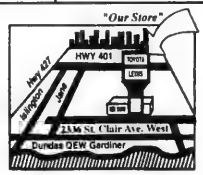

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Beyond the Pale in concert

Toronto's dynamic acoustic fusion ensemble Beyond the Pale will perform an evening showcase featuring their explosive blend of klezmer, gypsy, bluegrass, jazz and other musical styles, March 11 at Cervejaria (842 College St. at Ossington), 9 p.m.

The band features Eric Steinmandolin; Bret Higgins-bass; Josh Engel-guitar and Aaron Solomin-violin. This will be the entertainment for the wrap party of "Colouring Ourselves: A Festival of Jewish Student Creativity."

Beyond the Pale will also perform March 14 at noon at the Free Times Cafe.

For more information call 482-2699.

Travel Talk

BY BILL GLADSTONE

BEIT HATEFUTSOTH TELLS STORY OF THE DIASPORA

One of the first items on display inside the doors of Beit Hatefutsoth, Tel Aviv's 21-year-old "museum" of the Diaspora, is a reproduction of the Arch of Titus in Rome, showing Roman legions carrying off the spoils from Jerusalem in 70 CE.

Titus, the Roman general who oversaw the destruction of the Second Temple and the exile of the Jews from Jerusalem, commissioned the arch to record his proud achievement for posterity. The arch still stands in Rome today, and Jews with a strong sense of history often refuse to pass through it.

Little could Titus have understood that 2,000 years later – long after the mighty Romans had receded from history – there would be a massive ingathering of Jewish exiles from throughout the Diaspora back to Israel.

The return of the Jews to Israel, one of the most dramatic episodes of modern history, is the story that Beit Hatefutsoth so brilliantly represents. Its six sections focus on various aspects of Jewish life as it was lived in diverse locales from ancient to modern times.

It is important to recognize that Beit Hatefutsoth is not a museum, since almost none of its artifacts are genuine. Rather, it is a sort of walk-through encyclopedia, vivid and colorful, concentrating on the simultaneous diversity and unity of the Jewish people throughout the many centuries of their dispersion.

One of the most impressive sections of Beit Hatefutsoth features models of some 30 famous synagogues that once stood or continue to stand in places from Pennsylvania to China. The models are large and painstakingly accurate. In most cases, they seem to reflect the architectural character of their host countries.

Only one model violates the second commandment prohibition against making graven images. For a reason that Judaic scholars and art historians are at pains to understand, images of human beings were represented in the art of an early synagogue in northern Syria. The original art is now housed in a museum in Damascus.

As my guide, Ze'ev Hamudot, explains, each of the various synagogue models reflects a particular community's comfort level within its respective country. Edifices such as the Great Synagogue of Amsterdam (1675) and the Curacao Synagogue (1732) reflect an architectural pride and boldness denoting the high level of Jewish comfort and confidence within these societies.

Similarly, the El Transito and so-called Santa Mario de la Blanca synagogues of Toledo, Spain, also exude a strong measure of architectural confidence. Both structures rose during the glory days of Spain's Jewish community, a century before the Inquisition and Jewish expulsion.

In Poland, synagogue architecture also reveals a high – and ultimately misplaced – level of confidence. The replica of Warsaw's Tlomacke Street Synagogue, for example, shows off a magnificent structure whose exterior walls were decorated with six-pointed stars, the stone tablets of the commandments, and other Jewish symbols. The synagogue was among thousands destroyed by the Nazis.

Also destroyed during World War II, the former wooden synagogue in Chorodov, Ukraine, is one of the most beautiful models on display. Its beautiful painted ceiling features lions, signs of the zodiac, and mythological animals such as unicorns. Restorationists relied upon black and white photographs to authenticate the interior, and interviewed Holocaust survivors to get a better sense of the interior's vibrant colors.

Gothic and eerie, Prague's medieval Altneuschul is one of the most strikingly original models on display. As in many countries, Jews were not permitted to build any structures higher than the local church or mosque, and counteracted this limitation by lowering the ground floor. The main floor of the Altneuschul is 10 steps below street level.

Other models represent originals in Florence, Venice, Cochin, Kaifeng, and other places.

"The final synagogue is very interesting," says Hamudot, referring to the Kaifeng building, which was several centuries old. "It was destroyed by floods on the Yellow River."

A section on the Jewish family offers tableaux of Jewish life. One display depicts a circumcision ceremony taking place in 19th-century Algeria, while another shows a bar mitzvah in 20th-century London.

These are only a few of Beit Hatefutsoth's many fascinating displays that bring the rich tapestry of Jewish history vibrantly to life. After the Israel Museum and Yad Vashem, Beit Hatefutsoth is one of Israel's prime attractions, and should be on the itinerary of every visitor. (03-646-2020).

Crazy Bones distributors grab tiger by the tail and control own destiny

Continued from page 31

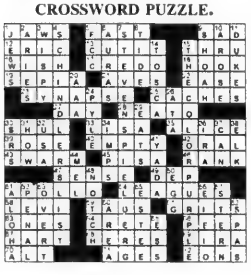
was then manufacturing plastic accessories, like coffin-shaped carrying cases for the Crazy Bones and selling them to Play Toy.

However, Play Toy went bankrupt around Christmas. Having stayed in contact with Fromm, Segal called him shortly after the company folded. He said Fromm advised him to get control of the product. By the time the dust settled, he and Fromm cobbled a partnership.

"Wayne and I got together to figure out how to license the product ourselves and take control of our destiny. I was bombarded by people wanting the product, big companies, individuals, other distributers. Everyone was coming out of the woodwork."

Fromm said that becoming a partner at a stage when Crazy Bones was hot was no longer as risky. "Play Toy had invested $1 million. We had a head start. The toy had already taken off. It was like having a tiger by the tail, and where do we go with it."

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



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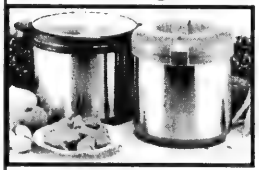
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Health

Nervous breakdowns possible in kids: expert

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — It is possible for a child as young as seven years old to have a nervous breakdown, according to an expert in behavioral problems.

For many children, the stresses of life are all too real, and without help, even the very young can experience a sense of hopelessness, Audrey Lowitz said at a recent workshop sponsored by Tiny Treasures Jewish nursery school.

Lowitz, who also specializes in parent education and early intervention, has worked with young children and their parents in Montreal and Baffin Island.

Lowitz stressed that even the most sheltered children are subject to the stress and strain of modern society.

"Today's child is constantly being hurried," said Lowitz. "By rushing through our tasks, we are teaching children that faster is better. Rushing children and rushing childhood has its consequences."

Children's lives are too scheduled, so that they "no longer have time to smell the flowers," she said.

She said that stress is a biological reaction of the body to certain occurrences, and pointed out such physical signs as headaches, pounding heart, upset stomach, low energy and changes in eating or sleeping habits.

Things to watch out for in children include irritability, uncontrollable temper, lack of interest in things once enjoyed, changes in school performance, feelings of inferiority and a sense of hopelessness.

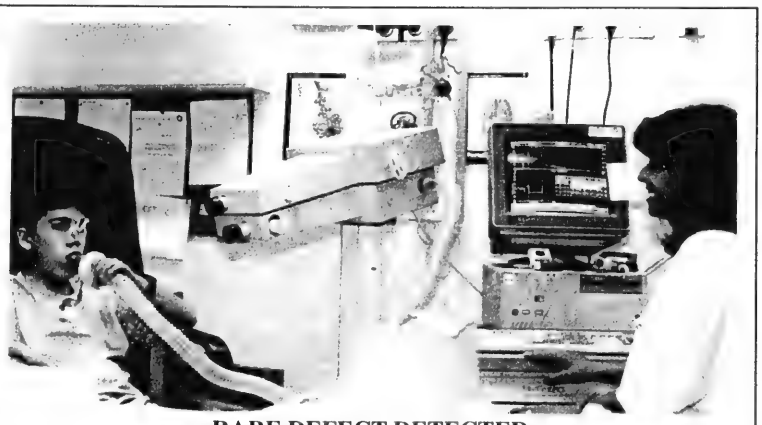
Although many stress-inducing situations, such as divorce, poverty or difficult family relationships, cannot be controlled by the child, there are coping techniques that can be learned.

The key, said Lowitz, is "teaching children that managing stress involves skills that can be learned. Anger occurs when a child is totally overwhelmed by emotion. The goal is to teach children to gain better control of their emotions.

"To me," says Lowitz, "self-esteem is the key. Self-esteem is self-respect. If you can respect yourself, you can deal with the stress."

She suggested techniques to teach children, such as meditation, yoga, exercise, and humor.

The workshop was held at the home of Jeff Taylor and Susie Weisman.



RARE DEFECT DETECTED

Twelve-year-old Rafael was brought all the way from Brazil to Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem, where his rare genetic metabolic defect was diagnosed. He underwent comprehensive tests, and here we see him undergoing lung function evaluation.

New leg-saving procedure used

TORONTO — A surgeon at the Branson Division of North York General Hospital is the first in Canada to perform a new leg-saving procedure for elderly and diabetic patients.

"This new technique is minimally invasive. We make two small incisions, one at each end of the affected area. Using an angioscope, a narrow tube with a camera at the end, we perform the surgery inside the leg while watching through the camera," said Dr. Ian Forrest, a vascular surgeon at the Branson Division.

This procedure is an in-situ bypass, in which a vein in the leg is used to bring blood to the foot of a patient who has severe narrowing of the arteries. This is a common complication associated with diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Until now, surgeons made a long incision to expose the affected artery and neighboring vein as they connected the two, removed valves inside the vein to permit reverse blood flow, and closed off side branches of the vein.

Forrest became the first in Canada to perform the procedure, in November 1998, and has since done approximately half a dozen such surgeries.

"This [new] operation is done on patients who are at imminent risk of losing a leg to gangrene. These people often have diabetes or are elderly and have problems healing," said Forrest. "The smaller incisions mean hospital stays drop from between seven and 10 days to five or six. So, this surgery reduces pain and suffering, and patients can return home faster."

Demand for this type of surgery is significant. Between April and Sept. 30, 1996, for instance, the older procedure was performed 420 times in Ontario.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING 1999 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

Please note that a Special Committee of the Whole meeting has been scheduled for **Monday, March 22, 1999, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Council Chambers, VAUGHAN CIVIC CENTRE, 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan, Ontario, for the purpose of presenting the proposed 1999 Operating and Capital budgets and receiving input from the public.

FURTHER INFORMATION may be obtained by visiting or contacting the Finance Department at (905) 832-8585, extension 8482. A copy of the Staff Report will be available from the Clerk's Department on Friday, March 19, 1999.

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LifeStyle

Advertising Feature

Another Registry Wedding ... It Can Happen To You

Jack believes he was destined to meet his new bride Ellie. They met through the Jewish Singles Registry (JSR) and dated for about eight months before walking down the aisle on December 6/98 - Jack's birthday. "It was a great birthday gift" the insurance industry worker said. "We talked on the phone for two hours the first time we connected. Then we went for a coffee a few days later and talked for two hours again. We have so much in common."

Coincidentally, Jack found that he and Ellie had gone to the same high school. His brother-in-law went to university with Ellie and was an usher at her first wedding. And she had met Jack's sister 14 years ago. "With all these coincidences it was meant to be," says the 42 year old Toronto man.

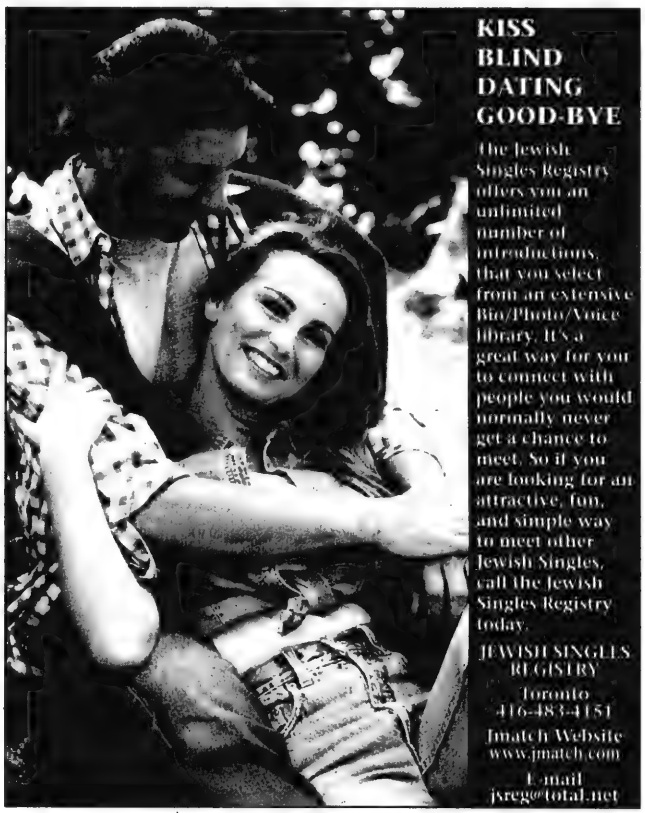
For her part, Ellie says she'd almost given up hope of finding the right man. "He's the most wonderful guy I ever met in my life," says the 41 year old library technician and mother of two.

More and more people are joining dating services like the Jewish Singles Registry. In fact February was one of their busiest months ever, reported Rob Singer, owner of the JSR. Most of their registrants are professionals and business people. With time these days, at a premium, the JSR makes it simple to find your significant other. A large database of members is available for members to peruse. Detailed profiles, along with photographs and voice personal messages, let JSR members make informed and quality dating choices. Professional staff are always on hand to give advice, feedback, and even make suggestions. While the Registry prides itself on allowing members to select for themselves who they would like to meet, Registry staff have become quite proficient at matching people together.

For its part the Registry is very serious about what it does. Members must provide personal identification before being allowed access to the database. The service is conveniently opened six days a week including most evenings. Even with three viewing computers, an appointment is highly recommended to reserve viewing time, usually a day or two in advance.

With all this going for the JSR members, the Registry takes it one step further. Membership in the Jewish Singles Registry now includes FREE membership in the ever so popular **www.jmatch.com** internet dating service. Close to 500 Toronto Jewish singles have already signed up since September /98. It's cyberdating at its finest.

So whether you are looking for friendship, a long term relationship, or something in between, the Jewish Singles Registry has someone right for you. Go in and see for yourself. They can be reached at **(416) 483-4151,** or e-mailed at **jsreg@total.net**. You can reach jmatch, by logging on to their website at **www.jmatch.com.**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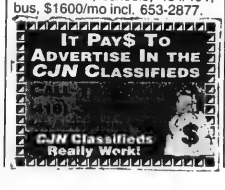

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YOUTH DIRECTOR WANTED
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248 CAMPS

The Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton-Wentworth & Area is taking applications for counsellors for Camp Kadimah Summer Day Camp 1999 for children 3 - 10 years. Please send resume to: The Jewish Community Centre of Hamilton-Wentworth & Area, P.O. Box 7258, 1030 Lower Lions Road, Ancaster, Ontario L9C 3N6 or call 905-648-0605 Ext. 300 or fax to 905-648-8388.

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264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marilyn & Jerry Smith are happy to announce the engagement of her daughter **Gail Katari** to **Mark**, son of **Lin Goodman** and **Fran & Harry Goodman.** Delighted grandmothers are Adale Weingarten & Ada Eisen.

Melnick/McCarthy - Shirley & Phillip Melnick are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter **Eileen to Stuart**, son of Estelle & Mervyn McCarthy. Proud grandmother is Rose Berman. An August wedding is planned.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Very handsome JM, early 50's, no kids, prof., romantic, full of life seeks JF, early 40's, attractive, single or w/kids, good heart, prof., who wants to start a new life based on partnership, affection, sincerity,respect. Serious replies only. CJN Box 7161.

SJM, very professional, handsome, 5'11", outgoing with traditional Jewish values, seeks an attractive, accomplished SJF, 28-35 with similar background. CJN Box # 7162.

Sincere male, 50, who likes to shop and also likes to cook and enjoys good conversation would like to meet similar lady any age for relationship. CJN Box 7160.

Attractive widow, intelligent, established, would like to meet a learned, presentable gentleman, established, 66+ for lasting companionship. Please call Miriam at 416-782-3729.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

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To Place Your **FREE** Ad call **905-276-6167 *Ext.*# 65**

The Meeting Place

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Women seeking Men

LIFE LONG PARTNER
Single female, 35, slim, attractive, a true romantic, enjoy theater, movies, and weekend getaways. Seeking a male, 35-43, who is intelligent, and attractive, inside and out AD#1902

FRIEND OR LOVER
Single female, 38, dark hair, blue eyes, nice smile, a real people person. Kindergarten teacher, family oriented, down to earth, enjoy movies, live theater. Seeking a male, down to earth, with similar interests for serious relationship. AD#1887

WEEKEND GET AWAYS
Single female, 35, 5'4", brunette, slim, attractive, sensitive, romantic, intelligent, enjoy dining out, movies, reading, theater, weekend getaways. Seeking a sensitive, romantic male, 35-43, intelligent, attractive on the inside and out AD#1888

SEEKING LIFE PARTNER
Single Jewish female, 39, petite, non smoker, never been married, down to earth, quiet, have a laid back lifestyle. Seeking a good hearted male, 37-42, who enjoys oldies music and Bingo AD#1863

FUNNY AND WARM
Divorced female, 52, intelligent, financially independent, warm, funny, enjoy dining in & out, long walks, sports, movies, baseball. Seeking a male, 55+, with similar interests. AD#1879

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single female, 35, 5'4", slim, brunette, attractive, enjoy movies, theater, travelling, ethnic foods, cottage and country life. Seeking a male, 35-43, professional, intelligent, handsome inside and out, a good communicator AD#1881

LOVES NATURE
Single Jewish female, 42, blue eyes, intelligent, unique, enjoy art, theater, nature, travelling. Seeking a male, non-smoker, unique and caring. AD#1882

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single female, radiant, smart, sophisticated, compassionate, fun, open, loving, enjoy good food, good conversation, long walks, quiet romantic times. Seeking a male, who is romantic, professional, with traditional values, emotionally and financially stable, and is ready to explore life AD#1866

DEVELOPING NEW INTEREST
Professional Jewish female, non-smoker, warm, pretty, enjoy dancing, long walks, movies, playing Bridge. Seeking a male, 55+, who is easy going, with similar interests AD#1867

CANDLE LIGHT DINNERS
Single female, caring, loving, romantic, affectionate, enjoy working out, travelling, candle light dinners. Seeking a male, 45-55, with similar interest. AD#1869

NUMBER ONE
Single mom of 1 teenage son, attractive, exciting, 5'5", Jewish, brown eyes & hair, very youthful looking. Seeking a handsome, single Jewish male, professional, traditional, established, tall, fit, kind, sincere, fun loving, with a zest for life AD#1873

SIMPLE TWIST OF FATE
Single Jewish female, interesting, intelligent, unique, 34. Seeking a Jewish male, 35-46, for friendship, romance and trouble, if interested give me a call AD#1876

LET'S CHAT
Single female, early 30's, attractive, fit, enjoy long walks, cycling, dining, movies. Seeking a single Jewish male, non-smoker, 30ish, no children, outgoing, fun, sensitive, caring. AD#1864

FULL OF LOVE
Single Jewish female, 18, 5'3", 115lbs, brown hair & eyes, non-smoker, honest, caring, enjoy moves, sports, dining and dancing. Seeking a male, 18-21, honest, romantic, trustworthy with similar interests. AD#1862

NIFTY 50'S
Single lady, hazel eyes, blond hair, love life, sense of humour, enjoy the arts, movies, the theater, music from classical to jazz, travelling, long walks, and romantic talks. Seeking a male, kind, compassionate, self-sufficient, with a good heart and a great smile. AD#1853

FRIENDS FIRST
Divorced female, 49, single mom, professional, warm, attractive, beautiful, blond hair, hazel eyes, non-smoker, university educated, down to earth, enjoy dining and dancing, sports, travelling. Seeking a male, 48-59, handsome, outgoing, honest, romantic, intelligent, who loves kids. AD#1949

FRIENDSHIP & COMPANIONSHIP
Professional Jewish widow, 42, have a 2yr old child, very outgoing, good sense of humour, open, enjoy movies, theater, dining & dancing, long walks. Seeking a single Jewish male, assertive, financially secure, professional, non-smoker, sincere, who does not focus on ones attributes. AD#1963

NOURISH MY SOUL
Single Jewish female, 51, attractive, enjoy music, fine art, outdoor activities, nature, fine food, and activities that nourish the soul. Seeking a male who is considerate, open minded, with traditional values, and similar interests. AD#1860

WINTER ROMANCE
Single Jewish female, 30ish, attractive, stylish, dark brown hair, hazel green eyes, enjoy movies, theater, roller blading, comedy clubs, music, bowling, camping. Seeking a Jewish male, 31-43, with similar interests. AD#1857

Questions ??? 416-236-6644

Men seeking Women

LATIN MUSIC
Single Jewish male, 5'6", 147lbs, healthy in body and mind, enjoy Latin music, great outdoors, tennis and fine dining. Seeking an attractive, slim female, with similar interests. AD#1906

ATTENTION LADIES!
Single male, professional, mid 50's, Israeli-European background, enjoy walks, movies, dining and dancing. Seeking a female, attractive, petite, down to earth AD#1470

LONG DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 36, tall, fit, professional, easy going, down to earth, live in Western Canada, enjoy travelling, movies, weekends at the lake. Seeking a Jewish female, active, sincere, outgoing, 25-40, willing to relocate or have a long distance relationship AD#1886

LASTING LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 46, physically fit, easy going, sincere, hard working, enjoy movies, books, art, dining out. Seeking a female, 30-40, for a lasting relationship. AD#1892

CONSIDERATE
Single Jewish male, strong, fit, athletic, great sense of humour. Seeking a female, 30-40, who is nice and considerate. AD#1895

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single male, 36, slim, blue-green eyes, brown hair, enjoy movies, dining and dancing, travelling, good conversationalist, financially secure. Seeking an attractive, outgoing, cheerful female, who is a good conversationalist, for relationship leading to marriage. AD#1898

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 34, 5'7", athletic built, Bachelor of Science, caring, honest, reliable, romantic, enjoy movies, cooking, 60's dancing. Seeking a single Jewish female, intelligent, professional, open, and friendly AD#1877

SPONTANEOUS
Single Jewish male, outgoing, spontaneous, adventurous, enjoy working out, swimming, scuba diving, skiing, music. Seeking a female, who is passionate, with inner and outer beauty AD#1878

OUTSPOKEN
Single male, 34, educated, outspoken, enjoy country life, outdoor activities, dining out, animals. Seeking a female with similar interests AD#1880

ATTENTION LADIES!
Single male, 47, warm, romantic, intelligent, 5'9", medium built, good sense of humour, enjoy movies, dining out, good conversation. Seeking a female, who is warm hearted and sincere. AD#1885

CASUAL GET TOGETHERS
Divorced Jewish male, 40's, 5'8", 136lbs, enjoy culture, art, ballet, travelling. Seeking a female who is independent, for casual get togethers. AD#1870

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Single Jewish male, 5'5", handsome, secure, athletic, enjoy tennis, swimming, jogging, cycling, skiing, theater, dancing, socializing. Seeking a female, 38-50, with similar interests. AD#1871

SOULMATE
Divorced Jewish male, 6', 240lbs, easy going, great sense of humour, enjoy sports, movies, and love to laugh. Seeking a female, 26-31, with similar interests AD#1818

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single male, Goldsmith and an artist, enjoy music, fine arts, sports, writing. Seeking a female, attractive, single moms OK, 28-38, with similar interests AD#1907

ONCE BITTEN, TWICE SHY
Single male, 50's, financially secure, handsome, from the Thornhill area. Seeking a female, good looking, with a good sense of humour, slim, age is not important, financially secure, a picture is a must after contact is made AD#1810

BEST FRIEND AND LOVER
Single Jewish male, 5'7", 30 something, Andy Garcia looks, very attractive, impeccable dresser but a cowboy at heart, fun loving, romantic, stable, resourceful, professional. Seeking a Jewish female, late 20's- early 30's, attractive, vibrant, classy and slim AD#1823

FUN LOVING
Single Jewish male, 33, easy going, fun loving, enjoy outdoor activities, movies, long walks, camping. Seeking a female, 25-38, with similar interests AD#1777

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single Jewish male, 6', handsome, athletic built, love sports and keeping fit, artistic, with traditional values. Seeking a Jewish female, who is ready to make a commitment and start a family, who enjoys life and has old fashioned values. AD#1809

OLD FASHIONED
Single male, mid 30's, old fashioned, sensitive, stubborn, romantic, enjoy cuddling, outdoor activities, movies, camping. Seeking a female, 30-35, with similar interests. AD#1762

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single Jewish male, 36, 5'7", professional, traditional values, warm, fit, and fun. Seeking a Jewish female, late 20's to mid 30's, down to earth, creative, spontaneous, well grounded, with a good sense of humour. AD#1771

LET'S GO FOR COFFEE
Single Jewish male, 32, professional, 180lbs, self employed, own his own business, fit, enjoy all aspects of life, movies, dining and dancing, travelling, working out, motor cycling. Seeking a Jewish female, very down to earth, non-smoker, strong morals and values, clean and neat. AD#1774

To renew your ad call 416-236-6644

Jewish man looking for a wife. She must be a good person, a good cook, good housekeeper and come with no issues. She could be in her late 20's or early 30's. I have my own home & live in the USA and I have my own business.

Send photo if interested, to The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Ste. 205, North York, Ont. Canada. M3B 3K4. **Box #7159.**

280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAVE YOU GOT GAME? Basketball players wanted for Monday night pick up game. 8pm-10pm. For more info call Allan at 416-256-4766 (before 10pm).

300 ARTICLES FOR SALE

Genuine Mink coat, full length, mint condition, petite. $2,200 negotiable. 416-429-9729.

305 ARTICLES WANTED

I will buy your coins, stamps, gold, silver, diamonds, watches & antiques **for cash. 605-1640**

330 OBITUARIES

GRINHAUS, Rachel - in Israel February 15, 1999. Devoted wife of the late Samuel Grinhaus, beloved mother of Menacham and Haim, mother in law to Sheba Grinhaus and loving grandmother to Ayal, Aaron, Lior and Shira.

330 OBITUARIES

HOFFERT, Anne - on Feb. 15, 1999, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
SLOAN, Bella - on Feb. 15, 1999, late of 156 Haddington Ave.
BORODULIN, Borukh - on Feb. 16, 1999, late of 3179 Yonge St.
BRETTLER, Klara - on Feb. 16, 1999.
GREENBERG, Yakov - on Feb. 16, 1999.
RETI, Laszlo - on Feb. 17, 1999, late of 7440 Bathurst St.
DROZNIKA, Rose - on Feb. 18, 1999, late of 429 Walmer Rd.
HOROWITZ, Sondra - on Feb. 18, 1999, late of 42 Timberlane Dr.
KOSOY, Esther - on Feb. 18, 1999.
NAFTOLIN, Samuel - on Feb. 18, 1999, late of 15 Tangreen Crt.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

330 OBITUARIES

BARANOV, Miron - on Feb. 19, 1999, late of 51 Topham Cres.
GUTMAN, Moshe - on Feb. 19, 1999, late of 7640 Bathurst St.
STULBERG, Larry - on Feb. 19, 1999, late of 5 Royal Birdale Lane.
BRANDT, Bluma - on Feb. 21, 1999, late of 7 Townsgate Dr.
DUBINSKY, Sima - on Feb. 22, 1999, late of 6250 Bathurst St.
MOSES, Lewis - on Feb. 22, 1999, late of 346 Hillhurst Blvd.
ROTHMAN, Stewart Samuel - on Feb. 22, 1999, late of 3880 Bathurst St.
SIGLER, Sylvia - on Feb. 22, 1999, late of 127 Laurelcrest Ave.
GONSKO, Moses - on Feb. 23, 1999, late of 42 Barksdale Ave.
KHEINMAN, Hasia - on Feb. 23, 1999, late of 6250 Bathurst St.
KIMELMAN, Anna - on Feb. 23, 1999, late of 133 Torresdale Ave.
KRENGEL, Arje - on Feb. 23, 1999, late of 3 Carscadden Dr.
LEWIUS, Mark - on Feb. 23, 1999.
LICHMAN, Jules - on Feb. 23, 1999, late of 3636 Bathurst St.
OPRISAN, Mircea - on Feb. 24, 1999, late of 31 Red Robin Way.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

330 OBITUARIES

GRUN, Ludwig - on Feb. 25, 1999, late of 7 Viewmount Ave.
VARADI, Frank - on Feb. 25, 1999.
RECHTSHAFNER, Racheal - on Feb. 26, 1999, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
EIDLINA, Sarra - on Feb. 27, 1999, late of 12 Goldfinch Crt.
LAMASZ, Luba - on Feb. 27, 1999, late of 775 Steeles Ave. W.
VAIL, Sisla - on Feb. 28, 1999.
MIDVIDY, William - on March 1, 1999, late of 43 Ridge Hill Dr.
SEEMAN, Jacob - on March 1, 1999.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LYLA
GUTZIN MARKUS ע"י
will take place
Sunday, March 14, 10:00 a.m.
Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
Section 9
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

330 OBITUARIES

BRODKIN, Leah - on Feb. 18, 1999, late of 31 Kimloch Cres.
KLINGBAUM, Sally - on Feb. 18, 1999, late of 100 Antibes Dr., #405.
FOSTER, Esther - on Feb. 19, 1999, late of 3585 Keele St.
DESMOND, Trudy - on Feb. 19, 1999, late of 174 Dewbourne Ave.
CHADWICK, Harold - on Feb. 20, 1999, late of 3636 Bathurst St.
MARCUS, Susie - on Feb. 20, 1999, late of 107 Wild Briarway.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

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330 OBITUARIES

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Sports

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Provincial champ now skates south of the border

Katz catches on with university hockey team

By HARLAN ABBEY
Special to The CJN

BUFFALO — Last year, Jody Katz played collegiate hockey for the Concordia Stingers, a team that won the Canadian women's championship after a 27-1-4 season.

This year, at Niagara University, it's an entirely different story.

Jody Katz

Katz is learning all about losing.

She is one of four sophomores on a freshman-dominated team in its first year of competition. Playing in the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference, the Purple Eagles have won only two of 14 league games, have been shut out six times and been outscored 69-16.

Margot Page, the team's coach and a member of four Canadian National Teams that won world championships, points out that rivals New Hampshire, Harvard and Northeastern "are three of the best women's hockey teams in the United States."

Midway through January, Niagara was living up to a pre-season coaches' poll that predicted it would finish 10th in the 14-college league. Its overall record, including exhibitions, was seven wins and 14 losses.

"Losing is a growing experience," declared Katz, a 5-foot-4 defencewoman who skates on the team's power play and penalty-killing units.

"Winning three provincial championships in four years [in high school] was fun, but it's great to be part of a new tradition.

"We're becoming better people, developing inner strength and getting better every game," Katz said.

"Losing by five or six goals to a top-notch team is good, but I hope and expect to be competitive with them in two to three years," Page said.

"I've known Jody for eight or 10 years, since she began coming to my hockey schools in Waterloo. She's playing very well; she's competitive, but she's also a perfectionist."

Jody Katz (left) with her coach Margot Page.

Coming from a championship team to a losing one hasn't been that much of a disappointment for Katz.

"We get bigger crowds here, about 200 compared to 50 at Concordia. And Margot and the rest of the coaches are so much more interested in us off the rink," she said.

"Margot has an 'open door' policy. She emphasizes academics more…she even helps us with our homework."

Katz is the daughter of Carl and Penny Katz and had her bat mitzvah at Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto.

"My dad played hockey at McGill University. My brother Steven, who's 18, is doing the same thing. My younger brother David, who's 16, is on the Forest Hill High School select team," she said.

Katz's father played pickup games when she was little and coached her when she started out.

"I got the idea of playing by myself from watching dad and from seeing games on TV. He said I was good right away.

"Instead of going to the 'Jewish' social' Forest Hill, I went to the 'athletic' North Toronto Collegiate. "Most of my girlfriends were not athletic, but they were very supportive of me and would come to nearby league games and always to the provincial championship games.

"But they'd be out all weekend being social and I'd have to be in early to get the proper rest before an important game," she said.

Katz played for the Junior Aeros in an intermediate AA league, the highest level for women 21 and under.

Although somewhat discouraged after hitting the goal post four times on shots against New Hampshire, the left-handed shooting Katz said she prefers "to start the development of a play. I've always taken more pride in my assists than my goals."

Her ultimate hockey goal, after helping Niagara become a winning team, would be to represent Canada on its women's Olympic team.

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The Inside Back

The mother of all projects

By JORDAN MAX

I nervously approached my wife doing the dishes. "Got a minute? I've got something really neat to show you."

She gave me that quizzical look which told me I had exactly 10 seconds to make my point.

Last Laugh

"Remember how last year we nearly drove ourselves crazy getting ready for Pesach? Remember how we swore that next year would be different?"

"Yes" she replied, skeptically.

"Well, I've solved our problem. I have created the mother of all computer software programs for the mother of all projects."

"So that's where you've been for the past month. Just what are you talking about?"

"Well" I responded enthusiastically, "first I took some basic project management software, which I customized to our Pesach requirements and timetable, added a few bells and whistles, modified it with some re-engineering software for maximum efficiencies of labor and materials, and voilá, instant Pesach preparation work plan!

Of course, I did have to use a bit of the space shuttle computer to run it, given its size and complexity, but it's all for a mitzvah, right?"

"You mean you hacked into the NASA computer for this?" she asked "Isn't that illegal?"

"Shhhh, someone'll hear you. I like to think of it as beta testing. Besides, just look at the results," I retorted, trying desperately to change the subject.

I proudly displayed my multi-volume binder set of flow charts, time sequences and multi-colored, multi-layered task orders.

"Now the beauty of this system is in its exactitude. I've accounted for all contingencies, all circumstances, all variables."

"All right, mister programmer hot shot. Let's take a look at your newest mousetrap," she began, obviously humoring me. She flipped over a few pages. "According to this, you start your Pesach cleaning two weeks before, that's a little tight, I usually start a month before...

"Well, that's only because you haven't optimized your work." I confidently replied.

She glared back, and then, after calming down, said with some apparent glee.. "I think you've got a few bugs here."

"What do you mean, I've triple tested it. It's perfect!"

"Here, for example, at P minus 13 days. It says here, "evening schedule: dinner 6 to 6:15p.m. worker 1 vacuums upstairs closet 6:17 to 6:23, vacuums upstairs carpet, 6:23 to 6:30.

"Worker 2 cleans bedroom, worker 3 empties clothes drawers, worker 4 cleans up toys..."

"So?" I asked naively, "What's wrong with that?"

"First of all, dinner takes longer than 15 minutes. Number Two, worker 1 is still required to clean up the dinner dishes, worker 2 isn't home from the office until 7:00, worker 3 is busy doing his homework, workers 4 and 5 can't lift the vacuum, worker 5 has to go to bed by 7:00 so all has to be quiet, workers 3,4 and 5 have to have baths and be read stories..."

"Okay, okay, I get the point. No problem, I can revise, but this is going to be a lot of work. So what's your system? You got any better ideas?

"It's rather simple" she replied. "You just work until the work is done, any available moment.

No fancy systems, no bells and whistles. Here, let me demonstrate. You can get started right about now. Pick up the vacuum cleaner..."

"That's the thing that makes all that noise when you turn it on?"

"Right on, space captain. Come on, you missed a spot. Put a little elbow grease into it, will you?..."

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1 pkg. dark chocolate cake mix
1/2 cup chocolate chips
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1 jar caramel ice cream topping
1 lg. container Cool Whip or similar topping
3 crushed Heath or Skor chocolate bars

Prepare cake mix according to package instructions. Add chocolate chips and cinnamon. Bake in a deep dish glass pan at 350°F.

When cake is baked, while it is still hot, poke holes in the top with a toothpick and pour the **ENTIRE** jar of caramel ice cream topping over it. Keep poking holes in the cake so topping goes down through the cake.

Cover with foil and place in refrigerator until cool. When completely cooled, frost with Cool Whip and sprinkle crushed candy bars on top. Keep cake refrigerated.

About Teens

Dear Karilani,

I've just finished my exams and I didn't do that well in math. I know my parents are going to kill me. My dad already told me that if I didn't get an 80 percent average, I wouldn't be allowed to get my driver's learning permit, and I know this math mark will bring my average down below 80 percent. I've tried to think of ways to explain the mark, but I can't justify it. I'm just not good in math and my parents won't accept that as an excuse. I even went for extra help. I want to drive so badly. All my friends are already driving, and I would do anything to be able to drive too. Can you give me any suggestions on what to say to my parents when I hand them my report card?

"Dead" Driver

Dear "Dead" Driver,

If your parents are unaware of your problems with math up until this point, it may not be the wisest decision to show them your report card with the bad math mark on it right away. Not that you should hide it from them, but you should try to ease them into the idea that you are not doing well in math. If you just show them your report card without any warning, your unsatisfactory mark will come as a shock to them. If you just show them the report card and attempt to explain yourself, they will probably be angry with you for not telling them about it sooner.

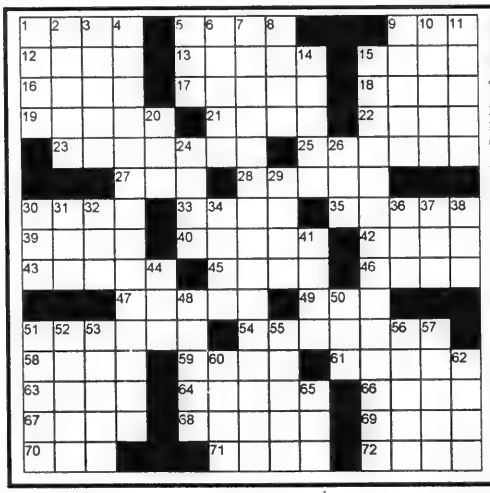
Before you get your report card, show them your most recent test and homework so that they can gain some insight into the subject. Since you are trying to improve in math, be sure to mention to your parents that you were in extra help, or perhaps tell them about the right answer that you got in class that day to show them that you are trying to improve. There is still a whole new semester in which you can strive to excel more in math and work hard to get that 80 percent.

It is not the end of the world if you end up getting your licence a few months after all of your friends, but if you really do want to get your learner's permit, you should talk to your parents and reach a compromise. If you feel that the expectation of getting an 80 percent average is unrealistic and unfair to you, then you should tell your parents how you feel.

Try to reach some sort of compromise, where both parties can reach a goal that they feel is appropriate and fair. For example, if you offer to help out with some household chore in exchange for getting your permit, you will both be satisfied.

Good luck with math and driving! With the proper communication between you and your parents, it will be easier to explain yourself and your feelings.

Karilani is a composite name for three girls, who are close friends and in Grade 11 in Toronto.



The Canadian Jewish news

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

The Wizard of Hollywood

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco
(QSyndicate@aol.com)

Across

1 Film directed by 7-down (1975)
5 _____ of Gedaliah
9 Pathetic
12 Newsman Sevareid
13 "_____ out!" ("Stop!")
15 Drive-____
16 Desire
17 Statement of faith
18 Film directed by 7-down (1991)
19 Brownish color
21 Madison and Fifth: abbr.
22 Simplicity
23 Space between nerve cells
25 Secret stashes
27 _____ of Atonement
28 Cool
30 Warsaw Synagogue
33 Actress Bonet
35 Woody Allen movie starring Mia Farrow
39 Bette Midler hit song, with "The"
40 In need of a refill
42 One kind of Torah
43 Bunch of bees
45 Italian tower city
46 Private, say
47 Sight or smell
49 Abbr. on a bank statement
51 Famous Harlem theater
54 National and American
58 *Survival in Auschwitz* author
59 Diet Coke forerunners
61 Birmingham breakfast
63 Washington bills
64 Mediterranean island
66 Quick glance
67 '84 presidential candidate
68 Toast start
69 Piece of Italian bread
70 Computer key
71 Seemingly forever
72 Seemingly forever

Down

1 William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy, for two
2 Zodiac sign
3 Delicate
4 Film directed by 7-down (1993)
5 Airwaves watchers: abbr.
6 Glows
7 Star of this puzzle
8 Ebb or neap
9 Foundation started by 7-down to record Holocaust survivors' stories
10 Came up
11 "_____ of Hazzard"
14 Puccini opera
15 Film directed by 7-down (1985)
20 Road-rescue organization: abbr.
24 Gomer of TV
26 One ____ time (singly)
29 Enjoys felafel
30 Some high schoolers, for short
31 "_____ do you do?"
32 John Dos Passos trilogy
34 Devilish folk
36 Author Levin
37 *I _____ Get It For You Wholesale*
38 Finnish entree
41 Jabbering sound
44 Comic Brooks
48 Degree
50 *Blintze* ingredient
51 Island shalom
52 Colony type
53 Plain to see
55 Lauder of perfume
56 Old MacDonald's refrain
57 Accountant in 4-down
60 Length times width
62 Health resorts
65 ___-*n-fress*

(This week's answers are on page 41.)

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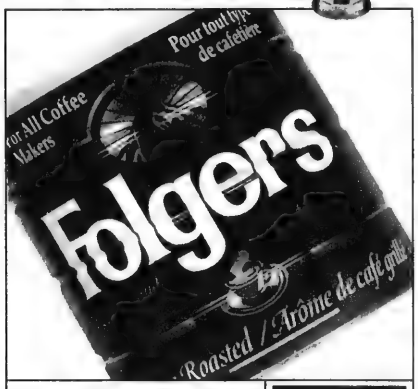

Folgers Coffee
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6.97 1 kg tin

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2.17 650 mL btl

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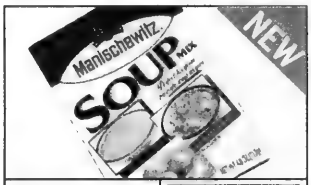
4.17 312 g pkg



Manischewitz Soup Mix
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Savion Caramel Crunch Snack or Apple Cinnamon
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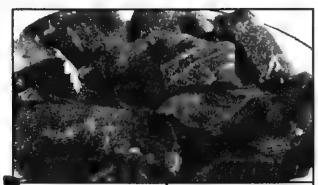
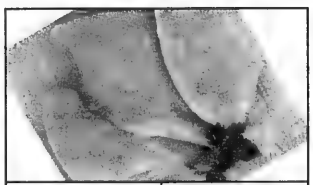
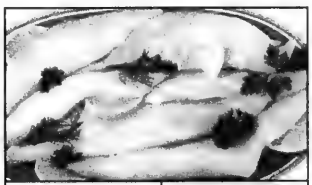


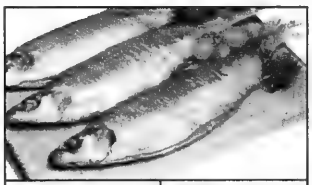
Beef Stew
Glatt Kosher
13.21/kg
5.99 lb



Boneless Turkey Breast
For Scallopini
Chai Kosher
17.61/kg
7.99 lb



Ocean Perch Fillets
Fresh
1.08/100 g
4.88 lb



Smoked Chubs
1.30/100 g
5.88 lb

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This Week

National

Israel faces broad challenges to its security, analyst says. *Page 5*

Hospitals put spotlight on domestic violence. *Page 6*

Educator explains Torah's view on racism. *Page 20*

On Campus

Art festival attracts new students to campus group. *Page 26*

Arts

Latvian-born singer performs in 16 languages. *Page 60*

Sports

Maccabi Canada names new Ontario chair. *Page 66*

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Shabbat: Vayikra
Candlelighting: 6:10
Nisan 2, 5759
Havdalah: 7:15

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THE 'FOUNDING FATHERS' OF THE CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS

Eighty years ago in Montreal between March 16 and 19, the Canadian Jewish Congress was founded. For a pictorial journey through some of the key initiatives by the CJC over the past eight decades, please see page 9. *[CJC National Archives Montreal photo]*

Witness links unit to mass shootings

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A labor camp guard unit that included alleged Nazi collaborator Wasyl Odynsky, randomly shot Jews for minor camp violations, fired on prisoners attempting to escape, and murdered hundreds of Jewish prisoners when the camps were liquidated, a citizenship hearing was told last week.

The auxiliary units at the Trawniki and Poniatowa labor camps consisted of Ukrainian volunteers who were faced with the choice of forced labor in Germany or performing police duty, said historian Yitshak Arad. Many chose to enlist to avoid being sent to Germany, he added.

War crimes case

The department of citizenship and immigration alleges Odynsky served as a guard at Trawniki and Poniatowa in 1943-44, and that he lied about his wartime activities when he immigrated to Canada in 1948. Federal authorities are seeking to strip him of citizenship and deport him.

Odynsky contends he was forced to enlist in the Trawniki guard unit, that he was confined to barracks when the wholesale murder of Jewish prisoners took place, and that he was never asked by Canadian authorities about his activities during World War II.

Last week, Arad, author of *Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka: The Operation Reinhard Death Camps,* outlined the historical circumstances that preceded the murder of Jews in the German-run General-Government of Poland.

Trawniki, located southeast of Lublin in the General-Government, served as a training centre for Ukrainian guards who were enlisted as auxiliaries to SS killing units, Arad stated. In addition, a labor camp was operated at Trawniki, consisting of a workforce of Jews transferred when the Warsaw Ghetto was destroyed in April-May 1943. Poniatowa, located 36 km west of Lublin, housed 15,000 Jews transferred there after the liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto.

Following a Jewish uprising at Sobibor in October 1943 in which several German SS men and Ukrainian guards were killed, the SS ordered the liquidation of the two labor camps. Although special units were called in to do the shooting (15,000 at Poniatowa, 10,000 at Trawniki), the camps' Ukrainian guards killed several hundred remaining Jews who had been kept alive to cremate the corpses.

During cross-examination by Odynsky's lawyer, Brian Armstrong, Arad was closely questioned about a 34-page report he prepared for the case. He was asked about the accuracy of his footnotes and about his conclusion that it was

Continued on page 19

MISS ISRAEL

Rana Raslan, 21, an Israeli Arab from Haifa, celebrates after she was named Miss Israel 1999. Raslan is the first Israeli Arab woman to win the beauty contest. *[RNS/Reuters photo]*

INSIDE

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Jewish News
every week.

Israel rejects EU's Jerusalem stance — please see page 51

The News in Brief

CANADA

Transnistria Survivors

TORONTO — Canadian survivors of Transnistria are invited to take part in a ceremony April 18 at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, at which Transnistria will be permanently represented on the marble walls of the Hall of Remembrance. During the Holocaust, roughly 300,000 Jews perished in the region straddling modern-day Romania and Ukraine. There will be an unveiling and candlelighting ceremony. For details, call Etty Zigler at 416-638-1291.

Headgear Policy Reversed

BARRIE, Ont. — The local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion has reversed its policy on the wearing of headgear in legion halls. Branch 147 changed its policy to conform to most other legions in the country after it was refused a $25,000 city grant, presumably because it did not allow the wearing of religious headgear, including kippot and turbans. The majority of Canada's 1,600 legions allow religious headdress.

ISRAEL

U of T Sponsors Workshop

JERUSALEM — A continuing education workshop sponsored by the University of Toronto brought together Israeli and Palestinian researchers for a one-day seminar at Al-Quds University here last week. The workshop on The Management and Science of Hearing Loss was attended by over 20 Canadian, Israeli and Palestinian experts on hereditary hearing loss.

Secular Burials Take Place

BEERSHEVA — Israel's first secular burials took place at a cemetery here earlier this month. The bodies of Ya'akov and Hannah Ravervi had been stored at a medical institute for six months, while secular rights advocates wrangled with Orthodox religious officials over where the burial plots would be located. The Supreme Court ruled in 1996 against the Orthodox monopoly over burials, and ordered the Religious Affairs Ministry to set aside space in Jewish cemeteries for "alternative" burials.

Radio Legislation On Hold

JERUSALEM — Israel's Supreme Court temporarily froze legislation passed last month legalizing a pirate radio station run by Jewish settlers. The judges, ruling on a petition submitted by left-wing legislators, called on the government to verify the legality of the procedure under which the Knesset gave Arutz-7 permission to broadcast after the station operated illegally for 10 years.

Officer Heads Delegation

JERUSALEM — The highest-ranking female officer in the Israel Defence Force is heading Israel's delegation to the UN Commission on the Status of Women. Brig.-Gen. Orit Adato and seven female leaders in business, medicine and social work will share their expertise at the 43rd annual meeting of the advisory commission to the UN General Assembly. During the meetings, which end March 19, Adato will speak to UN committees concerning gender roles in the military.

WORLD

Menorah For Vatican

ROME — A menorah to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust will be permanently installed at the Vatican next month. A delegation of American rabbis is to participate in the ceremony, which will launch a series of projects aimed at furthering Jewish-Catholic understanding.

Rampage At Synagogue

MOSCOW — Vandals went on a rampage at a synagogue in the Siberian city of Novosibirsk. The entire synagogue and its contents, except for the Torah scrolls, were damaged in the attack. The incident took place amid a recent increase in Russian anti-Semitism, sparked in part by the nation's ongoing economic troubles.

German Firm Sued

LOS ANGELES — Five Los Angeles residents filed a lawsuit against a major German architectural and construction firm demanding compensation for years of unpaid slave labor during World War II. The suit against Philipp Holzmann AG is the first of its kind brought before a California court.

Poles Oppose Plans

WARSAW — Hundreds of Poles demonstrated against government plans to turn the area around the former Auschwitz death camp into a protected zone in which no unauthorized projects could be built. The plan to create the zone came after Jewish groups protested the erection of hundreds of crosses last year near Auschwitz.

Swiss To Investigate

BERN — Swiss officials said they would investigate allegations that Nazi SS accounts worth as much as $700,000 were transferred to banks in Switzerland during World War II. The vow came after the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Centre publicized a wartime document about the money, which it said should be given to Holocaust victims.

Norway Creates Fund

OSLO — Norwegian Jewish leaders hailed a decision by the nation's parliament to create a $58-million Holocaust fund. Some $26 million of that will be given to Jewish victims of the Nazis, with the remaining $32 million earmarked for various projects, including the creation of a Holocaust studies centre in Norway. Some 2,200 Jews were arrested in Norway during the Nazi occupation.

Former Consul To Montreal Is New Diaspora Envoy

WARSAW — The Polish government has named a former theatre critic and consul in Montreal as its new roving ambassador to the Diaspora.

Malgorzata Dzieduszycka will replace Krzystof Sliwinski, who was the first person to be appointed to the unprecedented Foreign Ministry post, created in 1995 in an attempt to improve often-troubled relations between Poland and the world's Jewish population.

The post was created largely at the initiative of Poland's then-foreign minister, Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, an Auschwitz survivor who has been honored by Israel as Righteous Among the Nations.

Stanislaw Krajewski, a leader of the Jewish community in Poland, described Dzieduszycka as a "sensitive person" and said he considered her a "very good" choice for the post.

STEELES MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Pre-Arrangement — Purchasing Peace of Mind

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Vol. XXIX, No. 11 (1,388)*

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Jewish groups concerned at anti-abortion parley

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — National Jewish organizations are expressing concern over the coming conference in Toronto of Human Life International (HLI), a radical anti-abortion group that has been accused of harboring anti-Semitic views.

Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) is also concerned that Toronto's Roman Catholic archdiocese appears to be giving HLI its support.

The staunchly Catholic HLI will hold its convention at the International Plaza Hotel April 7 to 11, and CJC has written the hotel a letter, making it aware of possible hate propaganda the group might distribute and of the controversy it has caused in the past.

Riots broke out in Montreal when HLI met there in 1995, and Jewish groups expressed similar concerns about the organization's extreme views. In Ottawa in 1992, the group was met with noisy demonstrations by gay and pro-choice activists.

Dozens of speakers and programs are being touted at the Toronto gathering. HLI, which says it is active in 88 countries, is fiercely pro-family, against public schooling, for chastity, militant in its Catholicism, and refers to abortion as "baby killing."

CJC says the group is on the "fringe right" of the anti-abortion movement and has ties to other extremist organizations.

Its founder and chair, Father Paul Marx, who is scheduled to speak in Toronto, has authored at least one anti-Semitic screed. Entitled *Pro-Abortion Jews and the New Holocaust*, the article, published in 1987, said: "The same segment of the Jewish community that accuses the Pope of insensitivity to the Jewish Holocaust not only condones but has more or less led the greatest holocaust of all time, the war on unborn babies."

Father Marx goes on to accuse prominent Jews around the world – Simone Weil, Henry Morgentaler, Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem – of being the chief proponents of abortion. "Among the chief crusaders for abortion in England were prominent Jews," he wrote, adding "I think I can prove that Israel's Jews have one of the highest abortion rates in the world."

HLI has never repudiated Father Marx's writings. Nor has it denounced the use of violence against doctors who perform abortions.

In fact, in a 1993 newsletter, the organization accused Jews "of presiding over the greatest holocaust in the history of the world: the efficient destruction of more than 30 million pre-born children in this country [the United States]."

"We have many specific concerns," said CJC's Dani Fine. "The abortion issue should not be couched in racist and anti-Semitic terms."

Karen Mock, director of B'nai Brith Canada's League for Human Rights, said her organization will monitor the situation "and do our best to denounce and expose the anti-Semitism that is at the root of what they're doing."

Ellen Cole, chair of CJC Ontario region's community relations committee, said HLI has ties to neo-Nazi groups. "This is not an abortion issue," she said. "It's an extremist issue."

CJC is upset that the conference appears to have the backing of Toronto's Catholic archdiocese. The eight-page program touting the HLI convention was delivered inside the March 8 issue of the *Catholic Register*, which is published and funded by the archdiocese.

As well, the HLI program notes that M. Pearse Lacey, auxiliary bishop emeritus of Toronto, and Father Thomas Lynch are slated to deliver the opening mass and homily at the conference. The program notes that both men are from the "archdiocese of Toronto."

Suzanne Scorsone, a spokesperson for the archdiocese, emphatically denied that the archdiocese supports HLI.

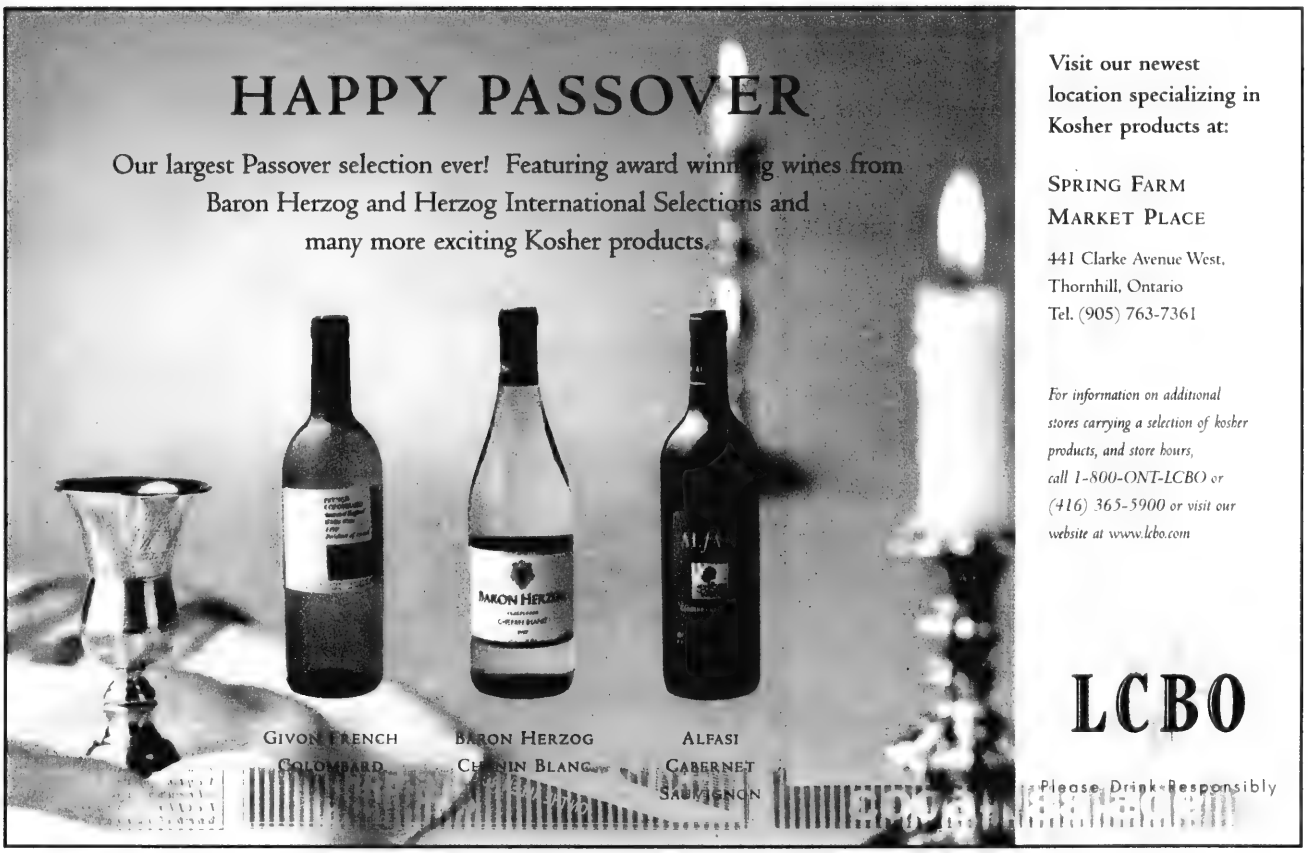
"We have no connection with them. We are not affiliated with them at all. They didn't get permission from the archdiocese to have their conference here. They have their own members and constituency," Scorsone told *The CJN*.

She said HLI's program was carried by the *Catholic Register* as a paid ad. "I'm sure the editor wouldn't distribute material with noxious content." She said there's "nothing anti-Semitic" about the program.

As for the two Catholic clergymen's scheduled appearance at the conference, Scorsone said the HLI program's description of them as representing the archdiocese is "an error. They [HLI] had no authority to use that.

"The archdiocese is not officially represented" at the conference. "Everyone who is there, is there as an individual."

The CJN's calls to HLI's Ottawa office were not returned.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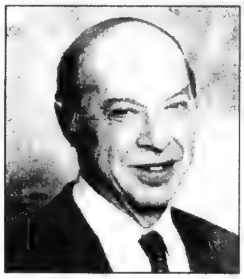

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From the editor's desk

Little fanfare, great importance

Last week, in this space, I wrote about the need to infuse intra-communal relations with civility and mutual respect. A press release that came across my desk a few days ago is the perfect follow-up to that column.

In three days, on March 21, the Institute for Jewish Studies will officially open in Israel. It is a very important development for the Jewish world, even though it will mostly go unnoticed in Israel, greeted with little fanfare and in some circles even scorned.

The institute is the centrepiece of the compromise solution proposed by Ya'acov Ne'eman and the seven-person committee he chaired at the request of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to respond to the "conversion/unity/pluralism" crisis in relations between Israel and Diaspora Jewry.

In November 1997, at the General Assembly (GA) of the Council of Jewish Federations in Indianapolis, to an audience of nearly 4,000 North American Jewish community workers, volunteers and leaders, Netanyahu announced the creation of the committee.

Its chief task was to recommend a path by which Jewish unity worldwide might be preserved in the wake of the anger felt by the majority of affiliated Diaspora Jewry over the efforts by the Orthodox establishment in Israel to prevent participation by the Reform and Conservative streams in Israel on municipal religious councils and in conversion matters.

As we know, those issues remain unresolved; the anger still simmers even today.

The committee came forward with its recommendations some six months later.

An institute, to be staffed by educators from all the streams of Judaism, would provide a comprehensive education for Jews in Israel seeking conversion. It was seen as both the foundation stone and the stepping stone for a future, much larger edifice of intra-communal cooperation. The conversion itself would be performed according to Halachah.

On April 27, 1998, in a meeting with Ne'eman, Natan Sharansky, Jewish Agency chair Avraham Burg and representatives of the three main streams of Judaism, the establishment of the Institute was announced.

Ne'eman is no longer part of the Netanyahu government, having resigned some weeks ago from his finance portfolio. In Israel and beyond, he is universally respected and lauded as a serious man, a man of honesty and of integrity.

He regarded the work of the committee and in particular, his role in steering it, with almost prophetic zeal. The unity of the Jewish people was and remains for him an inviolate ideal.

"I have the privilege and the responsibility to chair a historic seven member committee that is trying to grapple with issues that threaten to drive a wedge between many Jews in North America and the State of Israel," he told the GA.

"Nothing is as important as finding ways to heal the rifts that threaten to divide the Jewish people …History will judge us all by how we respond to this challenge and responsibility…We have no choice but to find a solution. *Failure to reach an understanding means the division of the Jewish people. The future of the Jewish people depends on the consent and the successful conclusion of the committee.*" (Our emphasis)

Those words left a profound impression on everyone who heard them spoken that day in Indianapolis even as they do today by anyone who reads them on this page.

To Ne'eman's and the government's deep disappointment, however, the committee's recommendations were not universally acclaimed.

With its eyes fixed firmly on the haredi establishment, the Chief Rabbinate refused to sign them. But nor did they expressly reject them.

However, without a de jure recognition by the Chief Rabbinate, the committee's recommendations were left in a religious netherworld like abandoned offspring, unembraced and unwanted, and thus correctly viewed by the other religious streams as de facto rejected.

Nevertheless, to their credit, the government and the committee decided to push on, even in the face of the Chief Rabbinate's de facto rejection of the core recommendations. In time-honored Israeli fashion, they decided to create "facts on the ground." In this case, those facts are the three campuses of the Institute for Jewish Education: in Beersheva, Raanana and Kiryat Yam.

These Institutes of Judaism will become part of the permanent Jewish landscape of Israel. Though their entry onto that landscape may be unheralded, their impact will be long-lasting. There will be the predictable attempts to marginalize the institutes and their role. But in the long run, these attempts are destined to fail as more and more Israelis embrace the underlying, inherent wisdom of the Ne'eman approach. *(Please see Gerald Steinberg's column on page 10.)*

Canadian Jewry should pay close attention to the Ne'eman initiative because we support it through our national UJA/CJA UIA campaigns.

In next week's column I will describe the institute's mandate and identify its key decision-makers.

MBD

SEE JN

ONTARIO HONORS RABBI PLAUT

Rabbi Gunther Plaut was recently awarded the government of Ontario's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Human Rights. The award marks the 50th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. Presenting the award were Lieutenant Governor Hilary Weston (left) and Isabel Bassett, Minister of Citizenship and Culture. [John Smee photo].

Israel faces four broad challenges to national security, analyst says

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Israel faces four broad challenges to its national security, according to a prominent Israeli analyst.

In the short run, Israel must cope with the spectre of Palestinian Islamic terrorism and the problem posed by its increasingly costly occupation of southern Lebanon, said Shai Feldman, head of the Jaffe Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

Over a longer period of time, Israel should be wary of attempts by Iraq and Iran to acquire non-conventional weapons of mass destruction, he added.

Here under the auspices of Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University, Feldman said that the key to combatting Islamic terrorism, apart from intelligence-gathering and closures, is security co-operation between Israel and the Palestine Authority (PA).

"There have been ups and downs in the level of cooperation, but now it is quite satisfactory," he observed in an interview.

Feldman said that continued Palestinian cooperation can be expected as long as Yasser Arafat, the PA president, feels that the Oslo peace process is moving forward.

Taking issue with the current Israeli government's assertion that the PA has stopped cooperating, Feldman said that domestic political considerations impelled Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to make that claim.

In Feldman's view, Israel will resume peace negotiations with the PA after the May 17 election, regardless of the outcome.

Shai Feldman

The style and pace of the talks will be determined by the new government. But the resumption of talks is a certainty: the vast majority of Israelis believe in peace, and Israel's economic growth is inextricably bound up with progress in the peace process.

Feldman said that most members of the Israeli elite accept the inevitability of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Israel's task is to ensure that it represents a minimal threat to its vital interests, he said.

Envisioning the shape of Israel's relations with a future Palestinian state, Feldman called for "political separation," coupled with economic interdependence. "We need a situation in which the Palestinians have a stake in economic stability."

As for Lebanon, Feldman said that there is practically no alternative to Israel's self-declared security zone in the southern part of that country.

A unilateral withdrawal is a non-starter because there are no guarantees that Hezbollah, Israel's military adversary, will not take its fight beyond the Lebanese border.

Israel can only pull out of Lebanon after it reaches an agreement with Syria over the status of the Golan Heights, he said.

In Feldman's opinion, the next Israeli government will resume direct talks with Syria at approximately the point they broke off in 1996.

But, he warned, there will be a serious debate on both sides as to exactly where these negotiations ended.

Turning to Iraq, Feldman said that Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi leader, will doubtless try to rebuild his non-conventional force after United Nations sanctions are lifted.

Western export controls will make it harder for him to accomplish this goal. But Iraq may confound the West by recruiting Russian scientists and buying enriched uranium and plutonium from Russia.

Iran clearly wants to develop weapons of mass destruction, but is also interested in rebuilding ties with the United States.

Iran, however, cannot achieve its second objective unless it moderates its attitude toward Israel. Teheran can do so by cutting off the flow of arms to Hezbollah and by accepting the Arab-Israeli peace process, he explained.

Feldman said the degree to which Moscow helps Iran build long-range missiles is dependent on Russia economic well-being. If its economy collapses, it will be next to impossible to put an end to Russian cooperation with Iran in this field.

Iran may well be the first Muslim state in the Middle East to become a nuclear power, said Feldman, the author of a book entitled *Israeli Nuclear Deterrence*.

Israel's own nuclear arsenal is an effective deterrence, an "existential insurance policy," against external threats, he said.

Feldman acknowledged that Russia is selling its old ally, Syria, an array of sophisticated weaponry, but noted that these sales "are a far cry from Soviet days."

Feldman said that the current tension between Israel and the United States over the stalled peace process has not affected their integral security relationship.

"The Clinton administration's strategy is to isolate the defence relationship from the ongoing debate over the peace process."

Teen dies in traffic accident

TORONTO — A 15-year old Beth Jacob High School student, who was injured in a traffic accident on March 4, died at Sunnybrook Hospital last week.

Ruchama Zlotnick was crossing Lawrence Avenue at the crosswalk at Welland Road when she was hit by a car driven by a fellow student. Reports from the scene say that the driver may have been blinded by the sun.

Hatzalah, the recently formed emergency response organization, was the first paramedic group on the scene.

Throughout the week, prayers and tehillim (psalms) were said by members of the Orthodox community, both privately and in organized groups.

As of *The CJN*'s deadline, no charges had been laid. A police investigation is continuing.

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Hospitals put spotlight on domestic violence

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Danielle endured over a dozen years with an abusive husband before she found the strength to leave him.

Last week, the attractive, articulate, well-dressed woman told a rapt audience her story as part of the kickoff event for Domestic Violence Awareness Week, a program of Mount Sinai Hospital and the Toronto Hospital.

"Listen to my experience," she said. "It could be your neighbor, your friend, your sister, or even yourself."

Danielle – who credited Jewish Family & Child Service (JF&CS) as "a light that helped me get through the tunnel" – spoke alongside Ana Marques of the Abrigo Centre for Victims of Family Violence, Gail Gould of JF&CS, and Joanne Verbeek of the Toronto Police Service. The panel discussion, moderated by Mount Sinai nurse Hilda Swirsky, was entitled Domestic Violence Through the Life Course.

Abuse does not refer only to physical or sexual abuse, clarified Danielle. Verbal abuse, the focus of her talk, "can obliterate one's self-esteem [and even] one's entire sense of self... It scars you for life."

It also affects physical health, family and friends, and – like all abuse – it spans every racial and socio-economic class, Danielle noted.

"I was told I was stupid," she began. "I was useless, I wasn't worth loving... I was lazy, I was ugly, I was too fat, I was too skinny, and I was every four-letter word in the book, even in front of my children.

"I was isolated from family and friends because they had a 'bad influence' on me and they were also useless. I was never asked, always ordered, never appreciated, always criticized. I was blamed for everything that went wrong...

"I was kept in the dark about finances, put in the position of having to ask for every penny and finally having to provide receipts accounting for every penny spent."

What was worse, she said, was that her young children learned to be abusive. "It is I who must help break this cycle," she concluded. Leaving is "terrifying," she said.

Four years later, she lives with hope, and is still working to rebuild her life. "I am remembering who I was and striving to be so much more."

Danielle noted that her husband had used religion in a controlling fashion. She felt her love for Judaism had been erased, but is grateful for the words of a rabbi with whom she spoke as her relationship was ending.

The rabbi affirmed that what Danielle had experienced was "not Judaism" and told her if she had to take her children away in order to bring them back with love, then she must do so, she recalled.

Problem 'intensely concealed'

A Los Angeles report indicates no difference in the rate of violence among Orthodox, Conservative and Reform families, said Gould, who is supervisor of the woman abuse program at JF&CS. Statistics show that "right here in our own Jewish community there are many women who've experienced some form of abuse" – verbal, sexual and physical.

The actual incidence is not known because the problem is "so intensely concealed," Gould said.

She is often asked why Jewish women stay in abusive relationships, a question she feels puts blame on the women instead of the abusive men.

However, she said, there are some reasons for staying that are unique to Jewish women, among them a fear of anti-Semitic reprisal, and the sense she'll be letting down the entire community by disclosing.

"We also know that women stay to preserve the family," Gould said. "The concept of Shalom Bayit, or marital peace, is deeply pervasive and deeply entrenched. Unfortunately, many women mistakenly believe that peace must be achieved at any price."

Socio-economic status plays a role in women's decisions to stay too, said Gould. "Often the higher the status the more difficult it is... fearing the loss of their home, their status and the disgrace their children will suffer."

The real shandeh of abuse, said Gould, is "if all of us continue to deny, don't protect and don't prevent something from happening."

Marques, who works mainly with adolescents, said we need to make sure that young people who've been affected by abuse are safe, that they know they're not alone, that they're not to blame, that abuse is a crime and that counselling is available.

Elder abuse can be physical, psychological, financial, sexual or a case of neglect, said Verbeek, Toronto Police elder abuse co-ordinator. The term applies to any harm to someone over age 65, by a person in a position of trust or authority.

Possible indicators of elder abuse include injuries, bruising, weight loss, unexplained accidents, depression, caregiver stress or a family member speaking on behalf of a senior, Verbeek said. "Sometimes we have to remember to speak to the senior him or herself," she cautioned.

Although citizens are not required by law to reported suspected elder abuse, Verbeek believes we all have an ethical duty to report such cases to police, a social service agency, or Crimestoppers.

Abuse "is only stopped when it is no longer a secret," she said.

Other awareness week events addressed post-traumatic stress syndrome and concerns of immigrant women. Robert Solomon, associate dean of the University of Western Ontario's faculty of law, spoke on Domestic Violence and Documentation. Judy Rebick, host of CBC Newsworld's *From the Hip*, spoke on Beyond Breaking the Silence at a reception honoring women for domestic violence-related work.

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Greater Toronto Area

Educator traces evolution of U.S.-Israeli relations

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — The Reform and Conservative movements are gaining strength in Israel, and are increasingly helping to shape the Jewish identity of non-Orthodox Israelis, says the chair of the political science department of Tel Aviv University (TAU).

Prof. Yossi Shain was speaking on Redefining our Jewish identity: the impact on Israeli-Diaspora relations, at the Adath Israel Synagogue. He was recently in Toronto as part of a North American tour to promote his new book, *Marketing the American Creed Abroad* (Cambridge University Press).

In his speech, he also traced the evolution of American-Israeli relations, which he said have gone through many changes in the last 50 to 60 years.

The growing Reform and Conservative movements in Israel, which are rooted in the American Jewish experience, are "filling a vacuum" created by secularism and Orthodoxy, the two extremes of Israeli society. These more liberal forms of Judaism are attracting Israelis who are looking for alternative ways of redefining their Jewishness, Shain said. "Many Israelis are drawing their identity from the Diaspora."

He said Israeli writers such as Amos Oz and A.B. Yehoshua are urging Israelis to join Reform and Conservative synagogues, "to find their Jewish identity in American creations of Judaism."

However, following these streams of Judaism is difficult, Shain said. "The domination of Orthodoxy over religious life leaves very little room for other practices."

He explained that most secular Israelis "don't practise anything," because they are "disenchanted by religion, due to Orthodox dominance."

The secularists' resentment of the Orthodox monopoly has been mounting, and it came to a climax last month in Jerusalem with the counter-demonstration to the haredi mass protest of a Supreme Court's ruling calling for the inclusion of non-Orthodox representatives on local religious councils, Shain said.

"That was quite a momentous moment... The two communities were separated by thousands of police officers... Danger was in the air."

As a result of these divisions within Israel, particularly with regards to the who-is-a-Jew conflict, "we were bound to have a conflict of interest between the homeland and American Jews," Shain said.

He noted that the who-is-a-Jew conflict has led some Americans to redirect funds from mainstream groups like United Jewish Appeal (UJA) to Israel-based Conservative and Reform groups and to organizations such as Peace Now and the New Israel Fund, which promote democracy and pluralism.

This is "a growing pattern" that is influencing the way UJA recruits supporters, Shain said. "UJA is taking care to emphasize that it supports religious diversity [in Israel]."

Tracing the changes in Israeli-American relations, he said that in the post-war era, American Jews integrated and assimilated into American society. "Zionism was a nuisance, even though [American] Jews supported the state."

Since the mid-'80s, he said, there has been a widening gap in relations between Israel and American Jews who see "Israel as a burden on the Jewish experience in America... Diaspora support for Israel is eroding."

Left-wing and liberal American Jews have become disenchanted with Israel under Benjamin Netanyahu, and the who-is-a-Jew conflict has further alienated them, creating a "meltdown" in relations, Shain said.

The adult study committee of the Adath Israel, Canadian Friends of TAU and the Canadian Overseas Student Program of TAU sponsored Shain's lecture.

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Editorials and Letters

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Ominous assertion

Israel's Foreign Ministry last week formally asked the European Union (EU) to restrain their emissaries from meeting officials of the Palestinian Authority (PA) at Orient House in eastern Jerusalem. These meetings are clearly an attempt to confer quasi-diplomatic support on the PA claim to eastern Jerusalem and as such they violate both the Oslo and the Wye accords as nothing more than transparent efforts to alter the status of Jerusalem.

In response to the request by Israel, the EU, through the pen of German Ambassador Theodor Wallau, replied that they "have no intention of changing [their] custom regarding meetings in Jerusalem."

In other words, the Europeans will continue to meet with Faisal Husseini in Orient House, knowing full well the symbolism in doing so is rich with diplomatic significance for the Palestinians and a deliberate taunt to Israeli sensibilities. Israel's interpretation of the Jerusalem provisions of the peace documents are of no interest to the Europeans.

The European position on Orient House is purposefully undermining Israel's claim to an undivided capital.

But it is far worse than that.

Preceding the "sand-in-your-face" stance on Orient House in the EU's reply letter was a far more ominous assertion that purposefully undermines Israel's very claim to Jerusalem itself: "We reaffirm our stated position regarding the specific status of Jerusalem as a *corpus separatum*."

The Europeans are now publicly propagating the view that Jerusalem should be somehow outside of Israel; it belongs to the world and not to Israel. Moreover, by failing to distinguish between east and west Jerusalem, between old and new Jerusalem, the EU was advancing the case for the internationalization of the city, as they did in 1947 under the UN partition plan of Palestine.

Jews throughout the world should be both affronted and alarmed at Europe's decision to try to set back Jewish history and set down Jewish identity.

The government of Israel responded immediately to the EU. "We will not tolerate the city's redivision," said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "We cannot accept [the European] position, which views Jerusalem as an extraterritorial area and that doesn't belong to the State of Israel. It is the heart, the very heart, of the Jewish people and the very heart of the State of Israel."

Jerusalem will not be an issue in the Israeli election campaign. All the candidates for the prime ministership agree that it will never be divided again. If the Jewish position is so resolute and so clear-cut on the redivision of the city, what then should we tell the EU regarding the repossession of the city?

We should tell them to stay away from Jerusalem.

Public hypocrisy, private hate

Iranian president Mohammed Khatami visited Italy last week on the first state visit to the west by an Iranian leader since the Islamic revolution of Ayatollah Khomeini in 1979. He met with Italy's prime minister and then with the Pope. Magnanimously before the clicking cameras of the media phalanx, Khatami suggested that it was now time to do away with terrorism and violence. Privately though, he reiterated to Italian leaders that Israel had no right to exist. Obviously, Khatami's new-found moderation gets clogged in his throat, stuck like a chicken bone in his hate-filled throat when it comes to the Jewish state.

WISDOM OF THE AGES

"If a person (acquires something deceitfully), he shall restore it in the principle and shall add a fifth part more to it." (Parshat Vayikra) "

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Poses questions to Haredi writer

I refer to Reva Kaiser's article "Increasingly difficult to hear Haredi voice." (*CJN*, March 18)

I wonder if Reva is just naive, or is merely trying to publish propaganda for the Haredim. Does she really think that the "sea of black" filling the streets was there because there were no shuls in which to daven Minchah? Does she think the shofarim were blown to practise for Yom Kippur?

If Reva had witnessed Ghandi's march to the sea for salt, would she have written to the *London Times* about the lack of salt in India that was forcing the poor people to walk all that distance to harvest salt from the sea?

Ghandi shook the British Raj with his ability to rouse the people. What does she think the Haredim are attempting to do in Israel?

Syd Kuttner
Toronto

Independent young Jews have role to play

Lisa Abramovitz' Discovering Oneself article (Guest Voices, *CJN*, Feb. 25) makes a poignant statement about being a young Jew. Her difficulty in finding a place for herself as a non-conformist interested in changing the world has a resounding ring.

As one, who has herself, frequently felt like the square peg in the round hole, I know that there are many of us out there – artists, activists, reformists – living in locations and lifestyles that are not "typically" Jewish but dedicated to one of the fundamental tenets of Judaism, tikun olam, repair of the world. Many of us do not. And it's time we all recognized that fact and celebrated it.

In my journey, I frequently find Jewish individuals who for various reasons feel isolated from the larger Jewish community, feeling more at home with non-Jewish friends, mates, and spiritual activities. Terrific work is being done by such organizations as Kolel to help these people find their home within the Jewish community.

But we need do more. Only by recognition and inclusion of the full realm of how young Jewish people live and contribute their gifts to society, can we ensure that these people feel and continue being Jewish.

Anne Ptasznik
Toronto

Differs with Benmergui's comments on Israel

Everyone is, of course, entitled to their own opinion regarding events in Israel, even if this entails criticism of the Israeli government or society. However, it is unfortunate when such criticisms are offered with an utter lack of sensitivity or understanding of the Israeli political landscape, as was done by Ralph Benmergui. (*CJN*, Feb. 25)

Among the number of debatable claims made by Benmergui, the most infuriating one perhaps, is the one where he denounces the violence in Israel and adds that "you know [the argument]; it's okay to blow that guy's head off on the cell phone because he's a bastard," an obvious reference to Hamas bomb maker Yehia Ayash, who was killed by Israel. Referring to Ayash, the suicide-bomb mastermind, as simply a "bastard" is a narrow-minded and poorly expressed observation at best, and a blatant and simplistic understatement nonetheless.

It appears that in his rush to judgment, Benmergui fails to realize that Ayash was not merely a "bastard," but rather a terrorist who orchestrated the murder of scores of civilians, and who was highly successful in his job, namely the slaughter of innocent people. His assassination could not only be justified on moral grounds, but even more so for "practical" reasons of self-defence, such as that his premature demise most likely prevented the death of many other innocent civilians.

Yigal Walt
Toronto

Likes Michele Landsberg's views, but ...

Your (*CJN*, Feb. 25) issue featuring a picture of Michele Landsberg gives a fitting opportunity to comment on the woman and her work.

On 95 percent of the issues I am on her side. But I can't honestly remember an article in which she "respectfully" disagrees with anybody. Her attitude undermines the credibility of her message.

I say this more in sorrow than anger.

Murray Rubin
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Perspectives

Images from eight decades

The Canadian Jewish Congress was founded in Montreal between March 16 and 19 in 1919. The photos on this page recapture some key CJC initiatives from the past eight decades. Counter-clockwise from below, CJC's War Orphans Project brought 1,016 young Jewish survivors to Canada in 1947-48; the CJC War Efforts Committee opened recruiting offices in the major Canadian Jewish communities during World War II; CJC president Samuel Bronfman at a reception in the home of Dr. Dov Joseph in Israel, March 1956; CJC leaders meet with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau in Ottawa in May 1969; signs of protest at the Soviet Consulate in Montreal in the 1970s;

[continued below]

CJC's 80 Anniversary

A CJC delegation meets with Pope John Paul II in Montreal, 1984; Montreal mayor Jean Drapeau commemorates the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps; Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's recent visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

[Photos and images from Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives, Montreal]

Opinions

Pollsters big winners in election

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

Few people this month are taking solace in the fact that we have now passed the halfway mark in a seemingly endless election campaign. If most Israelis would prefer to get the whole thing over with now so as to spare themselves 10 more weeks of tedious politicking, it's not hard to guess who's most delighted by this insufferably long electoral season. Since the Knesset voted in December to stage national elections in May, the country's pollsters have been doing a bang-up business.

Admittedly, even when politicians aren't running for office, pollsters are rarely idle. It's a toss-up who's more enraptured by public opinion surveys – politicians or the media, both of whom commission polls with increasing frequency.

During the current campaign, the country's two largest Hebrew dailies compete for the most newsworthy opinion-poll results every Friday. To help boost sales of their fat, more expensive weekend editions, *Yediot Ahronot* and *Ma'ariv* publish survey results aimed at capturing readers and making headlines.

In recent weeks, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been locked in a see-saw opinion-poll battle with Labor party leader Ehud Barak, his main challenger in the May 17 elections. Often on the same day, a Gallup Institute survey for *Ma'ariv* will show Netanyahu leading Barak by a percentage point or two while *Yediot* publishes a Dahaf poll indicating a Barak victory. Or vice-versa.

In Israel, as in many western countries, polls have become a multi-million-dollar industry and an inescapable part of public life. Politicians and their advisers, almost enslaved by polls, have come to depend on them.

Early this month, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein ordered government ministers to not commission polls, except for purely professional reasons, until the elections.

Polling is hardly an exact science, but you'd never know it from the primacy given to opinion polls in Israeli politics and high-level planning. Despite their notorious unreliability, surveys are now a key part in government decision-making, having attained the status once reserved for top-secret intelligence reports.

"Public opinion surveys are playing an unprecedented important role in the management of affairs of state," Uzi Benziman wrote recently in *Ha'aretz*. "Not only do they gauge the public's mood and thereby serve as a legitimate assessment tool for both the national parties and the heads of political parties, they also determine what decisions are made."

Critics charge that surveys often distort reality with findings affected by several factors – the phrasing of questions posed to respondents; the expectation of those who commissioned the survey; the size of the sampling; and the manner in which the results are presented. The credibility of many polls is further strained by the fact that the main survey companies are hired by political parties and also serve the media in a potentially unholy alliance.

Some see polls in even more pernicious terms, insisting they have become a substitute for elections and undermine democracy by producing bandwagon or underdog effects. It's now a given of political science that published survey results affect voting behavior.

For their part, polling organizations say their work suffers from a public misunderstanding. They stress their independence and justify their polls as simply snapshots at a point in time of voter attitudes and intentions that are subject to change before voters reach the ballot-box.

Pollsters, who do most of their interviewing over the phone, rely heavily on phone directories for sampling purposes, thereby ignoring various sectors of the population underrepresented by such sources. As a result, the opinions of harder-to-reach groups such as soldiers, Arabs, Haredim and new immigrants are not sufficiently taken into account, without mentioning others who refuse to be questioned.

There's something vaguely reassuring that for all the high-priced sampling, data collection and response analysis used in countless polls ahead of election day, these modern-day successors to soothsayers and crystal-ball gazers often get it wrong.

In 1996, pollsters predicted Shimon Peres would defeat Netanyahu for the premiership. In 1993, surveys indicated that incumbent Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek would beat his challenger Ehud Olmert in the capital's municipal elections. In 1992, then prime minister Yitzhak Shamir enjoyed unprecedented popularity with polls showing him easily vanquishing any candidate Labor could field.

If recent elections are any indication, pollsters may well be eating humble pie for breakfast on May 18.

Israel's hidden Jewish renaissance

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

In terms of religious practice, the image of Israel is still one of a country and people sharply divided between two distinct camps, with very little in common. The militant secularists appear to be on one side of the divide, rejecting all aspects of religious practice and teaching their children very little of Jewish tradition and culture. The Haredim stand on the other side, rigidly rejecting any middle ground.

This image was reinforced recently when hundreds of thousands of Haredim gathered in Jerusalem, ostensibly to protest the rulings of the secular Supreme Court on issues of religious practice. On the other side of the street, literally, stood thousands of secularists, protesting what they view as religious coercion by the Haredim. The gap seems huge and increasing, particularly in the context of an overheated Israeli political system.

However, as in so many other cases, the television clips and front-page photos exaggerate the conflict and hide the real changes that are taking place out of the headlines. For those who live in Israel, or visit long enough to look behind the facade, a dramatic and positive revolution in Jewish life is taking place.

This renaissance is primarily the product of Israel's "modern Orthodox" community, and the cultural and religious networks that have been created.

In the past 50 years, millions of children have grown up speaking Hebrew as their mother tongue, allowing them to develop a depth of understanding that is unparalleled over the past 2,000 years. They have direct access to all the resources of Jewish culture, from the Bible through the Talmud and later commentaries. Instead of leaving the interpretation to a narrow elite, this process is creating an explosion in Jewish learning and knowledge, whose impact is only beginning to be understood.

The direct access of so many Israelis to their cultural heritage has also led to a growing degree of religious pluralism in Israel. The stark image of two polarized camps – haredi and ultra-secular – is no longer accurate, and in many communities, the range of Jewish practice is growing broader. In Jerusalem, in addition to the numerous haredi groups, there are women's minyanim (prayer groups), Conservative and Reform synagogues, groups which emphasize singing through the services (inspired by the late Shlomo Carlebach), and others, all within walking distance of each other. Bet Shmuel, the Reform movement's centre in Jerusalem, and the Conservative movement's Bet Agron offer a wide program in Jewish texts, history and tradition to secular Israelis who only now realize how they and their parents were robbed of their tradition by a militant and intolerant secular leadership.

It is true that this activity is generating intense opposition from the religious "establishment," including the haredi political and religious leadership. These hierarchies and interest groups still control the formal institutions that register marriages and divorces, and they allocate public funding from the anachronistic Ministry of Religious Affairs. They can and often do pose unnecessary difficulties (not justified by and often in violation of the spirit of Jewish law) to those who need their services, but they are powerless to prevent alternative groups from forming and running their own activities. Wherever enough people gather together to form a synagogue, minyan, or study circle, they do not need approval from anyone. The rigid establishment is fighting against the tide, and their rulings are relevant only to those who voluntarily accept their authority.

The pluralism and renaissance in Jewish learning includes the high schools and universities, yeshivot, kibbutzim, research institutes, and most importantly, informal study groups in Israel. This renaissance has also spread to the Jewish centres of North America, Europe and Australia, through constant interaction and extensive travel.

Dozens of high-quality Internet sites provide a means of exchanging ideas and interpretations. This process is entirely unregulated; anyone can put a commentary on the World Wide Web, and in the spirit of pluralism and the free marketplace of ideas, the best ones will be picked up and their impact will grow.

This renaissance is still limited to Jerusalem and a few other smaller cities (Petach Tikva, Rehovot, Raanana, Kfar Saba), but it is gathering momentum. Even in the heart of secular Tel Aviv, secular intellectuals have begun to attend lectures on Jewish issues. The divide still exists, but the number of bridges are growing.

The founders of modern Zionism had two goals: to build a state to assure physical survival; and in this context, to revive the religion and culture to assure spiritual rebirth. During the first 50 years of Israeli existence, the focus was on achieving the first objective. However, the growing security created conditions for a religious and cultural renaissance. If properly nurtured, this can provide the basis for the real revival of the Jewish people.

How much has Germany changed?

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Now that the civil century is about to breathe its last, it has become a widespread practice to look back and point out the achievements and/or failures that humanity has experienced during that time.

Statistics show that the 20th century has been the bloodiest in human history, with Nazi Germany the main culprit for World War II and the Holocaust, and scourges that have produced no fewer than 50 million dead.

It is well to ask whether, during the last 50 years, a new Germany has indeed replaced the old.

There are those who will answer that the past was so terrible that nothing can blot it out. But that is not the question. Rather, one must ask whether today's Germany, as we have come to know it in the second half of the century, has radically changed from the one that stained the '30s and '40s.

The answer is clearly in the affirmative. In many ways the new chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder, symbolizes the change, in that he is the first German chancellor who did not experience World War II and the Holocaust. Born in 1944, he knows Nazism only from the reports of others. He himself represents in many ways the new Germany. He and his generation were not responsible for what happened then, and he is determined to make sure that the past will not repeat itself. He is amongst those who want to settle debts that so far have not been compensated, and he has prevailed on the 12 largest banks and businesses in the country to set up a fund of some $2 billion for those who suffered slave labor under private businesses during World War II.

In trying to make amends, Germany leads all countries that were somehow involved with Nazi atrocities. It has paid more in reparations (some $60 billion) and has put more of its own citizens on trial for war crimes. It is noteworthy that most of the accused are, in fact, German citizens or institutions.

Finally also, the endless discussions about a proper Holocaust memorial to be erected in Berlin are coming to a conclusion and now await the assent of the Bundestag. In a way, this will mark the end of a terrible era and signal that the new one has indeed made its mark.

An article by Tina Rosenberg in the *New York Times*, concludes: "Germans are once again debating how much guilt people today must bear for the past. Except for a handful of old men, the answer is 'none.' But all Germans have a special responsibility for the future, to maintain democracy and deepen tolerance. This is how Germany must now be judged."

True, agitation against "others" will still surface in the country from time to time and especially in the eastern part of Germany, where unemployment is large and the experience with democracy is only 10 years old. In this respect, Germany is unfortunately not alone. Ethnic prejudice exists elsewhere as well. We, in Canada, cannot boast of total innocence either.

The Kirshner File

A distinguished Israeli journalist looks back

The year was 1980 and the place was Cairo. Shmuel (Samuel) Segev, one of Israel's most distinguished journalists, was interviewing Anwar Sadat, the president of Egypt and the first Arab leader to sign a peace treaty with Israel.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

During a pause in their three-hour interview, Sadat asked Segev whether he knew the cause of Gamal Abdel Nasser's untimely death. Nasser, who preceded Sadat, ruled Egypt for some 16 years until his sudden death in 1970.

Before Segev could reply, Sadat, his eyes twinkling, told a joke. "The phone in Nasser's office rang. It was Golda Meir (the Israeli prime minister). 'Let's make love, not war,' she declared. Upon hearing this, Nasser instantly had a fatal heart attack."

Segev chuckled, savoring a moment of levity in a long career as a foreign correspondent where the topics at hand usually left little room for flippancy.

Until his retirement in 1990, Segev was a star reporter for *Ma'ariv*, the Tel Aviv-based daily. He joined the newspaper in 1957, then spent the next three decades travelling around the world.

Being a specialist in diplomatic affairs, Segev covered the Arab-Israeli conflict, as well as Israel's bilateral relations with a host of countries. The net result was that Segev acquired an immense storehouse of knowledge and got to know every Israeli decision-maker from David Ben-Gurion onward.

Segev's erudition was not only apparent in his reportage, but in his books, whose topics run the gamut from Israel's role in the Iran-Contra affair to the secret immigration of Moroccan Jews to Israel.

Retired though he may be, Segev is hardly resting on his laurels. In 1998, St. Martin's Press published his latest book, *Crossing the Jordan*, which deals with the peace process, past and present.

And now Segev, a sixth-generation Israeli who divides his time between Toronto (his wife is a Canadian), New York City and Tel Aviv, is working on two new books – the peace process under Benjamin Netanyahu and Israel's on-again, off-again negotiations with Syria from 1992 to 1996.

He also teaches two courses at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y., on Mideast politics and the media in Israel and the Arab world.

Of Moroccan origin, Segev was born in Tiberias, the son of a carpenter whose ancestors arrived in Palestine from Meknes in 1840. During the War of Independence, Segev fought with the Haganah, then worked in military intelligence. This background in and appreciation of espionage proved useful when he wrote a book about Israeli master spy Eli Cohen.

For several months after the 1956 Suez war, Segev served as Israel's assistant military governor in the occupied Gaza Strip. He has vivid memories of Gaza. He wrote the letter of surrender, in Hebrew and Arabic, for the Egyptian commander of the Eighth Division. And for a few days, he roomed with a captured Egyptian general who had presided at the trial of the Israeli spies apprehended in connection with the 1954 Lavon affair.

Segev, who holds a BA in Middle Eastern studies from Tel Aviv University, joined *Ma'ariv* fresh from his last post in the army as a media relations expert.

He was the newspaper's Paris bureau chief in 1958-59 and again in 1962-63, when Israel's relationship with France was unusually close. He sensed even then that the honeymoon between Israel and France would not last much longer.

As part of his duties, he covered France's colonial war in Algeria. When Algeria declared independence, the foreign minister told him that Algeria would join the Arab League and not recognize Israel.

In 1964, Segev went to Addis Ababa as Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie's information advisor. "Ethiopia was losing the propaganda war in Africa over the Ogaden war, and my job was to present Ethiopia's case to the international media." His first "convert" was James Reston of *The New York Times*.

Segev also covered the war in Vietnam, and wrote what he says was the only book in Hebrew about the subject.

In another plum assignment, Segev was *Ma'ariv*'s bureau chief in Washington from 1971 to 1976, a period punctuated by the Yom Kippur War and its aftermath and the still unsolved assassination of his friend, Joe Allon, the Israeli military attache.

Segev talked with Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's ambassador to the United States, every day. "He confided in me. I knew things even his own staff didn't. It was embarrassing, because his people would ask, 'Shmulik, what's going on?'"

He greatly respected Rabin's understanding of geo-politics. When Rabin was defence minister in the 1984 to 1990 national unity government, he voted in favor of assassinating Abu Jihad, Yasser Arafat's second-in-command. "He favored the operation because he thought it would be easier some day for Israel to negotiate with Arafat rather than with Abu Jihad."

Segev visited Iran regularly prior to the 1979 Islamic revolution, and was on the last El Al flight out of Teheran in January of that year. "No one," he observed, "expected Iran to go so far as to break diplomatic ties with Israel."

He claims that Israel's intelligence agencies never grasped the full extent of the PLO's links with the Iranian opposition which unseated the pro-Western monarchy. Segev can foresee a resumption of Israeli-Iranian relations if the forces of liberalization in Iran prevail.

In 1980, Segev was the first Israeli journalist to establish a permanent bureau in Cairo. But he actually made his first trip to Cairo in 1977, shortly after Sadat's historic trip to Israel. Initially, all doors were closed to him, given the suspicion in which Israel was held. There was an improvement after his interview with Sadat, but the Egyptian intellectual elite continued to shun him.

The "cold peace" which has characterized Israel's relations with Egypt from the outset was, he believes, inevitable. "Egypt never accepted the fact that a small country like Israel could play a regional role, sometimes at its own expense. Egypt wants Israel back to its 'natural size.'"

Israeli journalism has changed considerably since Segev's days as a young reporter. "From 1957 to 1973, security considerations and national interests guided the press. After the Yom Kippur War, the Israeli media turned more aggressive, and investigative reporting became more important." To his regret, the Israeli press today is too fixated with entertaining rather than informing its readers. In his view, this trend began about 10 years ago.

Shmuel (Samuel) Segev

Turning to current Israeli politics, Segev predicted that Ehud Barak would defeat Netanyahu in the May 17 election. "Likud has disintegrated, while the Labor party remains united under Barak." The centrist party, led by Yitzhak Mordechai, will win upwards of 10 Knesset seats, and will probably join Barak's government. "Barak will be an excellent prime minister," said Segev, whose sympathies lie with the Labor party.

Segev is not one to denigrate Netanyahu, perhaps Israel's most demonized prime minister. "He made two contributions to the peace process. He slowed it down. This was important because Israel needs territorial cards to play in final status talks. And he enshrined the principle of reciprocity, a basic element now accepted by the United States and the international community."

However, he said, under Netanyahu's watch, the peace process ultimately fell apart. Barak, Segev is convinced, will put it back together again.

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English language classes add to Israel experience

By FERN WESTERNOFF and THERESA YOUNG

Guest Voices

As we volunteered to teach English in Israel for two weeks with the Yad BeYad program, we knew that travelling together as a Jew and a Christian would bring a richness to our experiences in the Holy Land.

No travel article or book prepared us for the tapestry we were about to weave.

Yad BeYad is a summer program that brings volunteers from Canada and the United States to various locations in Israel for two-week periods. Volunteers teach English to immigrants, thereby helping them upgrade their skills and giving them an important asset in the workplace.

Participating in this program allowed us to use our training as speech-language pathologists to contribute to the growth of Israel. Many of our fellow volunteers were neither teachers nor language professionals, and came from a variety of backgrounds.

We taught and lived in an absorption centre in Tiberias. Our students were mainly a mix of émigrés from South America, Europe, and Russia. One of our classes was a beginner's class, while the other was slightly more advanced. The students were an interesting mix of young and old, professionals and students.

Tiona, a librarian, acted as our Israeli hostess, making us mint tea and coffee to go with her baked goods during breaks. Alexander, a doctor from Russia, responded to emergency calls on his cell phone during class. Luba and Diego chattered incessantly in Spanish, and when separated, pretended to call each other on their cell phones. Yizhak told us that he was learning English "to meet women like you."

Before our departure, we had several training sessions with teachers who had also been Yad BeYad volunteers. Along with the activities and materials from our training sessions, we tried to create interesting and engaging activities for our students. We planned a number of joint class activities including games, exercises, and a closing party.

Because we were dealing with adults, we tried to be flexible, and adjusted our teaching to our students' needs and learning styles.

By the end of our two-week period, we had bonded so strongly with our students that it was difficult for us to turn them over to the next set of teachers when we left.

We were deeply touched by those we met at every step of the way. It began with the wonderful people involved in the Yad BeYad organization who led us hand in hand to Tiberias. It extended to the other volunteer teachers from Toronto, Montreal and Tulsa, and the staff at the absorption centre where we lived. It also involved the Israeli volunteer families who offered assistance, invited us into their homes for Shabbat dinner, and walked with us on the ancient cobblestone paths of historic and religious sites.

Above all, we were touched by our students who arrived at class five days a week with an eagerness to learn, despite having just completed a full day of work or study. They even used their beginning English to try to convince us to make aliyah.

Other highlights of the Yad BeYad program were day trips to a number of exciting destinations and a weekend tour of Jerusalem. At the Western Wall on Shabbat, we were moved to tears amidst the aura of the many prayers recited and folded into its crevices.

Fern realized her dream of reading her Haftorah and completing a spiritual bat mitzvah.

We walked up the hill on which Jesus delivered the sermon on the Mount, while reading these passages.

As we struggled in the midday heat, the Greek Israeli man by the Church of the Beatitudes gave us cold water, food, and a place to rest in his shade, providing for us as if we were living the words of the sermon.

Theresa's early morning treks through the maze of near empty streets to attend mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre were treasured moments.

Recognition of the diversity among people within and across faiths served to break down stereotypes.

We wove our Christian and Jewish perspectives together into a fabric of biblical stories and historical information, threaded with recollections, connections and juxtapositions that sometimes overflowed into wellsprings of emotion from our spiritual cores.

The people we met added splashes of color and texture, rich tapestries, Jacquards and florals – reflecting what they shared– as our lives fleetingly connected in ways that drew our hearts together.

As we planted the seeds of English among our students, the Yad BeYad organizers planted trees in our name to thank us for our contribution. We came away from this experience with a lifetime's worth of memories, and were touched to leave something of ourselves behind.

BIALIK LEARN-IN

Bialik Hebrew Day School recently held its annual Learn-In, a day long program of seminars, tours and other activities for students in grade 6-8. Seen above, with the results of their glass painting lesson, are (top row) Tamar Rubin, Jessica Fraiman, Rachel Bigenwald, instructor Caryn Ladovsky; (bottom row) Hava Glick, Lauren Shay, Rachel Bayefsky-Anand.

Jewish Life

The path to Judaism

***Turbulent Souls: A Catholic Son's Return To His Family*, by Stephen Dubner (William Morrow and Company $32.50).**

Books
Bernard Baskin

At the heart of this affecting family memoir is the story of how a one-time Catholic altar boy found his way to Judaism.

Stephen, the youngest of eight children, was reared in a fervent religious atmosphere on a small farm in upstate New York. His parents, Florence and Solomon (later Veronica and Paul) had converted to Catholicism more than 20 years before he was born. They were unswerving in their faith and devotion to Catholic beliefs and causes. All the children were named after Catholic saints. The family was poor, but largely removed from the dangerous secular influences of the outside community.

When the author gradually became interested in his Jewish antecedents, he learned of the loneliness and family estrangements that had led his parents to move from second-generation inner-city traditional Judaism to what they felt to be the all-encompassing warmth and satisfying teachings of a new faith. Sol's family sat shivah for him, and almost all family ties were severed.

What motivated young Stephen to find meaning in Judaism? He credits "the cunning of history," but a charismatic Jewish drama teacher and his involvement with a close associate of the Lubavitcher Rebbe were less mysterious influences.

His first visit to a small Orthodox synagogue was disturbing. The service was baffling. The congregation stood, bowed, prayed – no one in unison – all in a strange and unfamiliar tongue.

But he was transformed when the Torah was brought out. "Suddenly, all the jabbering was reduced to an appreciative murmur...The bulky Torah scroll, swaddled in its glittering cover like a child of royalty, was liberated from the ark and escorted down the aisle by an old man struggling happily beneath its weight, and as the men and boys up front hurried to greet it, pressing the fringes of their prayer shawls to its cover and kissing the fringes, I tumbled into a bone-deep understanding. I too threw myself at the Torah, awkwardly scraping it with my fingers, lifting my fingers to my lips. A resonance – a gratefulness, a relief – blistered its way inside me: It is the Book they are venerating here. They are not eating the Body and drinking the Blood of the Christ, that sad-faced messenger and martyr of my youth."

The second portion of the book concerns the author's desire to understand his late father, and to come to terms with his mother who is unwilling to accept Judaism as a valid religion. He visits a Catholic cemetery intending to recite the Kaddish over his father's grave. Instead "I told him I was ready to stop being angry about his leaving me here without him, his secrets unexplained. I told him I wished I could have gotten to know him better. Before I left, I dug up a small stone and placed it on his grave marker. I didn't regret not having said Kaddish. Would I want some son of mine reciting the Rosary over my grave when I'm lying in a Jewish cemetery."

Eventually, Stephen, with the help of John Cardinal O'Connor of New York, reaches out in friendship and reconciliation to the far flung members of his Jewish and Catholic families.

The author, now 35, is a writer and editor for the *New York Times* magazine. For him, becoming a Jew, involves study, the beginning of religious observance, new connections and areas of awareness. Perhaps above all, the need to resist the kind of religious fanaticism that marked his Catholic childhood and adolescence.

This is a sensitive, engrossing, often painful account of a spiritual excursion by a baal tshuvah who in the end achieves meaningful ties with both his past and his new faith.

Passover sites for kids

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Why is the holiday called "Passover?"

(a) Because the Israelites had to pass over the Nile to leave Egypt. (b) The angel of death passed over Egypt and killed all the first-born. (c) Or because at Pesach, the spaghetti must be finished and the pasta over.

That's just one of the many Pesach quiz questions found on the Jewish Highway. The World Wide Web is full of puzzles, games, songs and coloring books to help kids gear up for the big holiday. Today, some of the best.

A great place to start is at Virtual Jerusalem's Pesach Parade **[http://www.vjholidays.com/pessach/parade.htm]**. That's where you'll find the answer to the quiz mentioned above. There's also a children's Haggadah, holiday recipes for kids and an animated video about Passover **[http://www.vjholidays.com/pessach/jtn.htm]**. You will need to register for a free password in order to gain access to some of the Virtual Jerusalem pages.

My favorite Passover site for kids is Nurit Reshef's From Pesach to Shavuot **[http://www.bus.ualberta.ca/yreshef/pesach/pesachframes.html]**. (You will need a browser that can handle Java in order to enjoy this site.) Reshef has created a "four-room" virtual playhouse. In the library, for example, you can listen to stories in Hebrew and English, learn about the history of the holiday, click on an online Seder plate and create some silly holiday stories. When you get to the playroom, try the holiday word search, or complete the onscreen jigsaw puzzle. And don't forget to play (and win) Passover Tic-Tac-Toe against the dumbest computer in the world.

Is your child making his or her singing debut at this year's seder? They can brush up on their rendition of Ma Nishtana at Passover Tunes for Kids **[http://www.613.org/kidpassover.html]** and Nurit Reshef's site **[http://www.bus.ualberta.ca/yreshef/pesach/audiomusicroom.html]**. And they can sing along with instrumental versions of the songs at Classic Passover Tunes **[http://www.kosher4passover.com/tunes.htm]**.

Budding young artists may want to check out a couple of Passover coloring books they can print and then decorate. The Diaspora Yeshiva pages focus on the steps of the seder **[http://www.mznet.org/holidays/seder/seder.htm]**, while Torah Tots also has pages illustrating the story of Pesach and the Ten Plagues **[http://www.torahtots.com/holidays/pesach/pescolor.htm]**.

For more kids' pages, check out the quizzes at the Department of Jewish Education **[http://www.jajz-ed.org.il/pesgnen.html]**.

Billy Bear's Pesach Holiday has some mazes (Help Moses find the Ten Commandments; Help the people cross the Red Sea) **[http://billybear4kids2.simplenet.com/holidays/pesach/pesach.htm]**.

Torah Tots does a great job at retelling the story of Passover, in addition to a generous supply of games like Puzzling Plagues and Word Find.

Another amusing game encourages you to search for any chametz which may be hiding on your computer screen **[http://www.anshe.org/chometz.htm]**. With a few deft clicks of the mouse, you are chametz-free.

If only cleaning the real stuff were that easy!

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at [mdm@inforamp.net].

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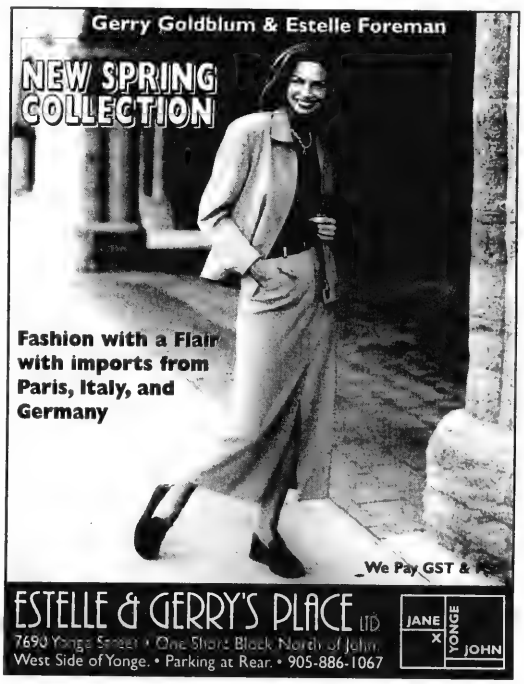
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Mazon launches new fundraiser to fight hunger

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Continuing a trend that began with its first year of allocations in 1987, Mazon Canada continues to raise ever-increasing amounts for food banks across Canada. Next week it will introduce a new fundraising vehicle that could push the sums even higher.

On March 22, Mazon Canada will launch its first-ever Kosher Gourmet Gala at Roy Thomson Hall. The gala, which will run from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m, will bring together under one roof more than 20 caterers, restaurateurs and other purveyors of kosher food and drink. Tickets for the gala begin at $50 per person. Sponsors donations are available at $1,000, patrons, $500 and friends, $250.

"We are expecting several hundred persons to attend and enjoy the beautifully decorated food and wine stations," said Jacqueline Kott-Wolle, Mazon's executive director. "An enthusiastic team of volunteers, caterers, wine and food suppliers are working hard to make this event a big financial success, enabling Mazon to expand its donor base and channel even more funds into the fight against hunger," she said.

Among the caterers and masters of kosher culinary artistry participating in the gala are: Peter Graben Fine Foods; Linda Morganstern Cakes; Levy's Catering; Tri Elm Catering; King Solomon's Table; Strub's Pickles; and Sam Firestone Caterers.

"Toronto is home to some very gifted kosher chefs," said Rose Reisman, honorary chair of the event. "The kosher gourmet gala offers members of the community an opportunity to try samplings of beautifully prepared food, and taste some award-winning wines."

The gala is patterned after the Montreal Food Fest. All proceeds will benefit Mazon Canada, which raises funds within the Jewish community and distributes them to front-line agencies that provide relief from hunger.

Since its inception in 1986, Mazon has continually increased the sums it has allocated. In 1998, it distributed $149,550 in its spring round of allocations and $232,400 – a record – in the fall. Last year's allocations of $381,950 brings Mazon's accumulated total since 1987 to $1,621,445.

The sums ranged from $250 (to Christ Church Cathedral in Montreal) to $5,000 (Jewish Women International in Vancouver). Among the agencies receiving support from Mazon are: Gander (Nfld.) and Area Food Bank ($1,500); Food Bank Moncton NB ($2,500); Centre d'Entraide d'Argueteuil, Lachute, Que. ($1,000); Jewish Child and Family Services, Winnipeg ($2,500); and the Fort McMurray (Alta.) Food Bank Association ($2,500).

For more information about the gala or to make a donation, Mazon can be reached at 788 Marlee Avenue, Suite 301, Toronto, Ont., M6B 3K1 or by telephone at 783-7554.

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Long-distance carrier to aid Sunnybrook chapel

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — An up-and-coming telecommunications company is hoping Ontario's Jewish community will soon get that long distance feeling.

APC Telecommunications Inc. of Vaughan has signed a deal with the Sunnybrook Jewish Chapel, designating the small synagogue its sales agent to the dozens of Jewish organizations, synagogues and charities in the province.

The company says the arrangement could be a major revenue generator for the Jewish community's myriad of organizations.

Under the terms of the deal, APC will rebate four percent of monthly long-distance charges, to be split evenly between the Sunnybrook chapel and every new customer the chapel signs up.

Individuals who sign on with APC's long-distance service save on their bills and become donors. Two percent of their monthly long-distance charges will be returned to the chapel, and two percent will go to the organization, charity or synagogue that signed them up.

"It's a win-win," enthused Rabbi Barry Schneider, spiritual leader of the Sunnybrook chapel, where patients and veterans who live at the Sunnybrook Health Science Centre attend services. "It will guarantee us a bottom line so we can fund our programs."

The agreement will raise thousands of dollars for the chapel, Rabbi Schneider estimated.

Those associated with the chapel will also sell APC's prepaid calling cards.

The deal with the Jewish community is "groundbreaking," said Larry Hunt, president of APC Telecommunications.

He said he credits his brother for the idea. Bob Hunt, a United Church minister, is head of chaplaincy at Sunnybrook, and he connected APC with the Jewish chapel.

"We're very excited about it," said Larry Hunt. "It's great for us to put something back into the community. The benefits could be huge."

APC, which started operations last June, is a publicly traded company and guarantees the lowest long-distance rates. It says it already has the lowest rates to Israel of any of the three largest long-distance providers.

The company has plans to expand into the rapidly growing Internet market. It may be reached at 207-0046 or toll-free [illegible]272-1225.

U of T's medical dean prepares to leave post

Academia

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Dr. Arnold (Arnie) Aberman has a glittering resume, but to him modesty has its own virtues.

"My dad – my role model and the person with the biggest influence on my life – taught me that there's no end to the good you can do if you let other people take the credit," he said. "That's wise advice, and I've tried to remember it."

Aberman, the outgoing dean of the University of Toronto's faculty of medicine, therefore grows somewhat ornery when he is asked to list his main accomplishments as dean.

"I have 4,426 faculty members, so I don't like to personalize my achievements," he said, noting that this was the first lengthy interview he had granted since becoming dean.

But when the question was rephrased, he perked up and the words flowed. "So many exciting things have happened in the past five, six years," said Aberman, a specialist in intensive care, internal medicine and pulmonary disease.

Under his stewardship, the faculty has formed closer bonds with Toronto teaching hospitals, including the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care and Mount Sinai, where he was physician-in-chief from 1977 to 1987.

Aberman, a 55-year-old Montrealer, pointed out that Toronto has some of the finest teaching hospitals in North America.

And under Aberman's direction, the faculty recently unveiled the Surgical Skills Centre at Mount Sinai, the first of its kind in Canada, and has set its sights on building a Centre for Cellular and Biomolecular Research and a health sciences facility.

Aberman, too, has renewed the faculty's commitment to campus-based research, for which the U of T is historically famous.

In this century, U of T researchers have made seminal medical advances in the discovery of insulin, the development of the cardiac pacemakers and the first electronic pacemaker and the invention of Pablum infant cereal. In addition, the first single-lung transplant and nerve transplant were performed by surgeons affiliated with the university.

More recently, U of T research teams identified the T-cell receptor gene, which plays an essential role in the body's immune system. And for good measure, they cloned the cystic fibrosis gene.

Dr. Arnold (Arnie) Aberman

Beyond all that, Aberman derives great satisfaction from having recruited dozens of new instructors, thereby invigorating the faculty, the largest and top-rated in Canada.

"I look for energy and optimism when I hire people," he said. "That's what impresses me." Why optimism? "You have to think you can make a difference."

Clearly, Aberman has made a difference, according to a report issued last week by the U of T's provost.

Citing Aberman's leadership skills, the provost also commended him for his "transparent financial management" skills, his strategic planning efforts and his support and encouragement of research. "Dean Aberman," he concluded, "leaves the faculty in a remarkably strong position."

Founded in 1843, the U of T's medical faculty not only produces doctors – an estimated 1,200 during the Aberman era – but also offers programs in such fields as physical therapy, occupational therapy, biomedical communications and speech-language pathology.

These courses are in popular demand, and at present, the faculty has some 4,500 undergraduate, post-graduate and graduate students.

"I've been very proud to be dean," said Aberman, who steps down on June 30. "It has been a labor of love, not a job.

"As a doctor, you can help a group of patients," he added. "But as an academic physician, you can teach hundreds of doctors and thus influence medical care."

When he retires, Aberman, who usually works 16 hours a day, seven days a week, has no intention of fading away quietly. "I want to write and teach," he said. An international lecturer, he sits on the board of Vancouver's Fraser Institute and regularly composes op-ed pieces on topics ranging from health care to agricultural marketing boards.

A small-L libertarian with a strong interest in politics and economics, he was born in Montreal. His father, Jack, a Polish immigrant and the proprietor of Rainbow Dress, manufactured wedding gowns. His mother, Ethel, was instrumental in Jack's success. She bore three girls (Rosalie, a retired psychiatric hospital chief executive officer; Myrna, a travel agent; and Susan, a catering company executive) and one son besides Aberman (Zave, a property developer).

A graduate of Talmud Torah and of Northmount High School, he scored 89.3 percent on his Grade 11 province-wide matriculation exams. "I was always a good student," he said."Being smart is a dime a dozen. But what counts is what you do with your life."

Aberman had definite goals, and was drawn to medicine. "My family valued scholarship, and they encouraged me to become educated, though I don't recall any pressure from them to be a doctor."

Continued on page 16

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Aberman one of first intensive care specialists

Continued from page 15

Medicine also seemed appealing, he said, because, as a child, he looked up to his family physician, the legendary Alton Goldbloom. And once he got to McGill, he was curious to find out more about the workings of the human body.

After graduating from McGill, he was a resident in internal medicine at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City. Being ambitious, he continued his studies at the Cardiovascular Research Institute of the University of California and at the Shock Research Unit of the University of Southern California.

In the early 1970s, he was one of the first Canadian doctors to specialize in intensive care. There were only four such specialists in those days.

Aberman said he was attracted to academic medicine because of the mentors he had at McGill – Martin Hoffman and Bernie Cooper.

"These doctors," he explained, "seemed to know the most about medicine. And, as an academic doctor, I felt I'd be in the forefront of the profession."

Aberman returned to Canada at the behest of his wife, Janis, who thought it would be a better place than the United States to raise a family. "As usual, she was right." The Abermans have three children, all of whom live in New York City: Robert, an investment banker; Michael, who is training to be a doctor; and Leslie, a law student.

After his stint as Mount Sinai's physician-in-chief, Aberman was briefly associate dean of fiscal affairs at the University of Toronto. Then, from 1989 until 1992, he was both physician-in-chief at the Toronto Hospital and chair of the university's department of medicine, where he had taught since 1980.

In December 1992, he became the second Jew after Frederick Hans Lowy (1980-1987) to be chosen dean of the faculty of medicine. In 1994, he increased his administrative burden by assuming the post of vice-provost for relations with health care institutions.

He and his wife founded a publishing company in 1969, printing the indexes of medical literature. "I saw a need and started a business like any entrepreneur." He closed the firm in 1986 when he realized that he could not be a publisher and a doctor.

Aberman, who considers himself a committed member of Toronto's Jewish community, has visited Israel several times and lectured at the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem and the Rambam Hospital in Haifa. Based on what he has seen, he believes that Israeli and Canadian medicine are on an equal level.

When he is at leisure, Aberman enjoys skiing. But he reserves his real passion for reading, mainly history and current affairs. "I love it," he said with a twinkle in his eyes.

Don't back Palestinian state, CIC asks Ottawa

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Canada is being asked to withhold recognition of a new Palestinian state if Yasser Arafat goes ahead with his intention of a unilateral declaration of independence in May 1999.

The request is being made March 23 to Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy in Ottawa, by the Canada-Israel Committee.

The commttee's views will be presented to the minister at a meeting in his office.

"Our view is that that there should be no unilateral declaration of independence unless it is negotiated with the contesting parties to the Oslo agreement," Harold Brief, Israel Affairs chair, told an executive meeting of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region March 11.

Brief said Arafat has indicated he will declare an independent Palestinian state by May 29 if all issues under the Oslo agreement are not resolved.

In other matters, the Ontario government will be asked at a meeting in about 10 days to have health services for disadvantaged students come under the Ministry of Community and Social Services instead of the Ministry of Education, the executive was told.

There is a greater chance that students at Jewish day schools and at other independent religious schools will get the services they need if such a transfer is made, Henry Koschitzky told the executive. He is chair of the Ontario Jewish Association for Equity in Education.

Premier Mike Harris has told the congress that health services now restricted to public and Catholic schools should be available to all students.

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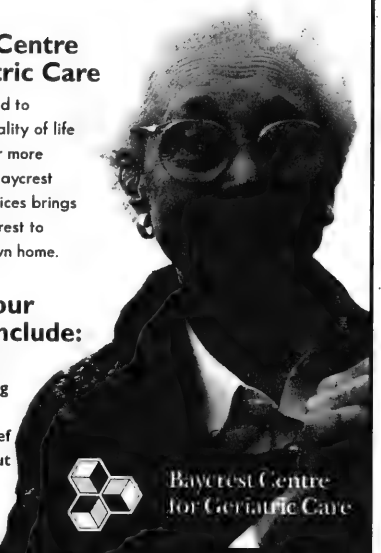

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Survivor fashions himself into expert on Holocaust

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — For Isaak Rudnicki, life has come full circle.

Born in Sviencionys, Poland (now in Lithuania), Rudnicki's life was turned upside down by the Holocaust. At 16, he left home to join a partisan unit and fight the Nazis in the forests of Eastern Europe.

Today at age 72, the primary focus of his attention is the Nazi war against the Jews in Eastern Europe. He is currently completing a mammoth 1,000-page study on the Holocaust in the former Soviet Union which he hopes to publish later this year.

In between fighting the Nazis and documenting their atrocities, Rudnicki immigrated to Israel, joined the Haganah underground and fought in Israel's War of Independence.

Like many other European Jews, he "Hebraicized" his name (to Yitshak Arad) and rose through the ranks of the Israel Defence Force (IDF). He ended his military career in 1972 with the rank of Brigadier General, serving as the IDF's chief educational officer.

A short, wiry man with a crop of curly salt and pepper hair, Arad was in Toronto last week to testify as an expert witness in the case involving alleged Nazi collaborator and Trawniki guard Wasyl Odynsky. Arad traced the history of the Nazi genocide in Poland and the role played by the Trawniki and Poniatowa labor camps.

For Arad, testifying in war crimes is far from a novel experience. Over the years, various courts have sought his expertise on the Holocaust. He testified early in the John Demjanjuk case in Israel and in the Alexander Lileikis denaturalization case in the United States. He was slated to testify in the Antanas Kenstavicius case in Vancouver but was never called upon after the alleged collaborator died on the first day of trial.

Since he began studying history and political science while still in the IDF, Arad has been drawn to the Holocaust. He could have focused on more typical topics like the legacy of Catharine the Great, he acknowledged, but "I felt I had an obligation to my own people."

His PhD dissertation, *Ghetto in Flames*, examined the fate of the Jews of Vilna.

He also penned an autobiography, *The Partisan: From the Valley of Death to Mount Zion* as well as one of the few books that looked at some of the lesser-known extermination camps: *Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka: The Operation Reinhard Death Camps*.

Yitshak Arad

"I'm the first to do a record on the three death camps," he said. "I found it was an unstudied area of the Holocaust."

He first realized that those Poland-based death camps were understudied, in the 1970s, while he was serving as chair of the Yad Vashem Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority. He held that position from 1972 to 1993.

Slated to make a presentation to an international conference on wartime Jewish resistance at Treblinka and Sobibor, he learned that little work had been done on the topic. Furthermore, there were few survivors to tell their stories. Only 150 Jews who passed through Belzec, Majdanek, Sobibor and Treblinka saw liberation. There is only one known survivor of Belzec, he said.

Able to speak several East European languages, Arad visited archives in Russia, Poland and Israel. Though his focus was on the larger German death camps, his studies included Trawniki, an SS training facility that provided manpower for other camps.

Trawniki men, drawn from Ukrainian volunteers, served in Treblinka and other extermination camps and helped suppress the Warsaw Ghetto uprising of April-May 1943, he said.

Emotionally wrenching

Today, the focus of his studies are the Einsatzgruppen, mobile SS killing squads that wiped out whole Jewish communities in the Soviet Union. Studying German and Russian archives, Arad's next books should be a comprehensive look at their activities.

As a survivor of the Nazis himself, he acknowledges the work can be emotionally wrenching. "For the last few years, when I read again and again the description of the testimonies and the killings, it is harder and harder. You don't get used to it.

"When I was younger, I tried to not be touched by it. I tried to build a wall around it. As I get older, I get more emotional."

Now a grandfather himself, "when I read about children being murdered, you look at your grandchildren and wonder about the feelings of the grandparents going with them to their deaths," he said.

Despite his emotions, he pledges to continue his work. "I feel, as a survivor, some obligation to the destroyed Jewish world from where I came...to my family that perished in the Holocaust, to my friends in the underground and the partisans who did not survive," he said.

CORRECTION

In the story, "Calgary, Atlantic provinces host Jewish students (*CJN*, March 11), Michael Soberman was incorrectly identified. He is Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region's director of community services and youth activities. The *CJN* regrets the error.

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Greater Toronto Area

Odynsky's guard unit shot Jews, court told

Continued from page 1

Ukrainian guards who pursued and shot escaping Jews.

Arad said the SS who commanded the camps, performed administrative duties and that it was Ukrainian auxiliaries who manned the watchtowers, performed guard duty and who did the shooting.

At one point, Armstrong read portions of Odynsky's examination for discovery, a pre-trial interview, in which the alleged Nazi collaborator said he doesn't know what he would have done if he'd seen Jews attempting to leave the camp.

Odynsky contended the Ukrainian guards were there to protect the camp from Polish Communist partisans (guerrillas) who might have attacked to obtain armaments stored there. He acknowledged, however, no such attack ever took place.

He also contended that Polish partisans were sympathetic to the Ukrainian guards because "they knew we were there by force...and we had to follow orders given by the Germans."

Earlier, the court travelled to Ukraine to hear nine witnesses, all but one called by the defence. The witnesses included four ex-Trawniki guards.

The case resumes on April 19 and Odynsky is expected to testify shortly afterwards.

Seven other war crimes cases are either still before the courts or have concluded with a decision pending.

A decision is expected in the Helmut Oberlander case, which wrapped up in Kitchener, Ont., as well as in the Podins case in Vancouver. Final argument is being heard in the Serge Kisluk case.

Meanwhile, last week defence lawyers asked the Federal Court of Appeal to review Justice Marc Nadon's decision rejecting their application for a stay of proceedings in the Vladimir Katriuk case in Montreal.

In Windsor, the Michael Baumgartner case will resume at the end of April, while the Ludwig Nebel case continues before the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) in Niagara Falls.

The IRB in Toronto will also hear a refugee claim by Wasily Bogutin, who has been ordered deported from Canada.

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תמקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Torah's view of racism explained

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Racism is forbidden in Judaism, not just because it hurts the victim, but because it poisons the character of the perpetrator, says educator Rachael Turkienicz.

Turkienicz, who is also a columnist for *The Canadian Jewish News*, was the keynote speaker at this year's Leo Baeck Day School annual Learn-In, where the theme was racism and race relations. Speakers included Danny Fine, Ontario Community Relations UJA Federation; Elyse Graff, national executive director, Council of Christians and Jews; Constable Ricky Vecrappan, York Regional Police; Tracy Richardson, Regal Road School in Mississauga, who spoke about the black experience; and Jeff Shneer, Canadian Native Centre.

"You are not allowed to treat people badly. You are not allowed to call people names because their skin color or their hair or their eyes are different," Turkienicz said.

Rachael Turkienicz (centre) is flanked by students (from left) Benjamin Reingold, Philip Porat, Jossie Erlich, Julia Hussman, Jesse Rifkin and Michelle Granatstein.

In the Bible, she said, Moses states categorically that one may not oppress the vulnerable. The Talmud explains this as forbidding one to deny employment, to pay a lower salary, or to deny someone a place to live.

"You are not even allowed to oppress someone verbally [by insulting or denigrating them]" she added.

Even if you are not caught acting badly, "you know what you have done."

The Torah demands that if you are going to take eggs from a nest, you must first chase the mother bird away. "Can the bird be hurt [by having the eggs taken away]? Will the bird even understand what happened?"

The injunction has to do with you, not with the bird, she said. "You must recognize and respect the relationship between the bird and the eggs. If not, you will become a cruel person."

Furthermore, the Bible says that you shall not wrong a stranger, because you were once a stranger in Egypt. "You are no different from anyone else. Everyone has been up and everyone has been down."

God created everyone from Adam and Eve so that people would realize that we all come from the same place. "You can't say you are different from someone else, because you aren't. Racism, then, is illogical, because we would have to hate ourselves."

This idea is not just for seemingly serious offences but relates to everyday life.

"You can't oppress or victimize anyone," she said.

It is wrong to ostracize a kid at school, or to have a party and invite everyone except one or two classmates. "You have made them a stranger and are oppressing them. You can't alienate one group of kids for any reason."

The book of Kohellet (Ecclesiastes) says you can be a great scholar and a pious person, but "you are a hypocrite if you see the tears of the victim and give them no comfort," Turkienicz said.

But the Torah goes further. Not only are you not allowed to discriminate against someone, "you are not allowed to create a minority and then treat them differently."

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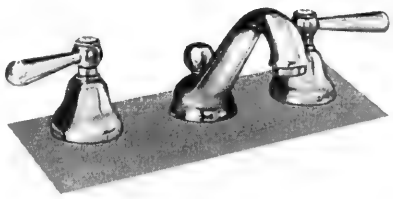

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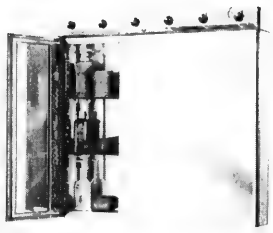

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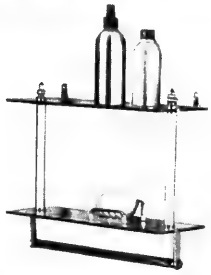

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Rabbi Wein urges tolerance to counter fragmentation

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Jews today have no business being triumphant about the fact that we are still around, asserts noted author, speaker, and historian Rabbi Berel Wein.

"In fact," he told Mizrachi Organization of Toronto's First Outstanding Personality Lecture, "We have barely survived – we are hanging on by our fingernails."

The Jewish world in this century has been "rocked by events no one could have imagined in their worst nightmares. There is [no Jewish community of] Poland, Lithuania, Hungary, Russia, Germany. They are all gone."

Representatives of normative, mainstream Judaism were destroyed, he said, citing Lithuania, where 99 per cent of the Jewish population died.

"The Jewish world is shaped to a large extent by those who survived – the marginal on both left and right, those formerly on the edges of Jewish life. They built the post war world in their image."

That, Rabbi Wein said, is why Jews are so fragmented. "The cohesive middle is not there. A whole generation that could have bound us together is not there. Extremists [both religious and secular] drive our agendas."

An example is the demonstrations on Bar-Ilan Street in Jerusalem for and against closing the street on Shabbat.

"The secular bused in kibbutzniks, the residents brought in their supporters to throw stones. When one side couldn't make it, they cancelled the demonstrations."

He charged that "we are solving problems by demonstrations, not by dialogue."

Rabbi Berel Wein

Many schools, he said, ignore the Holocaust completely, "because there are so many questions of faith and history. Others exploit it."

The truth, he said, is that no one really knows how to commemorate it.

He warned that in Jewish history, anything that is not commemorated by ritual and Halachah disappears, and he is concerned that "the same thing will happen to the Holocaust, no matter how many museums and films there are."

Israel, Rabbi Wein said, is a state built "against all enemies. Its gross national product is greater than that of all Arab countries together, if you factor out the oil. We had no experience with statecraft, an army, or the accoutrements of a state. Yet, we learned how to run one. It's not perfect, but it runs."

"Our forefathers would have walked barefoot across Europe in the snow to get to Israel," he continued, but "nobody knows what to do with it, how to react to it."

Some people, even some who live in Israel, reject it, he said.

Rabbi Wein deplored the amount of assimilation in North America. He said statistically and by natural processes there should should be about 15 million American Jews, but there are, in fact, only 5 million.

"That's a loss of 10 million – more than were lost in the Holocaust."

The only way to counteract this situation is by education and tolerance, he said.

"Those who know something have the obligation to those who know nothing. And those who know nothing should not be shouted at, drowned out, or disparaged."

The great ethicist Rabbi Yisroel Salanter said that the way to counteract the Reform movement is "not by excommunicating them, but "by opening our study halls to them."

It is not up to the Orthodox to save Judaism, he said. "It is up to each and every Jew to determine what things will be like for them and for their children."

Holocaust education stressed

Jews who want to be Jewish, whatever stream they are, "should be helped. We must not be exclusionary."

At the beginning of the program, which was held at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, the Nachman Sokol award was presented to Ulpanat Orot student Shira Shiderman, and the Max Zeifman award to Hyim Bessin and Aviyoel Sokol, both of Or Chaim.

MINYANIM IN THE GTA
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Aish HaTorah (O)	949 Clark Ave. W. (905) 764-1818	6:10 PM	8:45 AM	8:00 AM	6:30 AM	Mon.-Wed. Maariv 8:45-9:00 PM
Beth HaMinyan (C)	70 Ridge Hill Dr. (416) 785-3655	----------	9:30 AM	----------	----------	----------
Beth Sholom (C)	1445 Eglinton Ave. W. (416) 783-6103	6:00 PM	8:45 AM	8:30 AM	7:30 & 9:00 AM	6:00 & 6:15 PM
Chabad of Markham (O)	83 Green Lane (905) 886-0420	6:10 PM	9:30 AM	8:30 AM	6:45 AM	6:25 PM
Emunah Shleima (O)	4120 Bathurst St. (416) 638-6115	6:18 PM	8:45 AM	8:00 AM	7:00 AM	6:25 PM
Lodzer Centre (C)	12 Heaton St. (416) 636-6665	6:30 PM	9:00 AM	----------	9:30 AM	----------
Temple Har Zion (R)	7360 Bayview Ave. (905) 889-2252	8:30 PM	10:30 AM	9:00 AM	7:15 AM	----------
Tifereth Yisrael (O)	756 Sheppard Ave. W. (416) 487-4161	6:05 PM	8:30 AM	8:00 AM	Mon. Thurs. 6:30 AM Tues. Wed. Fri. 6:45 AM	6:25 PM

This is not a comprehensive listing of the synagogues in the Greater Toronto area. The information is provided by the Vaad Harabonim of Toronto and the Toronto Board of Rabbis. The Vaad and the Board will periodically revise the listings. For statutory holidays, please call the Synagogue for any change in times.

Greater Toronto Area

Rikudiyah dance festival dazzles with Purim performance

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — Rikudiyah '99, the annual children's Israeli folk dance festival, was a dazzling display of costumed dancers in a rainbow of colors, among them, queens, kings, jesters, ballet dancers, mad hatters and clowns, in all shapes and sizes.

This year was the first time in its 29-year history that the dance festival was close enough to Purim that the holiday could be the festival's theme, said director Teme Kernerman. "There was lots of fun and merry making in keeping with the Purim spirit."

Some 300 children participated from 16 schools, which included Associated Hebrew School's two campuses; United Synagogue Day School's (USDS) three campuses; Bialik Hebrew Day School; B'nai Shalom Hebrew School; the Downtown Jewish Community School; Leo Baeck Day School; She'arim Hebrew Day School; Toronto Heschel School; and the religious schools of Bet Sefer Solel, Holy Blossom, Temple Emanu-el, Temple Kol Ami, and Temple Sinai.

Rikudiyah '99 was co-sponsored by the Koffler Centre of the Arts of the Bathurst Jewish Centre (BJC) and the Board of Jewish Education (BJE) of UJA Federation.

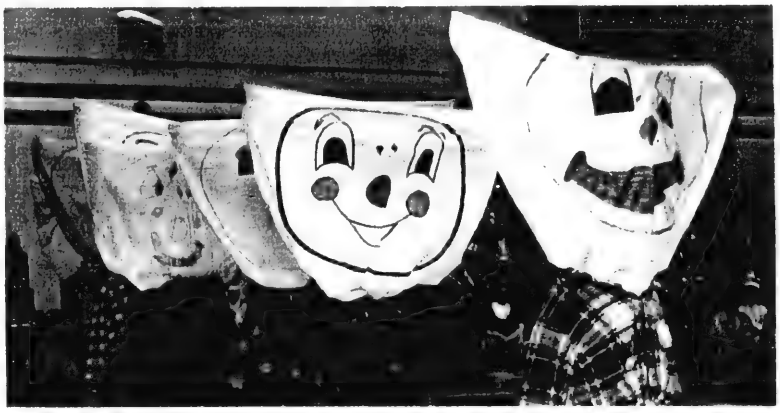
Kernerman noted that 900 spectators filled the bleachers of the York University gymnasium, bringing the total number of people in attendance to 1,250.

The festival also included a guest performance by the Jerusalem Dancers, who danced to Israeli music set to a South American beat; soloist Eyal Antebby also performed.

There was even a gorilla on hand. Reuben Schiff, Bialik school dance instructor, had dressed up to add to the Purim spirit, Kernerman said. "He must have plutzed in that outfit."

The group from USDS Bayview campus opened the show with *Bimdinat Hagamadim* (In the land of the little people). The performers wore pillow cases with big faces drawn on them, and wrapped shirts around their waists to give the impression that they had huge heads and tiny bodies. Entering the gym to a drum beat, they wound their way through the groups of students on the gym floor.

As in every Rikudiyah, the children learn a new dance. Demonstrators were sent to each group to help teach the dance, *Lehtzanim K'tanim* (little clowns), Kernerman said. "The nice thing this year [was that] we included the audience. They did the dance in the bleachers."



Students at the Bayview campus of USDS make their entrance at Rikudiyah '99.

The children participating in the Rikudiyah, which is open to students in grades 3 to 5, all perform the same dances. In November, Kernerman introduces the dances to be performed to the instructors at the various school, who teach it to the students.

Kernerman calls the Rikudiyah "performance without the pressure," because the teachers are on the gym floor dancing with the kids.

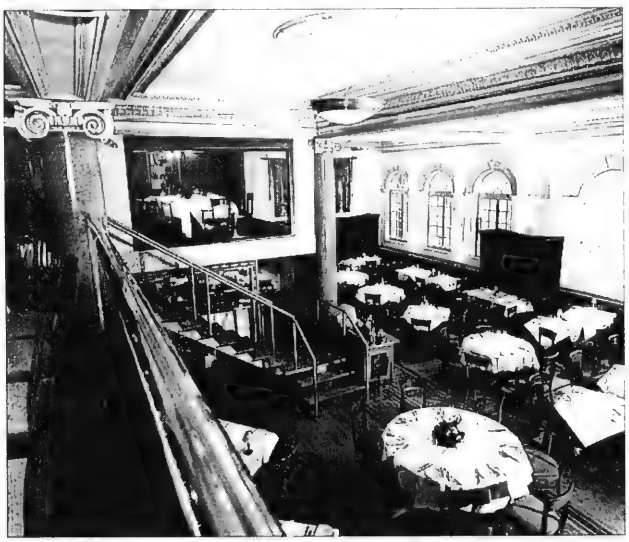
Rabbi Jeremiah Unterman, ex-executive director of the BJE said, "It was wonderful to have the opportunity to bring the children from across the educational spectrum of our community together for fun and celebration. The community should seek to do more of such activities."

Joyce Levine, director of interschool activities for the BJE, said the event was "exciting and ran smoothly" and she was quick to credit Kernerman with the success of the event. "Teme does an excellent job."

Kernerman said that the day after Rikudiyah '99 she was already thinking about the next festival. "In the year 2000, Rikudiyah will celebrate three decades."

"It's a wonderful program. It's a lot of work, but it's a labor of love for me. It's a way of passing on our culture and heritage to the children.

"People came up to me and said they had participated or performed [as students] and now they are bringing their own children. That's what it's all about."



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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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HOLIDAY DEADLINES

Please note these deadline changes due to the Passover holiday:

Monday, March 22, is deadline for March 31 issue.

Thursday, March 25, is deadline for April 9.

Monday, March 29, is deadline for April 15.

I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Saturday, March 20

SHABBAT SERVICES

Kol Yisroel Congregation Shabbat services resume at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave., with **Meir Bester** as leader. Services begin 9:30 a.m. All welcome. Kiddush follows.

BB COUPLES LODGE

Thornhill-Maven B'nai Brith couples lodge coffee and dessert night, 7:30 p.m. at Gallanough Library, Thornhill. For details, **Susan** 667-2762.

Sunday, March 21

YIDDISH POETRY, MUSIC

The Song That Never Died: the Literary-Musical Heritage of **Mordecai Gebirtig**, an afternoon of Yiddish poetry, music and song with poet **Simcha Simchovitch**, folksinger **Lenka Lichtenberg**, and Yiddish instructor **Elli Moidel**, 2 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Adath Sholom Sisterhood breakfast and program with author **Alvin Abram**, 9:30 a.m., 864 Sheppard Ave. W. $3. Confirm 635-0131.

THE SHPEELERS

The Educational and Cultural Connection and Shaarei Shomayim Brotherhood present The Shpeelers and a comedian, 8 p.m. at the synagogue. $10/person, $18/couple. Proceeds to Jews for Judaism. All entertainers are donating their services to benefit Jews for Judaism.

FRIENDS OF YIDDISH

Friends of Yiddish presents Yiddish humorist **Michael Wex** with *Nice Little Moses-And-Aaronses*, 2 :30 p.m., Workmen's Circle Hall, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Guests $5. RSVP **Sandy** 736-8073.

PASSOVER LECTURE

It's More Than Manischewitz with **Rabbi Eliezer Breitowitz**, dean of Ohr Somayach Toronto, 10 a.m. at Bathurst Jewish Centre. Concurrently, a guided tour for children through the Jewish Discovery Museum and a craft project for Passover. To pre-register, 905-886-5730.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Brotherhood breakfast program features **David Goldberg** whose expertise includes politics of the Israeli peace process and Canada's Middle East policy. 9:15 a.m. $4.

Monday, March 22

GAN NOR INFORMATION

Delegates from Gan Nor community and regional municipality in Israel speak about opportunities to be a part of this growing community, 7:30 p.m., Lipa Green Building. **Shula Ofir**, Israel Aliyah Centre, 633-4766.

ORIENTATION MEETING

Beit Halochem Canada, Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel (Canada) 1999 Group Visit Committee orientation meeting for host, co-host families and volunteers for this year's visit, 7:30 p.m., Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. RSVP **Annette** 905-886-1463.

FILM REVIEW

Beth Tikvah Progressive Singles (35-55) film review of *The Sweet Hereafter* by **Heather Kassel** at the synagogue. Screening 7:15 p.m., lecture 9:15 p.m. $16. RSVP 221-3433, ext. 352.

Wednesday, March 24

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) monthly meeting, 8 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. **Henry Wellisch**, former res-

Continued on page 25

What's New

Continued from page 24

ident of Vienna and past president of the society, speaks on Jewish Vienna-History and Genealogy. Non-members $3.

SINGLES DROP-IN-LOUNGE
Join Beth Tikvah Progressive Singles for an evening of conversation, games and coffee, 8 p.m., at the synagogue.

KIBBUTZ CONNECTION
Open house for Kibbutz Hebrew Connection-Family Vacation in Israel, 7:30 p.m., 3995 Bathurst St., Suite 300. **Shula Ofir**, Israel Aliyah Centre, 633-4766.

Thursday, March 25

ANNIVERSARY GALA
Leo Baeck Day School Silver Anniversary Gala, presentation of the first annual Leo Baeck Day School Award for Excellence in Jewish Education to **Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut** by **Prof. Michael Brown**, director, York University's Centre for Jewish Studies, reception, dinner, entertainment, 6 p.m. at Le Parc. 905-709-3636.

THE MASORTI MOVEMENT
Moshe Shemma, executive director of the Masorti Movement in Israel speaks about difficulties confronting Masorti congregations and institutions as well as exciting programs and projects, 8 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. **Marilyn Cohen**, executive director, Canadian Foundation for Masorti Judaism, 905-738-1717.

And What Else Is New

PASSOVER SEDERS
Oraynu community seder, Sunday, March 28, 4:45 p.m., Workmen's Circle, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Potluck dinner follows. Non-members: adults $10, students $6, children $4. Reserve 385-3910.

Beth Torah Congregation, Wednesday, March 31, 6:45 p.m., led by **Rabbi Yossi Sapirman**, accompanied by **Cantor Samuel Frankel**. $50, children/teens/students $25. Reserve by March 22. **Marsha** 782-4495.

Downtown Jewish Community Council community seder, Thursday, April 1, 7 p.m., Bloor Jewish Community Centre. Adults $40, teens/students/seniors $30, children (6-12) $15, free for children under 5. Reservations and payment by March 29. 924-6211.

West Toronto Jewish Community Association potluck seder, Thursday, April 1, 7 p.m., Swansea Town Hall, 95 Lavinia Ave. $20/adults, $10/children, $50 maximum/families. **Francine** 588-9436

THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
On Sunday, March 28, visit the My Jewish Discovery Place and rediscover Passover. Special activities throughout the day. Find the afikoman, win a prize, walk through the Dead Sea, sing-a-seder, help build the Freedom Wall and more! 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Bathurst Jewish Centre. 636-1880, ext. 456.

OUR MUSICAL LEGACY
Temple Sinai Oneg Shabbat concert featuring the Cleveland Duo Plus One-violinists **Carolyn Gadiel** and **Steve Warner** of the Cleveland Symphony and saxophonist **James Umble**, Friday, March 26. Services are at 8:15 p.m.

KABBALAH CENTRE
Kabbalah Centre, 678 Sheppard Ave. W., connects to Shabbat Tzav with prayer services, meditations, lectures, kosher cuisine. Friday March 26, services 6 p.m., Saturday services 9:30 a.m. Meal reservations by March 24. 631-9395.

COPING WITH DEMENTIA
A series of information and discussion sessions to help family caregivers understand and cope with difficult behaviors associated with Alzheimer disease and other related dementias. Spring session begins in April (Tuesday evenings). $25/person, $50/family (subsidies available). **Bev Adler**, Baycrest Centre. 785-2500, ext. 2308.

MOM'S OWN MOMENT
Moms, do you need some time during the day just for you? MOM (Mom's Own Moment), a series of topical workshops and seminars, Friday mornings, April 16-June 11, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Bathurst Jewish Centre. $85. Sponsored by Jewish Women International of Canada. Register by April 6. 630-9313.

FREE HELP FOR SENIORS
Are you a senior 55+, caring for your husband or wife at home? Do you need time off? For free volunteer relief (no physical care provided), **Paula Mintzberg**, Respite Services coordinator, Bernard Betel Centre, 225-2112, ext. 118.

SINGLES SCENE
Trivia Night, both groups, 25-35 and 35-55, refreshments, mingling, prizes, Saturday, March 27, 8 p.m., at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. $10 at door. 905-731-9441.

Monthly meeting for 35-55 group, Monday, March 22, 8 p.m., Beth Emeth Synagogue.

Upcoming events for both groups, volleyball, Shabbat luncheon. **Rhonda** 905-731-9441.

HEBREW CLASSES
Keren Hatarbut Institute of Hebrew Studies, 788 Marlee Ave., summer courses for adults, teenagers and preteens, in conversational Hebrew, all levels: Tuesday mornings May 25-Aug. 24; Wednesday mornings May 26-Aug. 25; Thursday mornings May 27-Aug. 26; Thursday evenings May 27-Aug.26. Register. **Joseph Klinger** 787-0197.

JF & CS GROUPS
Jewish Family & Child Service groups. **Pat Lieberman** 638-7800, ext. 215.

Parenting: 1,2,3 Magic begins after Passover; Divorce: It's Not My Idea begins March 27; When You're About to Separate: What Do You Tell the Kids, Tuesday, March. 23; Anger Management for Women begins March 27; Bereavement groups for younger and older persons begin after Passover.

FOR SENIORS

Association of Jewish Seniors second seder, Thursday, April 1 at Bernard Betel Centre. Doors open 7 p.m., seder 7:30 p.m. $18. **Goldie** 635-2860 or the centre 225-2112.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). March 18, bingo; March 25, video, **Ehurom Gaon** *Toledo to Jerusalem* No activities April 1 and 8; May 8, Yom Ha'atzmaut; Lag b'Omer dance, May 8, call **Malka Colla** 630-5771. All activities in Hebrew, English and Yiddish. **Jerry Bengall** president, 905-707-7334.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: March 23, 10 a.m., cooking demonstration, Eat Well, Live Well, cooking for one or two, with Toronto Public Nutrition staff, free food samples, prizes; March 28, dance with live band; April 14, 28, Casino Rama; May 4, Bata Shoe Museum and Manning Cookie Factory; May 5, *My Fair Lady* at Stage West; May 23-25, Ottawa; phone regarding Atlantic City and Las Vegas trips. 395-7881.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club: Aug. 25, morning cruise, matinee, *Move Over Mrs. Markham* at Gryphon Theatre; Oct. 12, *West Side Story* at Stratford; in the planning, trip to Ottawa early summer, kosher meals, interesting tours. **Lena** 785-5773. Golden Book donations go to Laniado Hospital in Israel. **Dorothy Bloomfield** 787-1526.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE
Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

Place your order for kosher meals for Passover by Friday, March 26. **Sonia Krass** ext. 114.

Osteoporosis Support Group meets, Tuesday, March 23, 1:15-2:30 p.m. **Ann Koven**, president of Hip Guard Canada, discusses a new technique of Personal Hip Protection. Resource person **Joan Turner**.

Hearing Assistance Clinic Thursday, March 25, 1:15-4 p.m. with **Brenda Vernon** of the Canadian Hearing Society. Book appointment, ext. 131.

Blood pressure information session, Thursday, March 25, 1:15 p.m. Pharmacist **Vida Hoffman** presents Blood Pressure Medication-Are You Taking It Properly? followed by blood pressure clinic

Do you speak Hebrew? Join Israeli Club Etrog every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the auditorium for movies, lectures, dances, sing-alongs, bingo, picnics. All programs based on topics of special interest to Israelis and are conducted in Hebrew. March 23 is bingo. **Anna** ext. 110.

Movie, *Seven Years in Tibet*, Sunday, March 21, 2:30 p.m.

BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

Spring Craft Show, Sunday, March 21, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. More than 45 artists' booths and special activities for children.

Seniors Club welcomes **Rabbi Ronnie Cahana** of the Lodzer Synagogue Thursday, March 25, 2 p.m. His topic is Discovering the True Meaning of Freedom: The Experience of Spending passover in the Soviet Union. **Judy**.

MARDI GRAS BALL
Reena Foundation 5th annual Mardi Gras Ball is Saturday, March 27, 8 p.m. , Ontario Science Centre. Dress with flair and elegance. $50 in advance, $65 at door. (partially tax deductable). For tickets and more information, 905-763-8254, ext. 3034. Pictured above (from left) are Stephen Gardner in costume, past chair; Ann Romer from Breakfast Television, and Toba Rich, co-chair.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29

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On Campus

Art festival attracts new students to campus group

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — On opening night at last week's Jewish student art festival, Colouring Ourselves, Zac Kaye cheerfully said he was unable to help a reporter locate one of the artists.

The fact the director of Jewish Campus Services (JCS) of Greater Toronto didn't even know the artist satisfied him that the three-day event had succeeded in reaching out to students who might not otherwise affiliate with a Jewish group.

University of Toronto student Davina Nathan, left, shows one of her richly detailed paintings. At right, *Dorot* editor Carolynn McLean Schwartz, a York University student, is seen with her grandmother Yetta Schwartz, who inspired Carolynn's first *Dorot* contribution. [Frances Kraft photos]

"There's a whole group of students [here that] we don't know," he said happily..

Ontario College of Art student Miriam Herlin said that a lot of her Jewish-themed art is helping her learn and connecting her to her Judaism for the first time. She has been studying Judaism and is working on a Judaic series. Her *613 Mitzvoth* is an impressionistic oil on canvas. She also has three works on display at Centro.

The first JCS arts festival took place last year. A Zukerman Family Foundation grant facilitated the hiring of Tamar Kagan as JCS arts and culture coordinator, and festival director for this year.

At one time, Hillel was "a Jewish club on campus. Today it belongs to everybody," Kaye told the crowd in the Poor Alex Theatre, which had been cleared of seating to facilitate viewing of the work.

"This program reflects our diversity," he said.

The festival theme was "What's on your mind?" Some of the answers found in the visual arts entries were sex, innocence, fathers and sons, Israelis and Arabs, and Jewish lesbian readings of traditional western fairy tales.

Chana Boxer, a student at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, submitted *Shayne Maidle*, a hand-made paper blouse embroidered in red metallic thread. She had been exploring identity, memory and costume.

York University student Elana Sadinsky reproduced a 700-year-old Hebrew manuscript using tempera, gold leaf and gold leafing paint on parchment paper.

And Ryerson media arts student Michelle Astrug had an unusual self-portrait, woven from two color photocopies of a childhood picture.

There were also sculptures, and a number of photographic entries depicting aspects of Israel.

Opening ceremonies included performance art by Mitch Smolkin, a University of Toronto theatre student; and readings from the newest issue of Jewish student literary publication *Dorot*, by Shira Honig, Barbi Price and editor in chief Carolynn McLean Schwartz.

The trio Beyond the Pale played "gypsy klezgrass fusion" music as over 100 people viewed the exhibition of about 30 pieces. The festival also featured, on each night respectively, a screening of films, music and theatre. Organizers estimate a total of 400 people attended.

"You can sense the energy is that everyone is hungry for this kind of thing," said festival volunteer Yoni Stanleigh, a University of Toronto student.

"It's a great venue to display Jewish talent," said Roy Yonash, whose girlfriend, Chana Boxer, was one of the artists. "There probably aren't enough venues like this around the city."

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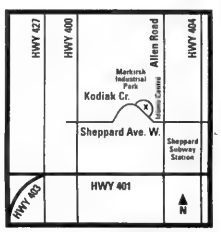

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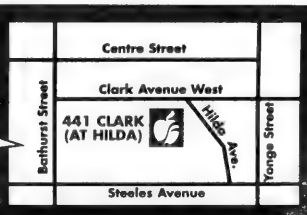

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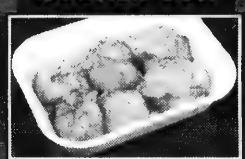

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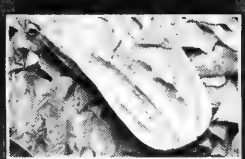

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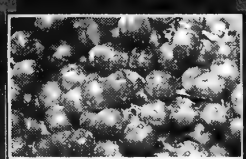

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Rabbi joins lawsuit on genetically-altered foods

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Rabbi Allan Green, spiritual leader of Winnipeg's Conservative Beth Israel Synagogue, is party to a lawsuit that has to do with genetic manipulation of food.

The lawsuit was launched last spring in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. against the American Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The object of the legal action is to force the FDA to perform extensive safety testing, and to mandate labeling of all genetically altered food products so that people with allergies can avoid products that may be dangerous to their health.

"A gene from a Brazil nut was added to a strain of soybeans," Rabbi Green explains as an example. "It was found that people with allergies to nuts had an allergic reaction to the soybeans with the Brazil nut gene. Under existing regulations, the addition of that gene would not appear on the package label among a list of ingredients."

Rabbi Green became involved in the legal case through a longtime friend, Steven Drucker, a lawyer, lecturer and author of books on ethics and psychology, who launched the suit.

Drucker, an observant Jew who lives in Iowa, has also signed a Conservative rabbi from Georgetown University, a Lubavitcher Rabbi from Brooklyn and the congregation he belongs to in Fairfield, Iowa, on to the suit.

"I am glad to be part of this," Rabbi Green says. "I believe in the merits of the case. I allowed Steven [Drucker] to file a statement on my behalf to be used as evidence which I was able to edit and add to. I have spoken out about this issue whenever I have had a chance to."

Rabbi Green points out that because the work is being done at the level of DNA, scientists and religious leaders assume that nothing has really been done. "DNA molecules have evolved over billions of years. They are the root of life itself. We alter them at our peril."

One problem with DNA is that it is dynamic, he says. Once a genetically altered species of plant or animal is released in the world, the DNA pool is altered forever. Thus, for example, if crops are developed that are highly resistant to herbicides and a weed picks up that DNA, the weed could become very tough to kill.

There are serious implications for kashrut in this matter as well, he says.

Although genetic engineering is done at the micro level and kashrut is determined at the macro level, the results of the genetic manipulation could well be macroscopic, Rabbi Green says.

"Genetic engineering may be violating species barriers that have existed since time immemorial," he says. "We are not talking about cross-pollination or hybridization – which are still functioning within the basic laws of biology. Genetic engineering allows scientists to cross species together that were never intended by nature to be crossed."

Orthodox Rabbi Ya'acov Benamou of Winnipeg's Herzlia Synagogue does not see a problem where kashrut is concerned, but he does agree that man has no business changing nature.

"To change nature can cause damage for generations to come," he says.

"We should leave this sort of thing alone unless we have clear evidence that no harm will come of it."

Community kiddush a success

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

LONDON, ONT. — The London Jewish Community Centre (JCC) was recently the site of a first-ever community kiddush, bringing together worshippers from Congregation Beth Tefilah, Congregation Or Shalom and Congregation Temple Israel – London's Orthodox, Conservative and Reform synagogues respectively.

The event was the brainchild of Arye Berk, director of the Jewish Students' Union at the University of Western Ontario and community programmer for the London Jewish Federation, which serves a population of about 3,000.

Over 200 people attended the kiddush. They came "from every different branch of Judaism, including the branch that does not attend shul," Berk said.

Berk, a member of Or Shalom, believes "too much time is spent talking about our differences and not enough time is spent building on the everyday dealings that unite us as Jews."

Rabbi Mitchell Cohen of Beth Tefilah said in a phone interview that he, Rabbi Larry Lander of Or Shalom, and Rabbi Joel Wittstein of Temple Israel "work extremely well together" and have become very friendly.

Rabbis Cohen, Lander and Wittstein meet regularly regarding community issues such as kashrut (Rabbi Cohen supervises the London Vaad Hakashrut)

"We do not get into issues regarding Jewish law [but rather] how we can make the Jewish community of London stronger," said Rabbi Cohen.

His Reform colleague, Rabbi Wittstein, said there is "a real sense of collegiality" among the three rabbis. "We get along well and we get along easily." Working together allows them to keep a finger on the pulse of the community and offer support where needed, he added.

"We can't always have the same service together, but it's nice to get together for the parts we can get together for," said Rabbi Lander. "Obviously, if the three rabbis are in agreement and have the goodwill, then things like a community kiddush can happen."

And it did, over herring, cookies and cake.

Berk hopes to run a second community kiddush in June. "Everybody said we should do it again."

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Yevgeny Finkelshteyn
- Department of Nuclear Engineering, first year
- Born in Russia. Family lives in Ashkelon.
  Teaches Hebrew to a 16 year old Russian immigrant.

From the Judy Feld Carr Scholarship Endowment Fund for students from Arab countries

Gilad Malka
- Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, first year
- Born in Israel in "Moshav Ohad". His late father was from Morocco; mother is from Syria.
  Volunteers at Soroka Medical Center, BGU's teaching hospital of 800 beds.

From the Maximilian and Gerda Gottlieb Scholarship Endowment Fund

Tatyana Sheynis
- Department of Chemistry, first year
- Born in Russia. Immigrated to Israel in 1992. Lives with her family in Beersheva.
  Tutors Bela, 10 years old, who has learning disabilities.

These students and many more are grateful for the support they receive without which they would be unable to pursue higher education. Last year, nearly two-thirds of all needy students who qualified for financial aid were refused for lack of funds. The need for scholarships remains a top priority.

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Scene in Ottawa

By G.K. SIMCOE

The questions may have been clumsy and insensitive, but it should come as no surprise that pollsters focus on ethnic nuances when profiling a political riding. This is especially true when the riding is newly created, as is the case in the Ontario provincial riding of Thornhill.

The initial spin the story received, and the one which prompted a public response by the Ontario branch of Canadian Jewish Congress, sees such polling as unreasonably targeting an ethnic community.

The flip side is that it suggests the latent potency of any minority that is even moderately well-organized.

Every political riding, be it federal, provincial or municipal, has a particular character. Parties routinely attempt to field candidates who will resonate well in that riding – even if this occasionally creates friction in the party's internal nomination process.

Based on the numbers, there are almost two dozen federal ridings across the country in which the Jewish population is statistically significant. To a pollster, this kind of insight is pure gold and the potential it represents is "way puissant."

In this context, the recent tempest in Thornhill takes on an entirely different meaning. Despite having already gone through a process that resulted in the nomination of Tina Molinari, the provincial Tories had second thoughts. Did the Liberals have an intrinsic advantage heading into the provincial election simply because their candidate was a Jew and a child of a Holocaust survivor? In an election that all pundits expect to be extremely close, every riding counts.

So what was characterized as insulting may well have been nothing more than the grittier side of politics. It is curious that the principals involved in the incident all chose to publicly ignore this side of the coin.

Whatever the reasons, for the Jewish community the implications should be very clear. As the saying goes: "Use it or lose it."

There is an impression that Jews have become complacent about their place in the political arena. There are ridings across Canada in which Jewish candidates would be most attractive for any political party. There are ridings whose composition provide the organized community with significant leverage on policy issues – if it is used judiciously and responsibly.

Harnessing that capacity requires a degree of organization and unity. That's a fairly precious dividend on its own. Once the loss of influence and access to the political world is factored into the equation it would almost be irresponsible not to become more visibly engaged in the process.

G.K. Simcoe is a pseudonym.

Consumers enjoy taste treat at Kosher Fare

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — When is a vegetable unkosher?

According to Rabbi Ely Braun, there is no such thing as an unkosher vegetable – yet. With the rapid advances being made in genetic engineering, however, there may be a different answer in the future.

This was one of the many questions that arose during a panel discussion by Rabbi Braun, Rabbi Arnold Fine and Rabbi Howard Finkelstein, as part of the day-long Kosher Fare 1999 held recently.

Rabbi Zischa Shaps, founder of Jewish Education through Torah (JET), which co-sponsored the event with the Soloway Jewish Community Centre in cooperation with the Ottawa Vaad HaKashruth, said, "our goal is that people will find that it is not as difficult to keep kosher as they think, and that more people will buy kosher products and keep a kosher home."

To that end, kosher caterers, hotels and retail establishments set up displays and booths to showcase their wares.

People wandered around, enjoyed samples of the various products and took part in educational workshops such as kashering for Pesach.

One of the highlights was a kosher wine tasting presented by a representative of the LCBO.

Irwin Schweitzer, who chaired the organizing committee, and is an accomplished cook, was pleased with the vast array of kosher products. "Hunting for kosher products on the shelves in my local grocery stores will be all the more enjoyable now that I have seen all the products available," he said.

Not all the displays were edible. Cathy Levine and Brian Levitan represented Melaleuca of Canada which handles a line of household cleaning products that carry the Star-K symbol. "We came because we wanted an opportunity to let the kosher consumers know that these products, which are also non-toxic and environmentally friendly, are available here. More and more people are sensitive to additives and to the environment, and these products are totally natural, says Levine."

Throughout the day, children had a variety of programs and kosher treats such as cotton candy.

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Elwy Yost's producer a consummate movie buff

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Call her the woman behind the man.

Elwy Yost is the genial host and face of TVOntario's *Saturday Night at the Movies*, which marks its 25th anniversary this month. Risa Shuman, the series producer, toils in anonymity, but relishes every minute of it. "It's been the most perfect job," she says.

Shuman, who arrived at TVOntario in 1973 fresh from York University's first graduating class in film, is a consummate movie buff.

Practically weaned on double features in Hamilton's now-extinct Capitol Theatre, she seems to live for movies.

"My extracurricular activities have always involved films," explains Shuman, a member of the Jewish Film Society's board. "On holidays, I go to film festivals. At home, I rent films."

Shuman, who grew up reading her father's copy of *Variety*, the bible of the entertainment industry, is a walking encyclopedia.

Yost hired her as a researcher because she was the only person to have noticed that *King Kong*, the Hollywood classic he had just aired, was missing a sequence. "Risa," gushes Yost, "knows movies like no one else." She returns the compliment. "He's like my second dad."

Although they have worked together since 1974, Shuman caught her first glimpse of Yost in 1966, when she was a Grade 11 student. "I used to race home from school to catch a TV series called *Passport to Adventure*, which he hosted and featured movies with an adventurous feel to them."

In 1981, she was named associate producer. Five years later, she was appointed co-producer. By then, she was also producing *Film International*, which specializes in foreign films. When Yost retired from his permanent position at TVOntario in 1987, she replaced him as series producer.

Shuman, who has been a juror at Canadian, Spanish and Scottish film festivals, believes that *Saturday Night at the Movies'* greatest achievement has been "to bring films from the late, late show" ghetto into a mainstream setting. "For years," she observes, "no one cared about these films, and now they're very desirable."

Saturday Night at the Movies also spawned a host of imitators, from the American Movie Channel to The Movie Network.

Shuman, single at 47, chooses the films and the guests, and administers the budget. She works with a writer, a researcher and a director. Accompanied by Yost and writer Michael Leo, she spends a week in Los Angeles once a year filming interviews.

On average, the show attracts 250,000 viewers per week, which she considers "pretty remarkable." Its highest-rated films have been Alfred Hitchcock's *North by Northwest*, followed closely by *Vertigo*, *Jaws* and *The Bridge on the River Kwai*. They each posted an audience exceeding 500,000 and, she boasts, bested *Hockey Night in Canada* in the Ontario market.

Risa Shuman

Specializing in American and British classics, *Saturday Night at the Movies* has run its share of Jewish-interest films, from *The Pawnbroker* and *Gentleman's Agreement* to *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *The House of Rothschild*.

On *Film International*, Shuman has showcased Israeli films like Gila Almagor's *The Summer of Aviya* and *Under the Domim Tree*.

It may come as a surprise that Shuman does not have access to some films. Complicated copyright issues and financial considerations are only part of the problem. Another factor is that specialty movie channels have drained existing stocks. "For instance, we used to be able to buy a lot of MGM films, but no more."

Shuman's favorite film is *The Wizard of Oz*, which she calls "the most perfect film ever made." She has seen it at least 30 times.

She also thinks highly of *On the Waterfront*, *Annie Hall*, *Hester Street*, *Crossing Delancey* and *American Graffiti*, among others.

She credits her father Milt for having introduced her to movies.

"He used to let me stay up late at night and watch movies on TV," she recalls. And on weekends, to give his paralyzed wife Miriam a break, he would deposit Shuman and her sister Linda, in a theatre and pick them up hours later. The chaperone would usually be their grandmother.

These nostalgic memories still glow in Shuman's heart and, perhaps subliminally, exert a tremendous influence in shaping the tone of *Saturday Night at the Movies*.

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Features

Novelist creates Chagall-like landscape of shtetl life

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Asked how she's handling her new-found fame, Lilian Nattel quaintly blushes. "Fame is very relative," she manages. "I don't feel famous. I still take the subway, which drives my agent crazy.

"Actually, it's very nerve-wracking. I'm afraid it's all a dream, and that I'll wake up."

It's no dream, although Nattel's first novel, already a runaway hit with critics and readers, has been called dream-like. *The River Midnight* (Knopf, 414 pages, $32), an astonishing accomplishment for a first-time novelist, is Nattel's loving paean to her pre-Holocaust, Polish shtetl roots.

The book has been greeted with gushing reviews across North America and Britain, topped off by a rich endorsement from *Time* magazine. It reached number 4 on *MacLean's* bestseller list and is making the climb into the top 10 on the prestigious Independent Bookseller's list. It's also been a Book-of-the-Month Club alternate selection.

Fresh from a series of whirlwind media interviews, the 42-year-old ex-Montrealer and former accountant, sits in her modest kitchen in Toronto's Annex, wraps her small hands around a cup of hot tea, and reflects on a book that for all its success, was almost not written.

"I was really resistant to writing this," Nattel says. "I didn't want to be 'a Jewish writer.'" What was she afraid of? "I'm not sure I have a rational answer. I guess I was afraid of preconceptions, of being stereotyped.

"Another aspect had to do with finding my voice as someone who grew up after the Holocaust. I had a great uncertainty as to how to express myself as a Jewish woman after the Holocaust. It really was a matter of not being ready."

Ready or not, Nattel has produced a lushly textured portrayal of the vibrant, seething, chaotic, noisy, Yiddish 19th-century world of Blaszka, a fictional shtetl northwest of Warsaw, where prayer, sex, food, music and ritual collide in a cacophony of life that is no more.

Nattel's skilful recreation of a vanished world takes the reader into the lives of dozens of Jewish families working, praying, gossiping and even enjoying marital infidelities. Blaszka is populated with unforgettable characters, most importantly, four women who grew up as *vilda hayahs* (wild children) and took different paths to womanhood.

There's the barren Hanna-Leah, who runs her husband's butcher shop and loves to dream and dip into the Polnocna (Midnight) River; Faygele's eldest child is in jail for spreading "radical" political ideas; Zisa-Sara dies in the strange new world of America, and her orphaned children are returned to the village to be raised by friends.

Straddling it all like a colossus is earthy, iron-willed Misha, the midwife who divorces her husband and heretically refuses to reveal the father of her child, born on the eve of Yom Kippur.

Dotting the Chagall-like landscape are Russians, rabbis, gentiles, pedlars, poets, shlemiels and shlemazels. Each of the nine chapters is told from a different point of view, complete with Yiddish flourishes, and the author doesn't skimp on rich detail used to describe food preparation, religious ritual, family routine and even sexual attitudes.

The result is a celebration of a lost way of life, one that valued scholarship, charity and toughness. Despite the threat of pogroms, despite the poverty and mud and disease, the denizens of Blaszka maintain a dignity and strong sense of community.

Even hard-bitten critics haven't

Lillian Nattel

been able to resist comparisons of *The River Midnight* to Shalom Aleichem and Isaac Bashevis Singer.

"Now," Nattel smiles triumphantly, " I feel very differently about things. I see my being Jewish as something that nourishes me. And it can nourish me in anything I choose to write."

It almost sounds as though the author pines for the shtetl of her own Polish grandparents.

"Oh no!" she protests. "There was terrible poverty and disease. Women were oppressed. The book is set between pogroms. It was no fun. It's much better to be Canadian."

Nattel confesses that had she known, prior to sitting down to a keyboard, how much research was required for the book, she may have passed.

"I thought it would take a year. I ended up reading over 100 books," including memoirs, fictional essays, letters, memorial books, the lyrics to folksongs and even prayers written for women. Everything is historically accurate, but from my point of view."

Nattel loves "her" women.

Based loosely on stories she heard of her mother's friends, the women of Blaszka are the glue that holds the village together. Misha is a mythic figure, larger than life, Nattel says, who represents some kind of powerful life-force. As for the sex, both the pre- and extra-marital variety, Nattel doesn't shy

Continued on page 59

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Food Ideas for Passover

Cookbook celebrates good times

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Elise Mecklinger, a librarian by profession, is a wife and mother of three sons, 19, 17 and 11. She is also a successful cookbook author.

Her first book, *Friendly Fare*, raised funds for the Doctors' Hospital, now part of The Toronto Hospital. *Celebrations* (Macmillan, 1998) will benefit the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

"I had all this energy," she said in her homey, yet efficient kitchen, full of family pictures and memorabilia, that was designed for her by husband Alan, a real estate developer. "I put my energy and creativity into cooking – every one appreciated and enjoyed it."

She decided that she wanted to partner her hobby, cooking, with her professional expertise, knowing how to do research projects. Hence, the cookbooks.

Celebrations offers "menus that celebrate good times with family and friends." She suggests foods, centrepieces, preparation schedules, and presentations.

"My goal was to give simple, entertaining menus to prove that you could put on an elegant spread without too much fuss. Events go from breakfast at the cottage, to afternoon tea, to childrens' parties, to family parties.

While some of the recipes are not kosher, many can be adapted.

While her husband doesn't cook, her three sons do. "They watched me cooking and just picked it up," she said.

Mecklinger and her lemon meringue curd.

Mecklinger has a Web site, full of menus, recipes, and health and fitness tips. The address is www.elisemecklinger.com.

She has prepared a seder menu for this supplement. You will find the recipes original, appealing and best of all, not complicated.

PEAR AND MANGO CHAROSET

2 medium-sized pears, cored and coarsely chopped
1 tbsp. lemon juice
1 cup fresh mango, peeled and diced
½ cup raisins
¼ cup walnuts
½ tsp. cinnamon
1 tbsp. honey
1 tbsp. sweet Passover wine

Place pears in a mixing bowl and sprinkle with lemon juice.

Place all ingredients, except for the wine, in the work bowl of a food processor.

Pulse once or twice.

Transfer mixture to a mixing bowl. Stir in wine. Cover and refrigerate at least one hour before serving.

This recipe yields about 2-3 cups, or 12 servings.

PASSOVER MINESTRONE SOUP WITH MINI MATZOH BALLS

¼ cup vegetable oil
2 tbsp. minced fresh garlic
1 small onion, cut in ¼-inch cubes
1 leek (white part and 1 inch green), quartered lengthwise and cut into thin slices
2 carrots, peeled and cut into ¼-inch rounds
2 small zucchinis cut in ½-inch cubes
1 small sweet potato cut in ½-inch cubes
7 cups chicken stock
28 oz. can tomatoes
½ cup chopped fresh parsley
¼ cup chopped fresh basil
salt and pepper to taste

In a large saucepan, heat oil over medium heat. Saute garlic, onion, leek, carrots, zucchini, and sweet potato over medium heat for 5 minutes. Add broth and tomatoes. Bring to a boil.

Reduce heat to medium low. Add parsley and basil.

Cover and simmer for 1½ hours. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Mini Matzoh Balls

2 tbsp. pareve margarine
1 bunch green onions, thinly sliced, green parts removed
4 large eggs
2 tbsp. vegetable oil
1 tsp. salt
¼ tsp. pepper
1 cup matzah meal
6 cups water or chicken stock

In a medium skillet, heat margarine over medium heat. Add onion and sauté until wilted, about 2-3 minutes. Set aside.

Continued on page 33

OPEN WINDOW Health Bread Bakery

Yesterday...Today...Tomorrow...
ALWAYS...The Best Quality Baking

Max & Rose Feig, Gail Agasi, and their Families, and staff of OPEN WINDOW Health Bread Bakery wish you all a Happy and Healthy Passover

WE ARE PLEASED TO OFFER THESE PRODUCTS FOR THE PASSOVER HOLIDAY

PASSOVER SPECIAL
FRIDAY, MARCH 26TH TO WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7TH
PASSOVER RASPBERRY, LEMON AND CHOCOLATE FILLED ROLLS $ 4.49

FILLED MACAROONS
WHITE COCONUT FILLED WITH CHOCOLATE ALMOND FILLING AND CHOCOLATE MACAROON FILLED WITH ALMOND FILLING

MACAROONS BY THE KILO
WHITE COCONUT
CHOCOLATE COCONUT
CHOC. DRIZZLE COCONUT
ALMOND MACAROONS
PURE FANCY ALMOND
(100% pure almond, no filler)

COOKIES BY THE KILO
DOUBLE ALMOND
PECAN CHOC. CRISPS
BIARRITZ WAFER
ALMOND BUTTONS
MANDELBROT
ALMOND BISC.-JAM
ALMOND BISC.-NUTS

INDIVIDUAL CAKES
CHEESE CARROT CAKE
CHOCOLATE FUDGE CAKE
1/2 & 1/2 LAYER CAKE
DOUBLE DIP LAYER CAKE
MARBLE CHIFFON
STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE
GOURMET BANANA
HONEY CAKE (IND.)
SPONGE (IND.)
SUNSHINE (SMALL)
SUNSHINE (LARGE)
CHOCOHOLIC'S DELIGHT

PIES & ROLLS
DUTCH APPLE PIE
DUTCH CHERRY PIE
LEMON MERINGUE PIE
RASPBERRY ROLL
LEMON ROLL
CHOCOLATE ROLL

SLABS (Single Slab)
SPONGE SLAB
HONEY SLAB
MARBLE SLAB
LEMON SLAB

MISC.
RIBBON STRIP
CHOCOLATE CUP CAKE
MATZO BAGEL STICKS
ROUND MATZO BAGELS

For your convenience, please look for our products at these selected locations of OPEN WINDOW Health Bread Bakery

1125 Finch Ave. West
3507 Bathurst Street
9350 Yonge Street (Hillcrest Mall)

5986 Bathurst St. (Bathurst Village Plaza)
534 Lawrence Ave. W. (Lawrence Plaza)
594 Sheppard Ave. W. (Sheppard Plaza)
947 Eglinton Ave. W.

6250 Yonge St., U.113 (Centrepoint Mall)
300 John Street (Thornhill Square)
2900 Steeles Ave. W. (Shoppes on Steeles & 404)

and these fine supermarkets and specialty stores

Loblaw's Bayview Village Mall
Deli "N" Desserts 355 Don Mills Rd.
Selected Fortinos

Highland Farms
Longo Brothers Fruit Market
Concord Foodmarket
NKM Chapman 309 York Mills Road

Sisters Deli, Hamilton
The Barn Fruit Markets, Hamilton
Wynford Market Place (60 Wynford Heights)

Food Ideas for Passover

Cookbook celebrates good times with family, friends

Continued from page 32

In a large mixing bowl, whisk together eggs, oil, salt and pepper with a wire whisk. Stir in matzah meal mixture. Cover and refrigerate until firm, about 2 hours.

Line a large cookie sheet with a sheet of wax paper. Dip hands into cold water and roll rounded teaspoons of matzah mixture into balls. Place on sheet, chill 30 minutes.

In a large saucepan, bring water/stock to a boil. Slip the matzah balls into the broth/water. Reduce heat to simmer. Cover and cook about 35 minutes. Remove with a slotted spoon.

This recipe yields 8-12 servings.

OVEN BARBEQUED BRISKET

Barbeque Sauce

1 cup ketchup
3 tbsp. lemon juice
¼ cup apple juice
¼ cup Passover brown sugar
2 tbsp. honey
2 tsp. minced fresh garlic
1 tbsp. oil
½ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. pepper

In a medium saucepan, heat all ingredients over low heat. Stir with a wire whisk until thoroughly blended, about 7-10 minutes.

1 4-5 lb. single brisket
Salt, pepper, paprika
2 large onions, cut in chunks
2 large carrots, peeled, cut in 1-inch chunks
1 head garlic, cloves peeled and separated

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Sprinkle brisket with salt, pepper, and paprika.

Place onions, carrots and garlic cloves in the bottom of a roasting pan. Place brisket over top. Pour sauce over brisket. Cover and roast for 3½-4 hours. If sauce appears to be evaporating, add a little water to the pan. Remove lid and cook another 30 minutes or until the brisket is fork tender.

It is a good idea to make a brisket the day before. Slice it cold and spoon sauce over top. Reheat covered in 350 degree oven for 30-45 minutes until hot.

SPINACH CUPCAKES

1 tbsp. oil
½ cup onion cut in ½-inch cubes
1 cup mushrooms, thinly sliced
1 cup carrots, peeled, cut in ¼-inch rounds
2-3 cups cooked spinach
2 tsp. minced fresh garlic
4 eggs, lightly beaten
½ cup matzah meal
¼ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. pepper

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a large skillet heat oil over medium heat. Saute onion, mushrooms, and carrots for 3-5 minutes. Add spinach and garlic and saute another 2-3 minutes.

Place eggs in a large mixing bowl. Add veggie mixture and thoroughly mix together with a wooden spoon. Add matzah meal and stir until well blended.

Pour mixture into greased muffin tins (about 12-16). Bake for 45 minutes.

Use 8 egg whites instead of the 4 eggs to lower the cholesterol consumption.

BROCCOLI STUFFED KNISHES

1 tsp. oil
1 onion, cut in ½-cubes
½ tsp. minced fresh garlic
2 cups mashed potatoes, or 1 cup mashed potatoes and 1 cup mashed sweet potato
2 tbsp. potato starch
½ cup matzah meal
2 eggs, or 4 egg whites
¾ tsp. salt
½ tsp. pepper
2 cups cooked broccoli, finely chopped
1 egg beaten

Continued on page 49

CHAI

KOSHER POULTRY

A Product of Quality . . . A Respect for Tradition

CHAI KOSHER

- CHICKENS
- TURKEYS
- CORNISH HENS
- DUCKS

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COR 218

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Toronto, Ontario M4M 3K8

Tel. 416-462-1313
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HAVE YOUR SEDER PREPARED BY

LE KING'S CATERING
Adath Sholom Synagogue
864 Sheppard Ave. West,
(Sheppard & Wilmington)
PH# 416-635-0432

Glatt Kosher

PASSOVER MENU

All Dinner Menus include soup and salad, gefilte fish or chopped liver, two Vegetables and Dessert from our A La Carte Menu - Minimum 10 person order

Menu #1
Roast chicken with Mushroom Gravy/or Chicken à l'orange/au citron $24.99 p.p.

Menu #2
New York Roast Beef with Red Wine Sauce/or Brisket of Beef sliced with mushroom sauce $29.99 p.p.

Menu #3
Roast chicken and New York Roast Beef with Red Wine Sauce $39.99 p.p.

Menu #4
Roast Turkey with Red Currant Sauce/and Salmon Terriyaki $44.00 p.p.

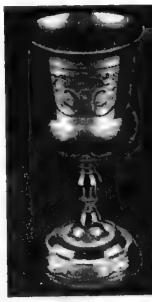
A LA CARTE

Appetizers, Soups, Salads		Main Entrees and Side Dishes	
Chicken Soup with parsley	$ 3.50 Litre	Salmon Teriyaki	$10.25 Each
Matzo Balls	$ 8.00 Dozen	(6 oz dinner portion)	
Garden Vegetable Soup	$ 6.00 Litre	Roast Chicken (whole one)	$18.00 Each
Gefilte Fish Loaf	$50.00 Each	Chicken à l'orange/au Citron	$ 6.00 Portion
(20 portions) & horseradish		Glazed Cornish Hen	$13.00 Each
Gefilte Fish (1 portion)	$ 3.25 Each	Chicken Schnitzel	$13.75 Lb
Chopped liver & Onions	$ 8.50 Lb	Chicken Fingers	$13.75 Lb
Mushroom Crepes	$ 2.25 Each	Roast Turkey	$65.00 Each
Sweet & Sour Meatballs	$ 9.00 Lb	(Whole not cut up 8-10 lbs)	
Garden Salad with Italian	$ 3.25 Person	New York Roast Beef	$21.00 Lb
Vinaigrette Dressing		with Wine Sauce	
Italian Vinaigrette Dressing	$ 9.00 Litre	Brisket of Beef sliced	$19.00 Lb
Cucumber Salad	$ 5.50 Lb	with mushroom sauce	
Coleslaw, creamy or regular	$ 4.50 Lb	Roasted Potatoes/or	$ 6.95 Lb
Potato Salad	$ 5.50 Lb	Parisienne Potatoes	
Fresh Fruit Salad	$ 5.50 Litre	Potato Kugel (6 portions)	$ 6.99 Pan
		Potato Vegetable Kugel	$ 6.99 Pan
		(6 portions)	
Passover Desserts		Cauliflower Kugel (6 portions)	$ 6.99 Pan
Fresh Fruit Trays	$29.99 Small	Farfel with Mushrooms Kugel	$ 8.99 Pan
	$59.99 Large	Honey Glazed Carrots with	$ 8.00 Lb
Macaroons/or	$ 7.29 Lb	pineapple & raisins	
Assorted Cookies		Fried Zucchini, or Cauliflower	$ 8.50 Lb
		Grilled Vegetables-Zucchini,	$ 3.95 Portion
Call For All Other Baked Goods		Eggplant, & Red Peppers	

All orders must be placed by March 24/99 - All orders must be picked up no later than March 30/99 - 6:00 p.m. All prices are subject to: 8% pst, 7% gst - *Wait staff available upon request*

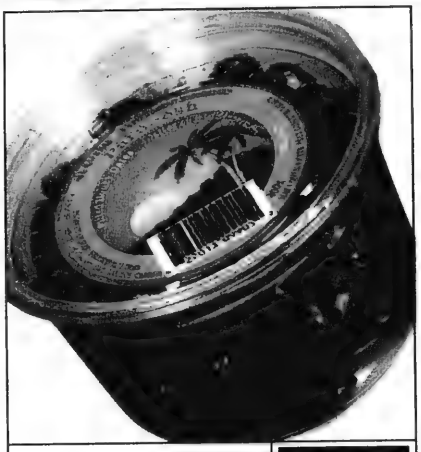
Receive a complimentary Seder Plate with orders over $250.00

A Very Happy & Kosher Pesach To All Our Valued Customers & Friends

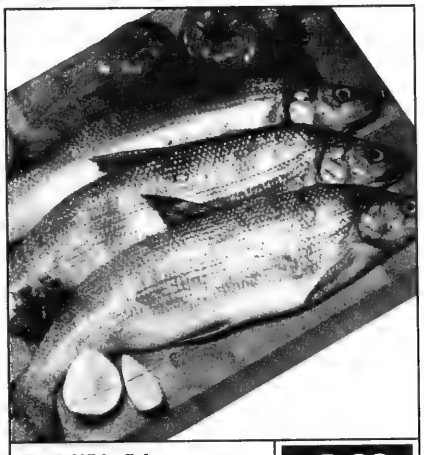


HAPPY PASSOV

Wishing all our customers and friends a very Happy and Hea



Honey Dates
1.99 400 g

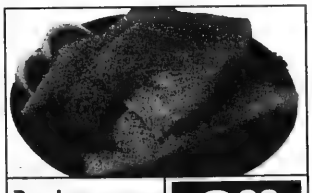


Fresh Whitefish
Whole, Dressed
Lake Winnipeg
.64/100 g
2.88 lb

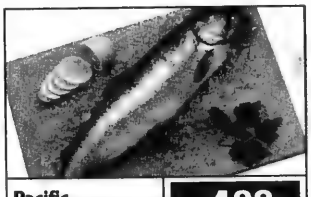
Tirosh Grape Juices
3.99 or LESS

Prime Rib Roasts
or Steaks, Cap Removed
Fresh, Glatt Kosher
17.61/kg
7.99 lb

T&A Salad Time Salad Mix
Product of U.S.A.
Ready To Serve
1.99 pkg



Boneless Salmon Fillets
Fresh Farm Raised
Skinless, Atlantic
3.88 170 g portion



Pacific Salmon
Frozen, Whole Dressed
.41/100 g
1.88 lb

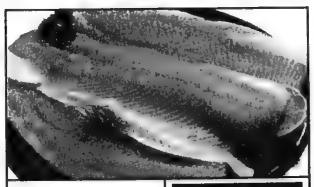
Smucker's Strawberry Jam
1.88 250 mL jar

Lieber Potato Starch
1.37 16 oz pkg

Mott's Apple Sauce
Regular or Unsweetened
2.48 978 g-1.02 kg jar

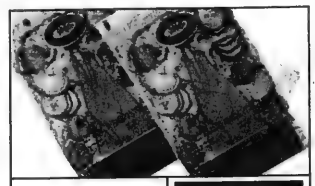
Old South Orange Juice
Frozen Concentrated
Assorted Varieties
355 mL tin
.99

Smoked Red Spring Salmon
Sliced, Frozen, Raincoast
2.88 85 g pkg



Rainbow Trout Fillets
Fresh Farm Raised
1.52/100 g
6.88 lb

Whitefish Fillets
Fresh
1.30/100 g
5.88 lb



Smoked Sockeye Salmon
Sliced, Frozen
Master Choice
9.88 198.5 g pkg

VER

DUNDAS
• 110 Osler Drive
University Plaza, at Hwy 2 & Hwy 8
905-628-0172

DOWNSVIEW
• 600 Sheppard Avenue*
Sheppard Plaza, at Bathurst & Sheppard
416-636-5136

LONDON
• 1030 Adelaide Street, N.*
Adelaide Centre, at Cheapside & Adelaide
519-672-8994

NORTH YORK
• 3090 Bathurst Street*
Lawrence Plaza, at Lawrence
416-783-1227

• 291 York Mills*
York Mills Centre, at Bayview & York Mills
416-444-5809

TORONTO
• 2760 Bathurst Street*
between Glencairn & Viewmount
416-785-1920

THORNHILL
• 300 John Street*
Thornhill Square, Greenlane at Bayview & John
905-886-0983

WINDSOR
• 2750 Tecumseh Road, W.*
University Mall, at Huron & Church
519-256-1891

*Kosher Meat available only at these stores.

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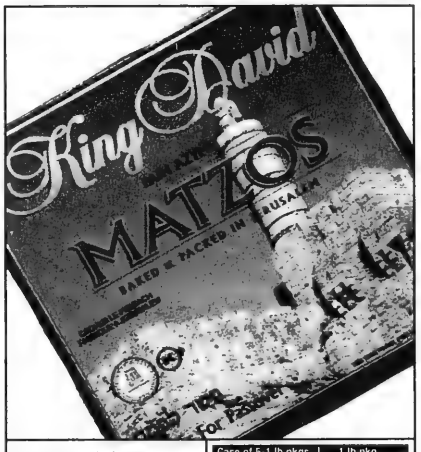
althy Passover. Prices effective thru to Friday, April 9, 1999. We're fresh obsessed.

obsessed.

Fresh or Frozen Turkeys or Fresh Whole Chickens
Chai Kosher
4.39/kg
1.99 lb

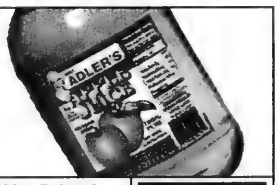


King David's Carmel or Jerusalem Matzo
Case of 5-1 lb pkgs: 9.95 OR LESS
1 lb pkg: 1.99 OR LESS

Menorah Sabbath Candles
pkg of 72
3.31 OR LESS

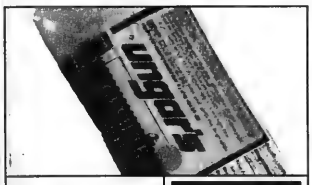
Crispy-O's Fruit Cereal
Plain, Chocolate or Fruit Flavoured
2.99 5.5 oz box

Streit's or Manischewitz Macaroons
10 oz tin
4.45 OR LESS



Haddar, Rokeach, Kedem or Mrs. Adler's Apple Juice
1.95 64 fl oz btl

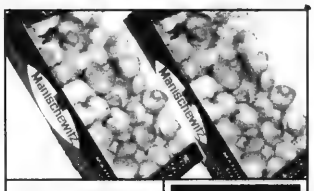
Nescafe Instant Coffee
Rich Blend Only
3.97 200 g jar



Ungar's or Benz Gefilte Fish
Frozen
4.88 624 g-680 g pkg

Streit's Potato Chips
Salted, Unsalted or Ripple
5 oz bag
.97

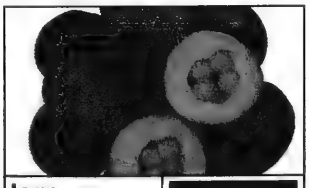
Streit's or Manischewitz Cake Meal, Matzo Farfel or Matzo Meal
3.95 16 oz pkg



Streit's, Haddar or Manischewitz Soup Nuts
1.95 1.75 oz pkg

Classic Beef Frankfurters
Aaron's Best, Kosher
3.79 450 g pkg

All Beef Salami Chub
Perl's
7.99 750 g pkg



Large Cantaloupes
Product of the Tropics
No. 1 Grade
2.99 each

Bulk Beets
Product of Ontario
Canada No. 1
.86/kg
lb .39

Food Ideas for Passover

Look no farther, kosher Passover products listed here

This Passover listing is a non-profit service to the Jewish community. COR certification assures the consumer that products under its supervision are prepared according to the Jewish dietary laws. This is one of the many ongoing services of the Kashruth Council in providing education and information on kashrut and the availability of supervised and certified products and services.

The following products and services are under Passover supervision of the Toronto Rabbinical Vaad Hakashruth when bearing a COR Kosher for Passover label.

Baked goods available at: Carmel Bakery; Hermes Bakery; IGA (Clark store); Sweet York Desserts.

Beverages*: Coca-Cola Ltd.: Coca-Cola Classic; Canada Dry Ginger Ale.

**Diet Coke contains aspartame (kitnyos derived); therefore, it has been approved by Kashruth Ontario Sephardim [KOS] for use by Sephardim.*

Coffee: Nescafe Richblend Instant Coffee; Nescafe Decaf Instant Coffee.

Fruit salad and frozen ice desserts: Amber Foods Ltd.; C.A. Fruit Products Ltd.; Marcee's Sweets – fruit ices, ice cream; Metropolitan Ice Cream – fruit ices.

Honey and sugar: Billy Bee Honey Products Ltd.; Redpath Sugars.

Margarine/oil products: Vegarine (pareve).

Pickled and marinated products: Feature Foods Ltd.; Strub Brothers Ltd.

Salt: The Canadian Salt Company Ltd. (Windsor Salt); Sifto Canada Inc.

Dairy products: Astro Dairy Products Ltd. – cream cheese New York style, pressed cottage cheese, sour cream, yogurts; Beatrice – milk, 10 percent cream; Cheese Lovers Hard Cheeses; Fieldfresh Farms Inc. – milk; Great Canadian Hard Cheeses; Kofman-Barenholtz Foods – Galilee Hard Cheese; Lana Brand – cream cheese, cottage cheese, sour cream, skim yogurt, table yogurt; Neilson – milk, coffee cream; Western Creamery – Birds Hill Sour Cream; Mandels Brand – cream cheese, pressed cheeses; Western Creamery – Mashlanka Buttermilk, Pressed Cheese; Western Creamery – Mashlanka buttermilk, pressed cheeses, cream cheese (regular, with green onions, light and bakers), sour cream, yoggi, yogurt.

Nuts and dried fruit: Parnoosh Dates; Royal Nuts (assortment of nuts available); Targol Nuts (variety of kinds available).

Fish products: Central Epicure – chopped fish, smoked salmon, smoked lox; Feature Foods Ltd; Strub Brothers Ltd.

Fish markets: IGA, 441 Clark Ave. W.; Gershon's Fish Market, 3019 Bathurst St.; Hartman's Glatt Kosher Meats, 5974 Bathurst St.; The Fish Emporium, 3462 Bathurst St.

Airline meals: All meals served on the airlines during Pesach are specially sealed and stamped "COR Kosher l'Pesach." Peter Graben Caterers supplies Passover foods to airlines. *Kosher for Passover meals must be requested by your travel agent or airline in advance.*

Caterers and take-out foods: Adath Sholom, Le King's Catering; Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am, Miriam's Table; Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda, Zuchter Berk Creative Caterers; Beth Sholom, GMB Culinary Productions; Beth Torah, Levy's Catering; Beth Tzedec, Caterers York Ltd.; Shaarei Tefillah, Rose Lazar Catering Services; Ely's Fine Foods; IGA (Clark store); L'echaim Caterers; Malmar Fine Foods/Catering; Perl's Meat Products Ltd.; Peter Graben Fine Foods; Rachel's Catering; Stroli's.

Butcher shops – Poultry and delicatessen products: IGA, Clark and Hilda; B. Goldstein Products, 308 Wilson Ave.; Hartman's Glatt Kosher Meats, 5974 Bathurst St.; Manor Kosher Meats, 662 Sheppard Ave.; Perl's Meat Products, 3015 Bathurst St.; Perl's Meat Products, 7700 Bathurst St.; Prime Kosher Meats, 270 Wilson Ave.; Stroli's Strictly Kosher Foods, 3459 Bathurst St.

Fresh and frozen packaged meat/poultry: Check all packaged meats for the COR symbol. Price Chopper, Bathurst and Steeles.

Hotels for Pesach: Niagara

Continued on page 40

ELY'S

FINE FOODS
3537 Bathurst Street
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2C7
Tel. 782-3231
Fax 782-0466

בס"ד
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TRUST ELY'S TO FILL YOUR PASSOVER TABLE WITH GOODNESS! HERE IS OUR COMPLETE
PASSOVER MENU

ALL PRICES ARE PER LB. UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED

SALADS
Eggplant with Peppers ... $6.99
Greek Marinated Eggplant ... $6.99
Marinated Eggplant with Onions ... $6.99
Creamy Eggplant ... $6.99
Sweet Roasted Peppers .. $7.99
Hot Roasted Peppers ... $7.99
Pickled Jalapeno Peppers $8.99
Sweet Madbuja ... $6.99
Hot Spicy Madbuja ... $6.99
Carrot Salad ... $4.99
Cucumber Salad ... $3.99
Eggplant & Mushrooms $7.99
Coleslaw ... $2.49
Creamy Coleslaw ... $2.79
Garden Coleslaw ... $3.99
Potato Salad ... $2.59
Marinated Mushrooms .. $6.99
Red Cabbage Salad ... $3.99
Israeli Salad ... $4.99
Egg Salad ... $4.99
Tuna Salad ... $5.99
Marinated Vegetables ... $6.99

MAIN COURSES
Honey Garlic Wings ... $6.99
BBQ Chicken Wings ... $6.99
Spicy Buffalo Wings ... $6.99
BBQ Chickens ... $4.99
Roast Veal ... $17.99
Roast Beef Brisket ... $16.99
Meat Loaf (Beef) ... $8.99
Meat Loaf (Stuffed with Chicken) ... $9.99
Chicken Cutlets ... $11.99
Chicken Fingers ... $11.99
Roast Lemon Chicken Quarters ... $6.99
Stuffed Cornish Hens ea. $8.99
Sweet & Sour Meatballs $8.99
Chicken Balls Mandarin $8.99
Chicken with Olives ... $8.99
Crispy Sesame Beef ... $14.99
Turkey Roll ... $16.99
Boneless Stuffed Chicken Breast ea. ... $6.99
Chinese Lemon Chicken Breast ... $11.99
Crispy Chicken Wings .. $6.99
Honey Chili Chicken ... $11.99
Beef & Broccoli ... $10.99
Oriental Pepper Steak ... $12.99
General Tsao Chicken .. $11.99
Honey Garlic Spare Ribs $10.99
Chicken with Vegetables .. $9.99

ENTREES & SIDE DISHES
Vegetable Blintzes (Montreal) ... 6 for $6.99
Mushroom Blintzes (Montreal) ... 6 for $6.99
Potato Blintzes (Montreal) ... 6 for $6.99
Mini Potato Latkes . doz. $5.99
Mini Vegetables Latkes doz. ... $6.99
Vegetable Quiche ... ea. $4.99
Farfel Kugel - Montreal ea. $5.99
Apple Kugel - Montreal ea. $5.99
Ely's Potato Kugel ... ea. $3.49
Ely's Sweet Kugel .... ea. $4.99
Shepherd's Pie ... ea. $6.99
Chopped Liver ... $5.99
Tzimmes ... 1/2 lb. $3.50
Breaded Zucchini ... $5.99
Breaded Cauliflower ... $5.99
Breaded Eggplant ... $6.99
Breaded Mushrooms ... $6.99
Pastelitos (Beef Knishes) ea. $1.29
Chicken Crêpes ... ea. $2.50
Mushroom Crêpes .... ea. $2.50
Cabbage Rolls ... ea. $2.99
Ely's Potato Knishes ea. $1.29
Cornbeef Knishes .... ea. $1.49
Stuffed Peppers ... ea. $3.19
Rosemary Potatoes ... $5.99
Parisienne Potatoes ... $5.99
Potato Soufflé ... ea. $1.10
Chinese Stir-Fried Vegetables ... $6.99

FISH
Marinated Filet of Sole $12.99
Filet of Sole ... $11.99
Montreal Kosher Gefilte Fish 1 lb. loaf, ea. $6.99
Ely's Gefilte Fish (Sweet) ea. $2.59
Ely's Gefilte Fish (S & P) ea. $2.59
Oriental Fish Balls ... $10.99
Lemon Halibut Steak ... $10.99
Baked Carp ... $7.99
Baked Whitefish ... $6.99
Baked Salmon ... $10.99

SOUPS
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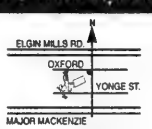

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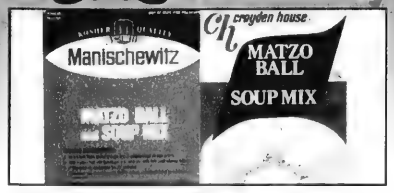

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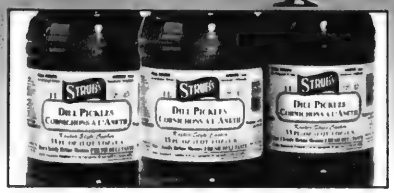

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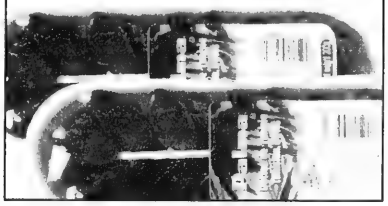

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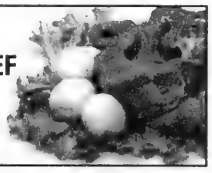

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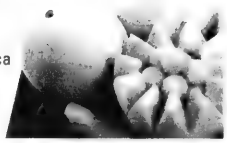

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Innovative recipes help cure Passover's matzah blues

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

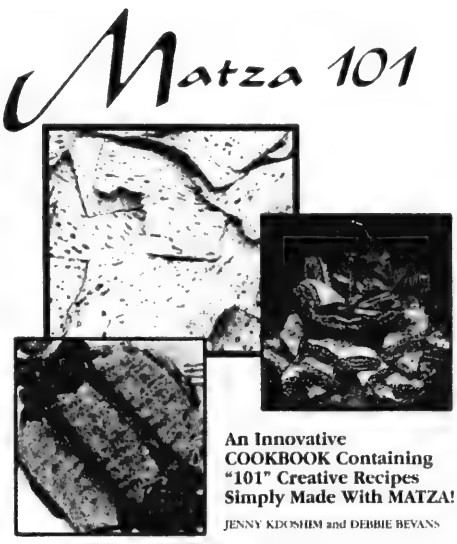
It's easy to get tired of matzah on Pesach. Sure, it's a mitzvah to eat it; it reminds us of our ancestors and the miracle that brought us out of Egypt, and it brings back memories of our past.

But it's still matzah.

That being said, *Matza 101*, by Jenny Kdoshim and Debbie Bevans (1997) offers a wide selection of recipes that highlight, well, matzah. There are Mexican and Italian recipes: dairy, pareve and fleischig; elaborate and plain.

Many of the recipes call for prepared matzah, for which you must soak the matzah until it is soft. With the soaked matzah, you can make dishes you wouldn't think possible on Pesach, such as Matzah Maple Pecan or Peach Raspberry Tarts, Salsa Cream Cheese Mousse and Veggie Calzones.

There are lush color plates, as well as black and white instructional photos. An excellent Pesach book, if at times a tad convoluted.


Matza 101
An Innovative COOKBOOK Containing "101" Creative Recipes Simply Made With MATZA!
JENNY KDOSHIM and DEBBIE BEVANS

MATZAH CHEESE LASAGNA

2 tbsp. oil or Passover spray
2 medium onions, finely chopped
1 celery stalk, finely chopped
6 garlic cloves, pressed
4 cups peeled tomatoes (fresh or canned)
4 cups Passover tomato sauce
½ cup Passover tomato paste
1 cup water
2 tbsp. lemon juice, fresh
1 tbsp. EACH basil and oregano, fresh or dried
salt and pepper to taste.

Preheat oven to 350. Heat oil over medium heat for about 30 seconds. Add onion and celery. Saute until limp and the onion is light brown. Add garlic, saute for about 30 seconds. Lower heat; add the remaining ingredients and let the sauce cook uncovered for about 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat and leave sauce uncovered. While the sauce cooks, prepare filling.

6 sheets matzah
2 cups cottage cheese
2 cups ricotta cheese
1½ cups grated mozzarella cheese
1 cup grated parmesan cheese
1 egg, beaten
⅛ tsp. nutmeg (if available for Passover)
1 tsp. black pepper
¼ cup chopped fresh parsley

Reserve ½ cup of the mozzarella cheese and ½ cup of the parmesan. Mix all the rest in a bowl, except matzah. Grease a 9x13x2 deep dish pan and place some of the tomato mixture in the bottom. Place two pieces of matzah over the sauce, side by side, and top with ⅓ cup cheese mixture, and top that with 1 cup sauce. Repeat the layering, ending with tomato sauce. Top with reserved mozzarella and parmesan cheeses. Place in oven for about 45 minutes. Let cool for about 15 minutes, and serve with extra sauce on the side. Serves 8.

MATZAH FRUIT PANCAKES

2 cups matzah scraps
1 cup milk
4 eggs, beaten
2 cups fruit, diced (apples, pears, peaches, etc.)
2 tbsp. sugar
4 tbsp. margarine
1½ cups sour cream
¼cup powdered sugar, if available for Passover

In a large bowl, break matzah into small pieces and combine with milk until liquid has been absorbed.

Add eggs, fruit, sugar, and mix well.

Continued on page 39

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Food Ideas for Passover

Kashruth Council issues guidelines on kosher products

The following is a guide to over-the-counter drugs and household products that may be used for Passover 1999/5759

As a service to the community, the Kashruth Council of Toronto has circulated a request to drug firms and other related manufacturers asking them to provide a list of ingredients in their products.

All products ingested during Passover should have a "Kosher for Passover" endorsement. If "Kosher for Passover" products are not available and there is a medical need for any of the products, the items should be used in separate utensils.

We have not supervised the production of these products, but from the information received, there appears to be no *chometz* in these listed products.

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

(a) Brown sugar and icing sugar should be used only with Passover supervision.

(b) Cosmetics, toiletries, soap, topical medications, which are in solid form or are thick creams, ointments and salves, may be used (preferably without perfume). Please consult your rabbi about wheat and oat based soaps.

(c) The following items, which are not fit for human consumption (preferably unscented, when applicable) are permissible on Passover (excluding Sabbath and Yom Tov). Nail polish, hand lotion, hand cream, cold cream, unscented baby lotion, baby cream, shampoo (without wheat), shoe polish, ink, paint, solid air freshener, nail polish remover, stick deodorants, eye shadow, eyeliner, mascara, blush and rouge, non-flavored new lipsticks.

(d) The following may contain chometz: Pet and fish food (i.e. hydrolysed vegetable protein, starch, etc.), baby powder. The following are chometz: Play Dough and Postum.

(e) Balloons and rubber gloves may have starches inside.

(f) Plastic bags and wraps do not need kosher supervision when used for cold food.

Generally, when taking medication during Passover, preference should be given to non-chewable tablets rather than liquids and chewable tablets. Many products contain ingredients that are only permitted to be used on Passover for medical reasons. A competent rav who is familiar with the information upon which this flyer is based must be consulted prior to the use of these products. If there is any item that you must take during Passover and it is not found with reliable Passover supervision, please contact your rav who may have additional information.

PRODUCTS:

Milk Enzyme: Lactaid tablets, caplets and drops should not be used on Passover. In case of great need, lactose-free milk should be purchased *before* Passover. Use separate utensils.

Infant Formula (Kitnyos): All infant formulas listed below should be used in separate utensils. Formula is available in liquid and powder. Check each container for a hechsher, since not all forms are kosher endorsed. Enfalac; Isomil; Prosobee; Similac, Enfamil.

Nutritional Supplements (Kitnyos): These products are not produced under Passover supervision. They should be used only when there is no alternative in consultation with a rabbi. Boost; Ensure; Isocal; Sustacal.

Oral Care: Kosher for Passover toothpaste is recommended. Johnson & Johnson dental floss (unwaxed and unflavored) Polident.

The following oral care products are kitnyos:

Toothpaste: Crest regular; Crest coolmint gel; Crest for Kids sparkle gel; Colgate regular; Colgate superstar; Colgate gel.

Continued on page 40

Matzah mozzarella melts

Continued from page 38

Over medium heat, place 2 tbsp. margarine in a medium-sized non-stick skillet. Make sure the skillet is heated before starting to cook pancakes.

Place ¼ cup of the fruit/matzah mixture in the hot skillet. Spread the mixture with the back of the spoon to somewhat flatten out pancake to about 3 to 4 inches. This will allow room for about 3 pancakes in your skillet at a time.

Cook about 3 min. on each side or until golden, then transfer onto a serving platter. Garnish with sour cream and powdered sugar.

MATZAH MOZZARELLA MELTS

4 matzah sheets
1½ cups mozzarella cheese, shredded
1 medium onion, sweet and sliced
½ cup canned mushrooms, sliced and drained
1 medium-sized tomato, thinly sliced

Place matzah on aluminum foiled broiler pan that has been lightly sprayed with non-stick vegetable spray. Evenly sprinkle shredded cheese over dry matzah, followed by sliced onions, then mushrooms, and finally sliced tomatoes. Place in broiler for 7 to 10 minutes, or until cheese has melted. 16 servings.

MATZAH CHOCOLATE CLUSTERS

3 cups semi-sweet chocolate pieces
4 cups matzah sheets, hand crumbled
2 cups salted nuts

In a double boiler, melt chocolate pieces over hot water. Bring water to a boil and continue to simmer until all chocolate has melted. (Or melt in the microwave). Once the chocolate has melted, set it aside and let cool at room temperature, about 15-20 minutes. Do not allow the chocolate to get hard. In a greased or buttered mixing bowl, combine melted chocolate, matzah and nuts. Stir this mixture until matzah is well coated with chocolate. Place a piece of waxed paper onto a 13x9 cookie sheet, which should be lightly coated with margarine or butter. Mixture will be sticky.

With wet hands, drop tablespoonful size of mixture onto cookie sheet and refrigerate for about 2 hours. Yields about 30.

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BBQ Chicken & Brisket
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Carrot Tzimmes
Broccoli & Mushrooms or
Green Beans Almondine
Cole Slaw, Dill Pickles
Matzo
Seder Plate
Fruit Salad Bowl
Sponge Cake or Honey Cake
Macaroons
$19.95/per person

A La Carte

Gefilte Fish - 2.99 piece
Chopped Liver - 4.98/lb.
Sweet & Sour Meatballs - 6.50 doz.
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BBQ Cornish Hen - 8.99
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Potato Kugel (9" round) - 7.99

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Honey Cake - 6.99
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Guidelines on kosher products

Continued from page 39

Denture Care: Fasteeth; Fixodent; Corega.

Mouthwash: Listerine – regular; coolmint; freshburst; Steri/Sol.

Rubber Gloves: Playtex; Rubbermaid.

Aluminum Products: Special Passover certification is not required; any brand bearing kosher endorsement may be used.

Paper plates: Use plastic or styrofoam plates for foods that contain moisture. Paper plates are permissible for cold, dry foods.

Parchment Paper: Peterson/Norscan silicone paper.

Wax Paper: Cut-Rite.

Some napkins and paper towels may contain starch. Therefore some suggest they not come in contact with wet foods i.e. latkes.

The following, however, are free from starch: Scott Napkins; Scott Towels, Ultra and Viva Paper Towels; White Swan Towels and Napkins.

In all cases, it is preferable not to use the first and last three sheets.

Miscellaneous Baby Products: All alcohol free baby wipes – Johnson's baby powder; Johnson's baby powder pure cornstarch.

Alcohol: Isopropyl Rubbing Alcohol (any).

Deodorants: Old Spice stick deodorant/high endurance; Old Spice solid antiperspirant; Secret aerosol (All); Mennen stick (all scents); Mennen ultimate; Lady Speed Stick (all scents).

Hairspray: Vidal Sassoon; Pantene.

Fragrance: Charlie; Jean Nate; Revlon Fragrances; Ultima II Fragrances.

Skin Care: Almay Time-Off toner; Almay Time-Off moisture lotion; Almay Time-Off cleanser; Revlon Results day-light replenisher moisture lotion/moisturizer oil-free fluid; Moon Drops nourishing/soothing moisture lotion; Revlon Moisturestay lipliner.

After Shave: Old Spice (regular and sensitive); Blue Stratos; Mennen Skin Bracer (all fragrances); Mennen After Shave (all fragrances).

Shampoo and Conditioners: Head & Shoulders; Pert Plus; Ivory & Ivory Plus Shampoos; Vidal Sassoon; Pantene; Flex.

Cleansers: Spic and Span powder; Mr. Clean; Murphy's Oil Soap; Ajax powder.

Oven Cleaner: Any brand.

Spray Starch: Glide Liquid Starch.

Dishwasher Detergents: Manual dishwashing liquid (must bear an OU): Joy, Ivory and Dawn automatic dishwashing detergents (must bear a COR). Calgonite; Electrosol lemon & regular.

Coffee: Nescafe Richblend & Nescafe Decaf instant coffees are available this year with a COR "Kosher for Passover" label.

Silver Polish: Hagerty silver polish with an OU may be used.

The above information pertains to Canadian products only for 1999.

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Eat, drink and enjoy

Continued from page 36

Falls Pesach Hotel, 416-787-0504; Skyline Brock, Niagara Falls, 877-733-0727.

Meat/poultry wholesale services: Chai Kosher Poultry Inc.; Lazar Yitzchok; Marvid Poultry Packers; Empire Frozen Poultry.

Kosher food and novelty stores: Akiva's, 3858 Bathurst St.; Balloon Bash, 7077 Bathurst St.; Baskets n Stuf, 6237 Bathurst St.; Chocolate Charm, 3541 Bathurst St.; Happy Days Gift Baskets, 248 Steeles Ave. W.; Just In Case, 3041 Bathurst St.; Kosher & Natural Foods, 3413 Bathurst St.; Kosher City Plus, 3468 Bathurst St.; Kosher Food Warehouse, 75 Doncaster Ave.; The Chocolate Moose, 2839 Bathurst St.

Wines: Wines, brandies, liqueurs and other such beverages certified by recognized rabbinical authorities are permissible. The label must indicate that the bottle has been prepared "Kosher L'Pesach." Galilee Wine Company, 783-2516; Mazel Wines, 631-8071; N.M. Grafstein Sacramental Wine, 256-0440; WineWorld, 694-2527.

Public/private institutions: Kitchens of the institutions listed below have been prepared for Pesach by mashgichim under the direction and instruction of the Rabbinical Vaad Hakashruth in accordance with the requirements for Passover: Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care: Baycrest Hospital, Baycrest Terrace, Jewish Home for the Aged, Joseph E. and Minnie Wagman Centre; The Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living: Association of Jewish Seniors is providing a second seder on April 1, 1999; Lincoln Place Nursing Home; The Mount Sinai Hospital (Kosher L-Pesach meals on request); Terrace Gardens, 3705 Bathurst St.

Food Ideas for Passover

Calm down cooks, vegetarian seders are no disaster

By EILEEN GOLTZ

We will be having four extra people at our seder this year. The family is new to the community, and my husband and I wanted to make sure they had a place to go where they wouldn't feel too homesick for the family they just couldn't be with. Our seders are awesome (if I do say so myself), but I wanted to know if there was anything special I could serve that would make them feel as if they had some of their own traditions represented.

I called to ask if there were any recipes I could include in our menu. Imagine my surprise when I was told, "Oh, thank you. Our being vegetarians makes a seder quite a challenge."

After stopping to take a breath (and a tranquillizer), I said, "No problem, just get me your recipes and I'll see what I can do."

SPRING VEGETABLE SOUP

2 tbsp. oil
1 large onion, finely chopped
2 medium celery stalks, finely diced
1 medium potato, peeled and finely diced
2 medium carrots, finely diced
6 cups water
2 vegetable bouillon cubes
handful of celery leaves
1 cup drained, canned tomatoes, finely chopped
2 cups finely chopped cauliflower
salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
1 cup firmly packed, finely shredded lettuce
1 tbsp. minced fresh dill or more, to taste
2 scallions, minced

Heat the oil in a large soup pot. Add the onion and celery and sauté over moderate heat until golden. Add the potato, carrots, water, bouillon cubes, celery leaves and tomatoes.

Bring to a boil, then lower the heat, cover and simmer for 15 minutes or until the vegetables are nearly tender. Add the cauliflower and continue to simmer for 10 minutes more, or until it is crisp-tender. Season to taste with salt and pepper and remove from the heat.

Let the soup cool, then refrigerate overnight to allow time for it to develop flavor. Just before serving, heat the soup through. Add the remaining ingredients and simmer over very low heat for 10 to 15 minutes. Add more water if the vegetables seem crowded, then adjust the seasonings. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

Note: This soup is even better with matzah balls. Vegans can add matzah farfel since matzah balls are made with eggs.

LEEK AND POTATO GRATIN

2 tbsp.Passover margarine
2 large leeks, white parts only, chopped and well rinsed
1 small red bell pepper, finely diced
3 matzahs, broken
1 cup hot water
4 medium potatoes, baked, peeled, and sliced
2/3 cup milk
salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
1 cup grated mozzarella cheese
minced chives for topping

Preheat oven to 350. Heat the margarine in a medium-sized skillet. Add the leeks and sauté, covered, until they are wilted. Add the red pepper and sauté another five minutes.

In the meantime, combine the matzahs with the water in a bowl and soak for three to five minutes until soft. Drain and squeeze out excess water with hands. Combine the leek mixture and matzahs with all the remaining ingredients except cheese and chives in a mixing bowl. Stir together until thoroughly mixed. Pour into an oiled, shallow 2-quart casserole. A round dish is particularly attractive. Sprinkle the cheese over the top, followed by the chives. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes, or until the top is golden. Let stand for five to 10 minutes, then cut into squares or wedges to serve. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

MUSHROOM MATZAH FARFEL PIE

1 tsp. Passover seasoned salt
1 cup hot water
1 box (1 lb.) matzah farfel
2 tbsp. Passover margarine
1 cup finely chopped onion
1 lb. mushrooms, chopped
1 medium zucchini
3 egg whites, beaten
seasoned salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350. Stir the seasoned salt into the water. Combine with the matzah farfel in a heatproof mixing bowl and let soak. In the meantime, heat the margarine in a large skillet. Add the onion and sauté over moderate heat until golden. Add the mushrooms and zucchini and sauté until the mushrooms are wilted.

Drain any excess water from the matzah farfel. Add the mushroom mixture and the beaten egg whites. Season to taste with additional seasoned salt, if desired, and freshly ground pepper. Pour into an oiled 9-inch glass pie plate or 10-inch tart pan. Bake, covered, for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake another 15 minutes or until the top is browned. Let stand for five to 10 minutes, then cut into wedges to serve. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

RUSSIAN POTATO AND MUSHROOM CROQUETTES

1½ lbs. potatoes, peeled and chopped
5 cups water
1 onion, peeled and chopped
¼ lb. mushrooms
1 tsp. oil
1 tbsp. water
salt/pepper to taste
1 cup matzah meal
1 tbsp. oil

Boil potatoes in water until tender. Drain and mash potatoes. In a separate pan, sauté onions and mushrooms in oil and water over medium-high heat for three minutes. In a large bowl, mix mashed potatoes, sautéed onions and mushrooms, seasonings and matzah meal together in a large bowl. Form 10 croquettes. Heat oil in a large frying pan over medium high heat and fry croquettes for eight minutes on each side. Serving size is two croquettes per person.

Continued on page 44

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Food Ideas for Passover

New York Times compiles its best Passover recipes

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Names like Wolfgang Puck, Paul Prudhomme and Craig Claiborne don't need a lot of introduction when one sees them in a cookbook. But then, one doesn't really expect to see them in a Pesach cookbook.

Well, there they are in *The New York Times Passover Cookbook* (Morrow, 1999), along with such Jewish cooking notables as Joan Nathan, Claudia Roden and Mimi Sheraton.

The introduction by Joan Nathan, author of the widely acclaimed *Jewish Cooking in America*, explains that the book is "a compilation of the best Passover recipes that have appeared in the *Times* over the years," together with selections from other cookbooks.

While one might expect the recipes to be relentlessly gourmet, in fact, most are the kind that one would realistically prepare. Instructions are clear, and ingredients are easily obtainable.

Today's trend toward fresh herbs, fruits and vegetables is evident, in, for example, fresh tuna cooked with balsamic vinegar, fresh rosemary and a tomato coulis, matzah brei with asparagus, spa slaw of Napa cabbage, green onions and bell pepper with a dressing made with grated orange and lemon rind, and chicken roasted with fresh chives, basil, thyme, chervil and cilantro.

The old favorites are here too – Passover bagels and popovers, gefilte fish, brisket and several different compotes.

The only complaint I have is the reminiscences interspersed through the book. While they are all charming, there is little evidence that Pesach for the authors is anything but a lot of food and children and nostalgia.

Nevertheless, *The New York Times Passover Cookbook* is a welcome addition to the growing list of Pesach cookbooks.

CABBAGE SALAD WITH GINGER DRESSING

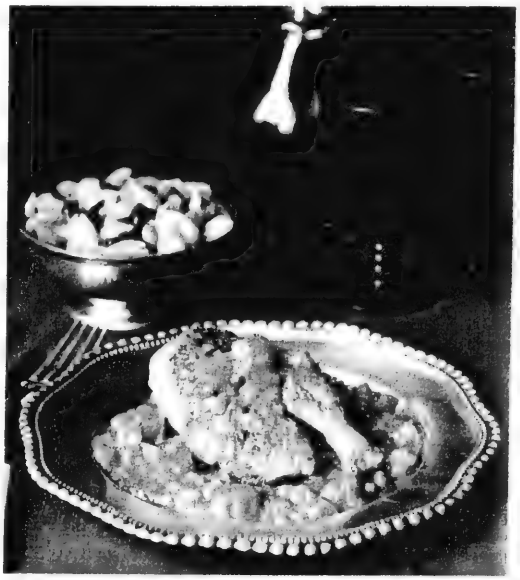
½ cup cold water
½ cup white vinegar
1 slice fresh ginger, crushed
3½ tsp. sugar
1 tbsp. salt
1 large onion, cut into thin slices, about 2 cups loosely packed
5 cups cabbage, sliced as thinly as possible and loosely packed
1¼ cups carrots, shredded as finely as possible
2 cups thinly sliced, unpeeled cucumber

In a large salad bowl, combine water, vinegar, ginger, sugar and salt. Add onion, cabbage, carrot, and cucumber, and stir to blend thoroughly. Refrigerate for at least one hour, before serving. Serves 8 or more.

JOYCE GOLDSTEIN'S CORNISH HENS WITH APRICOTS, TOMATOES, ONIONS AND SPICES

¼ cup oil
6 large Cornish hens
salt and freshly ground pepper
4 tsp. cinnamon
4 cups yellow onions, chopped
1 tsp. ground cloves

Continued on page 43



Joyce Goldstein's cornish hens with apricots, tomatoes, onions and spices, shown with Moroccan carrot salad, also in book.

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Food Ideas for Passover

Fruity flavors abound in Passover cookbook

Continued from page 42

3½ cups dried apricots, soaked in hot water for 1 hr. and drained
3 cups canned plum tomatoes, diced, with juice reserved
2 cups chicken stock or water
⅓ cup Passover brown sugar (or white sugar)

Preheat oven to 350. Heat half the oil in a large saucepan or skillet. Sprinkle the hens with salt and pepper to taste and 1 tsp. of the cinnamon, and brown.

In another large pan, heat the remaining oil, add the onions, and cook over low heat until the onions are transparent, about five minutes.

Add the remaining 3 tsp. cinnamon and the cloves and cook for about three more minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat.

Coarsely chop half of the soaked apricots and set aside. Add about ½ cup of the reserved tomato liquid to the remaining half of the soaked apricots and puree in a food processor or blender. Add the pureed apricots, diced tomatoes and 1 cup of the chicken stock to the onion mixture. Bring the mixture to a simmer and cook, uncovered, for five minutes.

Remove 2 cups of the onion mixture to the food processor or blender and puree. Return the pureed mixture to the pan, add the chopped apricots, brown sugar and remaining 1 cup chicken stock and add enough liquid to make a medium-thick sauce.

Place half the sauce in a very large casserole dish. Add the hens, and cover with the remaining sauce. Bake, covered, for 30-40 minutes, or until done. Serves 12.

DRIED FRUIT COMPOTE

½ lb. mixed dried fruit (apricots, pears, peaches, prunes, figs)
1 tsp. freshly grated orange peel
½ tsp. freshly grated lemon peel
1 tbsp. honey, or to taste
1 orange, juiced
2 tbsp. chopped toasted almonds, or crumbled dry macaroons (optional)

In a saucepan, simmer the fruit in water to cover until soft, 15-20 min. Remove the fruit to a bowl, and cook the liquid in the saucepan until it's reduced to ½ cup.

Add the orange and lemon peels, honey and orange juice to the saucepan. Cook, stirring, until the honey has melted. Pour the mixture over the fruit. Leave at room temperature.

Just before serving, sprinkle the fruit with the almonds or macaroon crumbs, if desired. Serves 3-4.

ROSALYN TAUBER'S ORANGE MARMALADE BARS

¼ cup unsalted pareve Passover margarine
1 cup sugar
1 cup cake meal
½ cup plus 1 tbsp. potato starch
2 large eggs
1 cup orange juice
½ cup orange marmalade or strawberry preserves
1 tsp. cinnamon
¼ cup chopped nuts
1 tbsp. unsalted pareve Passover margarine, melted

Preheat oven to 350. In a mixing bowl, cream the margarine and ¼ cup of the sugar together until light and fluffy.

In another bowl, sift together the cake meal and potato starch and add to the margarine mixture. Stir gently until smooth.

In another bowl, beat together the eggs and orange juice. Add to the cake meal mixture, stirring gently. Grease a 9-in. square pan with margarine and lightly sprinkle potato starch on the bottom. Pour half the batter into the prepared pan. Spoon the marmalade or preserves over the batter and top with remaining batter.

In a small bowl, combine the remaining sugar, cinnamon, nuts and melted margarine and sprinkle over the top of the batter. Bake 30-35 min. Cool in the pan. Cut into squares. Makes 16 squares.

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Food Ideas for Passover

This 'matzah lasagna' adds eggplant for extra flourish

Continued from page 41

CARROT-APPLE PUDDING

5 large carrots, grated
2 medium apples, peeled, cored, and grated
⅓ cup raisins
3 egg whites, lightly beaten
¼ cup Passover oil
2 tbsp. sweet Passover wine
¼ cup packed Passover brown sugar (or white sugar)
1 tsp. cinnamon
¼ tsp. each: ground allspice, nutmeg and ginger

Preheat oven to 325. Combine all the ingredients in a mixing bowl. Pour into an oiled 9 x 5 x 3-inch loaf pan. Cover and bake for 45 minutes.

Uncover and bake another 40 to 45 minutes or until the top is nicely browned and crusty. Let cool. Slice and serve warm or at room temperature. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

LEMONY LEEK AND MUSHROOM SOUP

Stock:
7 cups water
1 cup chopped onion
green parts from 2 leeks, well washed
4 sprigs parsley
1 large celery stalk, coarsely chopped
2 vegetable bouillon cubes

2 tbsp. olive oil
4 large leeks, white and lightest green parts only, chopped and well rinsed
2 medium turnips, peeled and diced into ½-inch pieces
1 large celery stalk, diced
2 bay leaves
14½-oz. can tomatoes with liquid, chopped
12 oz. white mushrooms, sliced
juice of 1 lemon, or more to taste
salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
2 to 3 tbsp. minced fresh parsley
2 to 3 tbsp. minced fresh dill
matzah farfel for garnish, optional

Combine all the ingredients for the stock in a soup pot or large saucepan. Bring to a boil, then cover and simmer for 30 minutes. Let stand until needed, then strain before using. Heat the oil in a large soup pot. Add the chopped leeks and sauté over moderate heat, stirring frequently, until the leeks just begin to go limp. Add the stock, turnips, celery, and bay leaves. Bring to a boil, then cover and simmer for 10 minutes.

Add the tomatoes and mushrooms and continue to simmer until the vegetables are tender, another 15 to 20 minutes. Season to taste with lemon juice, salt, and pepper. Remove from the heat. Allow the soup to stand for several hours, or cool and refrigerate overnight.

Before serving, heat through as needed. Stir in the parsley and dill. If the vegetables seem crowded, adjust the consistency with more water, and then adjust the seasonings and lemon juice. Top each serving with a sprinkling of matzah farfel if desired. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

EGGPLANT MATZAH MINA

Matzah minas, which are layered casseroles or pies, were once described by a woman from Bologna, Italy, as matzah lasagnas.

2 medium eggplants, about 2 lb. total
2 tbsp. olive oil
1 medium onion, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
15-oz. can tomato sauce
14-oz. can plum tomatoes, drained and chopped
2 to 3 tbsp. minced fresh parsley
½ tsp. each: dried oregano, dried basil, and paprika
salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
6 matzahs
1 lb. mozzarella cheese

Preheat the broiler.
Cut the eggplants into half-inch

Continued on page 45

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Vol. 1, No. 10 • March 18, 1999

Hello! How are ya'? What's cooking? On behalf of the entire Strub family, I would like to wish all of you a happy and Kosher Pesach. The Strubs have worked long and hard to bring you the best products for Passover and for every day. We are especially proud of our recently introduced Homestyle Gefilte Fish and Yom Yov Beet Horseradish. We try to make everything just like Bubie made. Enjoy!

Letter of the Month

Dear Pickle Guy,

What exactly is the difference between kosher pickles and regular pickles?

— "A true convert" (even though I subscribe to the Jewish News!), London, ON.

The Pickle Guy Replies

Dear "True",

In North America, just about all pickles are made "Kosher" and have a "Heksher" on the label. However, there is a flavour difference between "Dills" and "Kosher Dills". True Kosher Dills have lots of dill & garlic and no vinegar in them, and are found in the refrigerated section of your grocery stores. Some consumers do like pickles with vinegar in the brine. These pasteurized Kosher Dills are found on the grocery shelves, and do not need refrigeration until after you open the jar.

Fortunately, Strub's makes both kinds of Kosher Dills! Look for Strub's full and half sours in the refrigerated section, and Strub's Homestyle in the grocery section of your local grocery store. Thank you for your great letter and for being a true convert to Strub's pickles.

Remember, send your letters, pictures, and postcards to me:

Pickle Guy
c/o Strub's Pickle Corner
100 Roy Boulevard
BRANTFORD, ON N3R 7K2
e-mail: STRUBPICKL@AOL.COM

I answer ALL my mail, and if I use your letter in "Pickle Corner", I'll send you one of my "Pickle Guy" T-shirts and Hats. Thanks, and talk to you next month.

Got a question? Write to me, the Pickle Guy — I answer ALL my mail!

Food Ideas for Passover

A kugel so sweet

Continued from page 44

slices and peel. Brush lightly with oil and broil on each side until tender. Heat the oil in a deep saucepan. Add the onion and garlic and sauté until golden. Add the tomato sauce, tomatoes, parsley, and seasonings. Bring to a simmer and cook over low heat, covered, for 15 minutes.

Break each matzah into three strips. Fill a shallow casserole dish with lightly salted water. Place the matzah strips in it for two to three minutes until pliable but not mushy. Remove carefully to a plate.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly oil a large, shallow baking casserole and layer as follows: a thin layer of sauce, a layer of eggplant, a layer of matzah and a layer of cheese. Repeat. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes, or until the cheese is touched with brown spots. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

SAUTÉED CARROTS WITH ALMONDS

2½ tbsp. Passover margarine
2 lb. carrots, thinly sliced
¼ cup apple juice
1 tbsp. lemon juice
2 to 3 tbsp. minced chives
½ cup sliced almonds
dash salt

Heat the margarine in a large skillet. Add the carrots and sauté over moderate heat, stirring frequently, until crisp-tender and beginning to turn golden, about 10 to 15 minutes. If the skillet begins to turn dry, sprinkle in some of the apple juice while sautéing.

When the carrots are crisp-tender, add the remaining apple juice and sauté, stirring, until it is absorbed. Stir in the remaining ingredients, then transfer to a serving container. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

SWEET POTATO KUGEL

6 small sweet potatoes, peeled and grated
3 apples, peeled and grated
1 cup raisins
1 cup matzah meal
2 tsp. cinnamon
1 cup walnuts, chopped (optional)
1 cup fruit juice or water

In a large bowl mix all the ingredients together. Press the mixture into a greased baking dish and bake 45 minutes at 375 degrees, until crisp on top. Serves 12.

EGGPLANT CASSEROLE

3 tbsp. oil (or a mixture of oil and water to reduce fat)
1 large onion, chopped
1 medium eggplant, peeled and cubed
¼ cup diced green pepper
11 oz. tomato and mushroom sauce
1 tsp. salt
½ tsp. pepper
2 large tomatoes, diced
1½ cups matzah farfel

In a skillet sauté onions in oil until tender. In the skillet combine the onions, eggplant, green pepper, tomato-mushroom sauce and seasoning. Cook, covered, for 15 minutes or until the eggplant is tender. Stir in the tomatoes.

In a 2-quart baking dish, arrange in alternate layers the vegetables and matzah farfel. Begin and end with the vegetables. Bake at 350 degrees (uncovered) for 25 minutes. Serves 8.

A brother and sister in Jerusalem enjoy a matzah snack.

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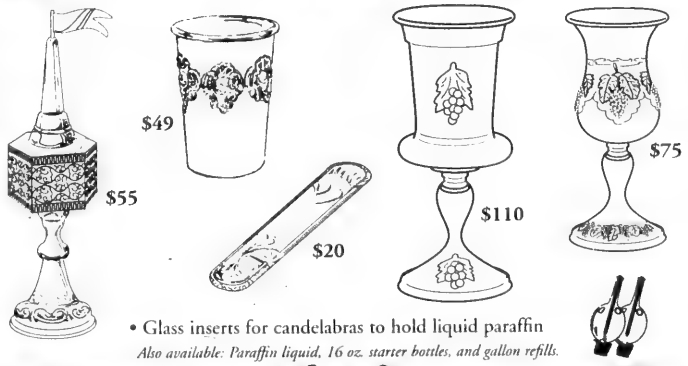

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Food Ideas for Passover

Frozen veggies can be dull until you add Mr. Potato

By EILEEN GOLTZ
Special to The CJN

We've reached that time of year where the fall and winter vegetables such as squash and corn are gone, and the asparagus and green beans of spring are just starting to come in, but are still expensive. We're stuck with the canned or frozen types, and while we know they're good for us, they can be dull. What can we serve with our vegetables to make our meals a little more exciting?

Potatoes, of course.

Potatoes are a misunderstood vegetable. They are very high in vitamin C and potassium. In fact, just one medium potato has 45 percent of the vitamin C, and 21 percent of the potassium our bodies need every day.

Potatoes are also a great source of fibre. Just one serving of potatoes has 12 percent of the fibre we need every day. Potato skins also have nutrients. In fact, potato skins contain fibre, potassium, iron, calcium, zinc, phosphorus and B vitamins. One medium potato has almost three times more potassium than one medium orange.

GARLIC MASHED POTATOES

4 lb. red-skinned potatoes, unpeeled, quartered
½ cup butter or margarine, cut into pieces
1 cup finely chopped onion
3 tbsp. finely chopped garlic
1 cup Passover cream or non-dairy creamer

In a large pot cover the potatoes with salted water and cook until tender, about 20 minutes. Drain. Return potatoes to pot. While the potatoes are cooking, melt ¼ cup butter or margarine in large skillet over medium heat. Add the onion and sauté until it's traslucent, about three minutes. Add the garlic and sauté until tender, about three more minutes. Add onion-garlic mixture to potatoes. Add cream or non-dairy creamer and remaining ½ cup butter or margarine. With a mashing utensil, mash the mixture coarsely, stirring occasionally with a spoon to make sure that the onions and garlic are evenly mixed. Season to taste with salt and pepper and serve. Serves 6 to 8.

MASHED POTATOES WITH GREEN ONIONS AND PARMESAN

2 large russet potatoes (about 1¼ pounds), cut into chunks
2 tbsp. milk
2 tbsp. butter
1 bunch green onions, chopped
⅓ cup freshly grated Passover Parmesan cheese
Salt and freshly ground pepper

Cook potatoes in large pot of boiling water until tender. Drain well. Press the potatoes through a food mill or ricer into same pot or return to pot and mash (don't worry if you don't have a ricer or food mill, just mash them until they are very smooth). Mix in the milk and 1½ tablespoons butter.

Melt remaining ½ tbsp. butter in heavy small skillet. Add green onions and sauté until wilted, about one minute. Add to potatoes. Add the Parmesan and mix gently. Season with salt and freshly ground pepper and serve. Serves two. This can be doubled or tripled.

HORSERADISH MASHED POTATOES WITH CARMALIZED ONIONS

¼ cup plus 6 tbsp. (1¼ sticks) butter or margarine
2¼ lb. white onions, thinly sliced
3 tbsp. Passover balsamic vinegar
2 tsp. chopped fresh thyme
3½ lbs. russet potatoes, peeled, cut into 1-inch pieces
6 to 8 tbsp. whole milk or Passover non-dairy creamer
¼ cup prepared white horseradish

Melt ¼ cup butter or margarine in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onions and sauté until they are a deep golden, about 20 to 30 minutes. Add the vinegar and thyme. Reduce heat to low; sauté for an additional four minutes. Meanwhile, cook potatoes in large pot of boiling salted water until very tender, about 20 minutes. Drain. Return to same pot; mash until smooth. Add 6 tablespoons milk or non-dairy creamer, horseradish and 6 tablespoons butter or margarine and stir to blend. Thin with 2 tablespoons milk or non-dairy creamer if necessary. Season with salt and pepper.

Transfer potatoes to serving dish. Spoon the onion mixture atop potatoes. (Can be prepared eight hours ahead. Cover with foil and refrigerate. Rewarm in 350F oven about 30 minutes.) Serve hot. Serves 6.

MASHED POTATO CASSEROLE

8 large potatoes, peeled
1-2 tbsp. onion salt
1 pint sour cream or plain yogurt
4 tbsp. butter, melted
1 cup grated cheese (Cheddar or Colby)

Cook the potatoes in boiling water until tender, about 20 to 30 minutes. Drain and then mash the potatoes with the onion salt and sour cream. Add the butter and mix well. Spray a 2-quart casserole dish with a non-stick vegetable spray. Place the potato mixture in the 2-quart casserole dish and press down slightly. Top the potato mixture with the cheese. Cover the casserole and refrigerate for at least an hour before baking. (This can be made a day in advance and baked just before serving). Bake at 350 for one hour. Serves 6 to 8.

.SHED SWEET POTATOES

.edium sweet potatoes, peeled
ınd diced (about 2½ lbs.)
up skim milk or non-dairy creamer, heated
tsp. salt

Continued on page 47

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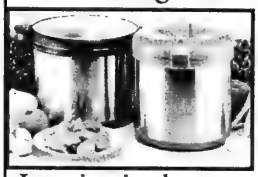

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Food Ideas for Passover

Potatoes love parsnips

Continued from page 46

1 tbsp. packed brown sugar
1/8 tsp. nutmeg (optional)

Boil the diced sweet potatoes in enough water to cover for 14 to 16 minutes, or until tender when pierced with a fork. Drain thoroughly in a colander, until all water is gone. Transfer the potatoes to a large mixing bowl and beat on medium speed with an electric beater (not a food processor, or the potatoes will become gummy). Add the hot milk or non-dairy creamer, a few drops at a time, until the potatoes are smooth and fluffy. Add the salt, brown sugar and nutmeg and beat on high speed until very fluffy. Serve hot or warm. Serves 6.

LOW FAT MASHED POTATOES WITH GRATED CARROTS

3 lbs. all-purpose potatoes, peeled and cut into pieces
1 cup chicken broth
2 carrots, grated
3 tbsp. margarine
1/2 tsp. salt
4 scallions, sliced, optional

Place the potatoes in large pot of salted water. Cover and bring to a boil. Remove cover, reduce heat, and simmer 12 to 15 minutes, until the potatoes are tender when pierced with a fork. Drain well in a colander.

In the potato pot bring the chicken broth and carrots to a boil and cook for two minutes. Add the margarine and salt. Return potatoes to pot and mash until smooth. Place in the serving bowl and top with scallions. Serves 6 to 8.

ROASTED MASHED POTATOES WITH PARSNIPS

3 large russet potatoes (1 1/2 to 2 lbs. total) quartered
4 medium parsnips (1 lbs. total) peeled and cut into 1-inch chunks
1 cup chicken broth
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
1/3 cup Passover non-dairy creamer
3 tbsp. margarine
paprika

Preheat oven to 450. Place the potatoes, parsnips, broth, salt, and pepper in greased shallow baking dish. Cover with foil and bake for 45 minutes, until very tender. Remove them from the oven and cool slightly. In a small saucepan (or microwave) heat the non-dairy creamer and margarine together until the margarine is melted and the mixture is warm but not hot. Place the vegetable mixture in a bowl and mash it, adding non-dairy creamer/margarine mixture until the mixture is combined but still slightly chunky. Place in a serving bowl and sprinkle the top with a little paprika. Serves 6 to 8.

Grate your own horseradish for an eye-opening experience

By JANE ROSEN
Jewish Theological Seminary

On every seder plate there is a spot reserved for what is perhaps the strongest symbol of enslavement in Egypt: the maror, or bitter herbs.

Unfortunately, experiencing the sharpness of the bitter herb, and thereby comprehending the force of its symbolism, is blunted substantially by the reality that most people simply use a dollop of pre-grated horseradish, spooned out in an instant from a jar. (The rest of the jar typically languishes in the refrigerator until rancid and is then thrown away.)

For a truly eye-opening encounter with bitterness, try, as I did several years ago, grating your own from a fresh root. Now I'm hooked.

For starters, it intensifies the period of reflection for the person handling the task. And believe me, a dose of freshly grated horseradish is guaranteed to evoke a sense of bondage in everyone seated around the table. Before you do it yourself, though, let me offer the following tips.

- The root will lose its potency after one day, so buy a root just large enough for the seder, and cover immediately after grating.
- Begin by peeling the thick, ridged skin with a strong potato peeler.
- Don't even think about getting out the food processor; this operation is strictly manual.
- Do the grating outside – no need for explanation.
- Select someone who doesn't have a lot to do – it takes a long time to get a sufficient yield.

But note: For the faint-hearted among you, play it safe. Have the jarred stuff on hand, just in case!

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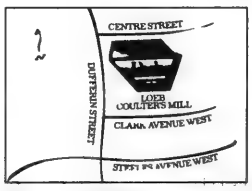

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Food Ideas for Passover

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Seminary cooks with new recipes

The media relations department of The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York sends along these recipes to wish you a Chag Kasher v'Samayach.

KATE'S MOM'S PASSOVER MANDEL BREAD

2 cups sugar
½ lb. butter
6 eggs
2¼ cups Passover cake meal
½ tsp. salt
¾ cup potato starch
12 oz. chocolate chips
1 cup chopped nuts
1 tsp. cinnamon with 2 tsp. sugar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Cream sugar and butter. Add eggs one at a time, beating after each egg. Combine cake meal, salt and potato starch. Fold into cream mixture. Add chocolate and nuts. Mix well.

Form into two loaves. Sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar. Place loaves on a greased cookie sheet.

Bake for 45 minutes. Slice while warm. *Note:* You can substitute cocoa for cinnamon.

EMILE'S EGYPTIAN CHAROSET

1 lb. dates
2 lb. raisins
¼ lb. roasted hazelnuts, shelled and crushed
¼ lb. walnuts, shelled and crushed

Barely cover the dates and raisins with water and soak overnight. Do not use too much water. Cook until soft, about one hour in the original water. Strain cooked fruit and water through a hand strainer to make a solid paste. Make sure the tough skin separates from the fruit and remains in the strainer to be discarded.

Put the paste in a heavy pot over a low flame to allow any extra water to evaporate, turning occasionally with a large spoon. Remove from heat when the paste reaches a consistency that is not too watery.

Add nuts little by little to the paste. As the liquid paste cools, it will thicken. Charoset may also be garnished with extra nuts.

Kashruth Council recommends dessert

The Kashruth Council of Toronto provides recipes for each of the Jewish holidays. They are pleased to send along some of the Passover recipes they have prepared.

FROZEN RASPBERRY MOUSSE

1 10-oz. package unsweetened frozen raspberries, thawed
¼ cup sugar
2 egg whites
2 tbsp. lemon juice
1 tbsp. liqueur (optional)
garnish: chopped nuts (optional)

Combine all ingredients in large Mixmaster bowl. Start on low speed and gradually increase to high; beat on high for 10-15 minutes until pale, pink and stiff. Spoon into glass serving bowl or individual sherbet glasses and freeze. Remove from freezer when ready to serve. Garnish with chopped nuts, if desired. Delicious and refreshing.

APPLE FILLED ACORN SQUASH

1 acorn squash
2 tbsp. melted butter
salt
cinnamon
¼ cup raisins, soaked in ¼ cup sweet wine or orange juice for 10 minutes
3 tbsp. butter
4 medium apples, peeled, cored and cut in ½-inch cubes
½ cup Passover sugar (if available)
1 tbsp. lemon juice
¼ tsp. ginger (optional)

Preheat oven to 350F. Halve squash lengthwise; remove seeds and stringy interiors. Trim undersides slightly so halves will sit flat. Brush cut surface with melted butter, sprinkle with salt and cinnamon. Place cut halves down in a large baking pan. Bake 30 minutes, then turn squash cut side up in baking pan. While squash is baking, soak the raisins to plump. In frying pan, melt butter, add apples, and cook for 5 minutes. Stir in sugar, lemon juice, ginger and soaked raisins. Fill squash cavities. Cover and bake 20-30 minutes or till tender. Serves 6.

Community seders offered

TORONTO — For those who would like to share Passover seders with other members of the community, there are many taking place in the Greater Toronto Area. Some are at the following locations:

Association of Jewish Seniors Clubs, 635-2860; Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda, 633-3838; Beth Radom, 636-3451; Beth Tzedec, 781-3511; Beth Torah, 782-4495; Bloor JCC, 924-6211; Shaar Shalom, 905-889-4975; Solel Congregation, 905-826-5300; The Terrace, 785-2500, ext. 2267 or 2430.

Other seders include the Holy Blossom Temple AIDS seder, 789-3291; and the Jewish Russian Community Centre seder for Russian-speaking immigrants, 222-7105.

***

A number of volunteer opportunities are available for the Passover season:

The Community Integration Program of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) is seeking volunteers interested in assisting in the placement of Russian families in Canadian Jewish homes. If you have room for a new immigrant family at one of your seders, call Dina, 630-6481.

Drivers are needed to deliver Passover boxes on March 28. Call the National Council of Jewish Women, 633-5100.

Blind and visually impaired adults and children can obtain Haggadot in large print by calling the Jewish Braille Institute 212-889-2525.

This information was supplied by Jewish Information Service of UJA Federation.

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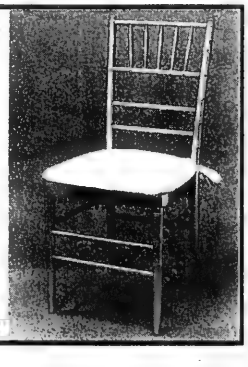

Food Ideas for Passover

Pesach à la Sépharade

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

THORNHILL Ont. — You won't find horseradish on a Sephardi seder table, but it's not because Sephardim don't like spicy foods, says Moroccan-born Rabbi Amram Assayag of the Sephardic Kehila Centre.

Horseradish "didn't exist" in Morocco, he explained in a recent interview.

In its place for bitter herbs in Sephardi homes, you're much more likely to find romaine lettuce or endives.

An Ashkenazi Jew might have to look twice to recognize charoset prepared the Moroccan way, formed into a ball and rolled in cinnamon. Aside from the addition of banana, the traditional wine-apple-nut mixture, symbolizing the mortar used by the Israelites in Egypt, would taste much like its Ashkenazi counterpart.

The major difference, though, between Sephardim and Ashkenazim, when it comes to Passover food, is the Ashkenazi prohibition against kitniyot, including legumes, rice and corn.

Unlike the halachic prohibition against certain types of grains for Passover, the prohibition against kitniyot observed by Ashkenazi Jews is rabbinic.

"It makes life much easier for Sephardim," said the rabbi.

To make life simpler for Sephardim here, the Sephardic Rabbinate of Ontario and the Kashruth Council of Toronto recently agreed to introduce a new hechsher (pictured), authorizing food products containing kitniyot or kitniyot derivatives as Kosher for Passover (for Sephardim only).

כשר לפסח
K.O.S.
הרבנות הספרדית באונטריו
Sephardic Rabbinate Ontario
KOSHER FOR PASSOVER

The best example, said Rabbi Assayag, is corn oil. "There's nothing chametz in it."

COR, the Kashruth Council of Toronto, understood the Sephardi community's needs, said the rabbi.

A similar arrangement was struck in Los Angeles last year, he noted. What makes Toronto unique is that the city has one central kashrut organization. Los Angeles has many rabbis giving their own hechshers, he said. A new one there wouldn't have the same significance it would here, he explained.

In cases of Ashkenazi-Sephardi marriages, the husband's food customs prevail, said Rabbi Assayag. Incidentally, he noted, Ashkenazi Jews can eat in Sephardi homes on Passover, as long as they don't eat kitniyot.

In Morocco, the traditional Jewish male's role would include inspecting the maror, checking each leaf one by one, and making sure the matzot were acceptable and not folded.

The women would prepare a variety of dishes. "It won't happen in a Sephardi home that you will have the same menu for two meals."

The night Passover is over, Moroccan Jews have Mimouna, an all-night event characterized by visiting home after home and eating symbolic foods, mostly sweets. Typically, the head of the home blesses his guests and gives them maror with honey, symbolizing the change from bitter to sweet.

But Rabbi Assayag's favorite Passover dish is lamb with truffles, which he remembers being picked fresh at this time of year in Morocco. Now, in Toronto, they can be purchased canned. In Montreal, he said, fresh truffles are imported. "That's the major delicacy of the chag."

Lemon curd adds zest to individual meringues

Continued from page 33

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Brush oil on cookie sheet with pastry brush.

In a small skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Saute onion and garlic for 3-5 minutes or until wilted.

In a large mixing bowl, combine the potatoes, onions, potato starch, matzah meal, eggs, salt and pepper. Form into 12 balls and flatten each into a disc.

Divide broccoli into equal portions and place in the middle of each disc. Fold each disc in half to create a moon shape. Crimp edges to seal.

Place knishes on cookie sheet and brush with egg. Bake 15 minutes. Flip them over. Brush other sides with egg. Bake an additional 15 minutes.

This recipe yields 12 little treats.

INDIVIDUAL MERINGUES FILLED WITH LEMON CURD AND FRESH BERRIES

Meringues
6 egg whites
1 tbsp. potato starch
¼ cup sugar

Preheat oven to 275 degrees. Beat egg whites and potato starch together in a large bowl until stiff peaks form. Gradually beat in sugar until stiff glossy peaks form.

Line 2 cookie sheets with parchment paper. Draw 6 3½ inch circles on each sheet.

Drop approx. ⅓ cup meringue on each circle. Spread with the back of a spoon, make a depression in the centre to form shells.

Bake 1¼ hours. Turn off the oven, leave door closed and keep meringues inside for 1 more hour.

Lemon Curd
2 cups water
¾ cup sugar
1½ tbsp. potato starch
1 cup water
2 egg yolks
Juice of 1 lemon
1 tbsp. grated lemon peel
1 tbsp. butter or margarine
2 cups fresh raspberries, strawberries or combination

Bring 2 cups water to a simmer in bottom of a double boiler. Whisk together in top sugar, potato starch and 1 cup water until blended, about 2 minutes. Slowly whisk in egg yolks one at a time. add lemon juice, peel and butter or margarine and stir until thick. Cool.

Assembly
Fill each meringue with equal portions of lemon curd. Sprinkle berries over top.

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MEAT LOAF - Chicken	8.50 lb	3/lb
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הספר "אותו הים" שמונה לצד מיטתי שונה לגמרי. על פני מאתיים עמודים הוא מספר את סיפורם של אב מזדקן, אשתו שנפטרה מסרטן, בנו שמטייל בהודו ובטיבט וחברתו של הבן שנשארה בתל אביב. אבל זה לא רומאן, זה ערבוב של קטעי שירה, קטעי פרוזה, חלומות ומחשבות שכתובים כאסוציאציות חופשיות. זה מאפשר לעוז לא להיות מכופתר, להיות מצחיק מאוד, עצוב מאוד, אירוטי מאוד, זקן מאוד - הכל לפי הזדמנות. זהו ספר מדהים. עוז יצר בו סגנון כתיבה חדש, שלא היה עדיין כמותו בישראל. התגובות היו נדהמות גם כן. המשורר מנחם בן התפעל מהשירה הנפלאה שעמוס עוז אף פעם לא שיתף אותנו בה. סגנון הספר מאפשר לעוז להיות אחד המשתתפים בו, בתור המספר , והוא משתף את הקורא בילדותו, בבגרותו, ובמצבו הנוכחי . הינה קטע על ילדותו בירושלים, שבו הוא מגלה לקורא שהמשוררת הנפלאה זלדה היתה מורה שלו:

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רציתי להביא לכם עוד הרבה עמוס עוז, אבל המקום צר. פשוט שימו יד על הספר הזה ותקראו אותו לאט, כמו ששותים יין טוב שאין הרבה ממנו. אל תשלו את עצמכם - אם אתם ישראלים מעל גיל עשרים, לא תמצאו פה או בשום מקום עמוס עוז מקומי שיחבר אתכם לשפה שלכם, לנוף שלכם , ולמה שהשארנו מאחור.

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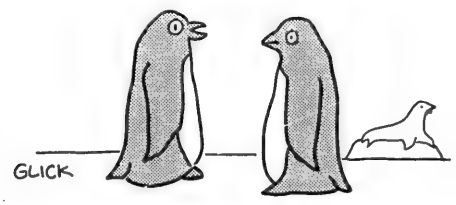

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Israel angry over EU statement on Jerusalem

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Israeli officials are up in arms regarding a statement from the current leadership of the European Union that questions Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem.

During its weekly meeting last Sunday, the cabinet rejected what it said was a European Union (EU) challenge to Israeli control over all of Jerusalem.

The EU stand questions long-established facts on the ground, the ministers agreed during the meeting, adding that they oppose any partition or internationalization of the city.

The issue erupted after Germany's ambassador to Israel, Theodor Wallau, last week wrote a letter to the Israeli Foreign Ministry about the status of the city.

Wallau, whose country currently holds the rotating EU presidency, stated that the European Union considers Jerusalem a separate entity from Israel under the terms of the 1947 partition plan.

Because of this position, he added, EU diplomats are not forced to comply with Israeli directives in the city.

Wallau was responding to a letter issued last month by the Foreign Ministry requesting that foreign diplomats not meet with Palestinian Authority officials in the capital.

The letter reminded the diplomats that the future of Jerusalem is to be determined in final-status negotiations, and that the Oslo accords bar the Palestinian Authority (PA) from conducting business in Jerusalem.

In recent years, Israel has repeatedly called on foreign envoys not to meet with Palestinian representatives at Orient House, the Palestinians' de facto headquarters in eastern Jerusalem.

Orient House

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with Wallau on Sunday to express Israel's displeasure with the EU stand.

Netanyahu told the ambassador that the "clock would not be turned back" and that Jerusalem would never be partitioned again.

Officials at the German Embassy later said the ambassador was merely reiterating the EU position on Jerusalem, which has long been known to Israel.

The dispute comes against the backdrop of PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's plans to declare an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The PA's governing bodies are expected to meet next month in the self-rule areas to decide whether Arafat should declare Palestinian statehood in May.

The 125-member Central Committee and the 18-member Executive Committee are expected to review the recommendations from American and European leaders that Arafat postpone the declaration past May 4, the end of the interim period in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations under the terms of the Oslo accords.

Netanyahu has stated that Israel will annex portions of the West Bank if Arafat unilaterally declares statehood.

Speaking to students in Beit Shemesh last Sunday, Netanyahu again warned the Palestinian leader against such a move.

"If you act unilaterally, we will respond unilaterally," he said.

IT'S YOUR MOVE

An Israeli soldier and an elderly Arab pass the time playing an animated game of backgammon in Hebron's souk (market). Israeli soldiers control about 20 percent of the city. [RNS/Reuters photo]

Arafat to visit Canada

OTTAWA — Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat will come to Canada as soon as details of the trip can be finalized, a Palestinian official said last week.

It would be Arafat's first visit to Canada.

Bakr Abdul Menem, head of the Palestinian mission to Canada, said he was instructed by Arafat to prepare for a Canadian visit.

During his recent trip through the Middle East, Canada's Minister of International Trade, Sergio Marchi, invited Arafat to visit.

Arafat is expected to press Canada to upgrade the Palestinian mission in Ottawa closer to the status of an embassy. Canada recently opened a representative office in Ramallah.

A Canadian official was quick to note that Arafat's visit would not be accorded the status of a full state visit. It would most likely be a working visit, the official noted.

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Haredi poverty called growing problem for Israel

By AVI MACHLIS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Rushing back to class along the twisting alleyways, a yeshiva student named Yishayahu, breaks the midday quiet in Mea Shearim, Jerusalem's haredi neighborhood.

Like most of his peers, Yishayahu, 24, studies full time and does not work.

"None of the yeshiva students I know work," Yishayahu, the father of two, says, sporting an otherworldly smile behind his reddish beard and sidelocks.

"Making money in this world just isn't important to us. It's the world to come that really counts."

This sanguine attitude, shared by most people in Israel's haredi community, could lead to an economic crisis that may soon come crashing down on the serenity of a lifestyle devoted to tireless study.

Furthermore, say economists who have studied the haredi community, the crisis could extend beyond the boundaries of Mea Shearim and similar sanctuaries, to Israeli society as a whole, with increasing poverty and a growing strain on local and national funds.

Many Haredim reject the doomsday scenarios, confident that pursuing a life of study is the ideal.

In 1997, Ruth Klinov and Eli Berman, economists from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Boston University respectively, shocked Israeli economic experts with a study on Israel's labor force that revealed alarming data on the haredi community.

According to the study, Israel – now often compared to developed markets – has the lowest rate of workforce participation in the developed world.

Non-participants are defined as people who either choose not to work or cannot work because of disabilities. They are not included in unemployment data, which only counts those who are actively seeking employment but cannot find a job.

Israel's rate of participation in the work force for men between the ages of 25 and 54, fell from 93.5 percent in 1970 to 85.7 percent in 1993. In western Europe and the United States, the rate was about 94 percent in the early 1990s.

Klinov says that the rapid growth of non-working yeshiva students accounts for about one-third of the decline. Indeed, other studies show that the number of haredi yeshiva students has doubled from 35,980 in 1990 to more than 72,000 in 1997 – 1.2 percent of Israel's population of six million.

The growth of the yeshivot coincides with the growing political power of the Haredim and increased national funding for haredi institutions.

It also comes as Israel is struggling to revive its economy after a three year slow-down. Economic officials say this can only be done by reducing the level of transfer payments, such as significant government support of yeshivot, and increasing public sector investment in infrastructure projects that create jobs.

Meanwhile, secular Israelis are angry that this largely non-working sector of society pays virtually no taxes, or other dues to society. Exemptions from military service for yeshiva students, for example, have been a perpetual sticking point in religious-secular relations.

Klinov and Berman's study concluded that military exemptions are the main reason why Israeli yeshiva students do not work, since the minute they start working, they lose eligibility for a military exemption.

"The problem is that ultra-Orthodox non-participation is not cyclical," says Klinov. "It is permanent and increasing at a geometric rate."

Indeed, in another study being discussed at a conference at Tel Aviv University, Berman says the proportion of haredi men not working has climbed from 41 percent in 1980 to more than 60 percent in 1996.

Israel's haredi community numbers some 350,000 today, or about six percent of the population.

Berman says the population of Israel's haredi community will double every 17 years.

There is no sign of a change in these trends. In fact, even though birthrates in other sectors of Israeli society, including the fast-growing Arab community, are slowing down, haredi families are having more babies than ever before.

The average number of children per mother in the haredi community has climbed from 6.5 in the early 1980s to 7.6 in 1996.

But the average monthly income for the family of a full-time yeshiva student was $1,150 below the poverty line and less than half the income of an average Israeli family.

While taking care of the children, haredi women generated 17 percent of this income. Another 39 percent comes from the yeshivot and 32 percent from government child allowances.

These allowances are paid to all Israelis, but are higher for Haredim because they have more children.

If these birthrates continue, as they are likely to, by 2010, predict the economists, 10 percent of Israeli children will have a father who is a yeshiva student and does not participate in the workforce.

"The rise of this community endangers its economic mode of existence because they have a much higher birthrate and they work less and less," says Berman. "Whatever the form of support, whether it is from the state or from contributions from abroad, there is a limit. The funding simply cannot double itself every 17 years."

In Berman's newest study, called *Sect, Subsidy and Sacrifice: An Economist's View of Ultra-Orthodox Jews*, he writes: "The ultra-Orthodox growth rate will make Israel's welfare system insolvent and bankrupt municipalities with large ultra-Orthodox populations." This is due to the large child subsidies, which are included in the welfare system.

Jerusalem and B'nei Brak near Tel Aviv are the cities with the largest haredi populations.

Berman believes that if a secular government cuts off funding or an economic recession threatens funding from abroad, the community will not be able to immediately integrate into the work force. This could prove a social time bomb for the haredi community and for Israel.

Some Haredim reject the gloomy projections.

Avraham Ravitz, a Knesset member from the United Torah Judaism bloc, and chair of the parliamentary finance committee, says the economists have missed the mark, since most Haredim simply do not need money.

"The ideal is to live modestly," says Ravitz. "They don't go out to coffee shops or to eat out, and they only buy the bare necessities."

Ravitz himself says he has been involved in initiatives to start vocational training programs for yeshiva students. He also believes that if they were forced to, most yeshiva students would probably go to work.

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Qualifications include: a commitment to building democracy and social justice in Israel through grassroots social change, conversational fluency in Hebrew or a readiness to learn, writing skills, volunteer or professional experience in one of the above issue areas and Canadian citizenship. Those with a background in the arts are also encouraged to apply.

Applications are due April 23rd, 1999. Contact Minda Davis, Director, New Israel Fund of Canada, at (416) 781-4322 or nifc@yesic.com

Israel Election Notebook

May 17

• Labor Party leader Ehud Barak was cleared of blame in a state inquiry into a 1992 army training accident that killed five commandos and left six others injured, according to Israel Radio. While the report has not yet been made public, a legislator involved with the inquiry said it absolves Barak of blame. Barak, who was army chief of staff at the time of the incident, has been the target of repeated allegations that he fled the scene of the accident without attempting to help the injured. "Barak Fled," has been used by the Likud Party as a campaign slogan.

• Yitzhak Mordechai, the centrist party candidate for prime minister, pledged to support the growth of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "Settlement is crucial for controlling the land and preserving the homeland," Mordechai said.

• *Ha'aretz* reported that the Likud party hopes to capitalize on the European Union's letter of support for internationalizing Jerusalem. *Ha'aretz* said Likud would cite the letter as proof of the dangers facing the city, and present Prime Minister Netanyahu as the only candidate capable of of defending Jewish sovereignty over all of Jerusalem.

• Shas leader Aryeh Deri told the French weekly *Le Nouvel Observateur* that he believes a national unity government, formed after the elections, will agree to return the Golan Heights as part of a peace treaty with Syria.

In an interview published in France, Deri also said the formation of a Palestinian state is only a matter of time: "A Palestinian state will be established. That's for sure.

"There are only minor differences between the Labor party and the Likud party regarding the question of the future borders between us and the Palestinians."

ELECTION PARTNERS

David Levy (left) and Ehud Barak embrace to mark the election coalition involving Levy's Gesher Party and Barak's Labor Party. [Israel photo]

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Jerusalem visit nixed

By AMNON BARZILAI
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — American government officials told a group of U.S. researchers and former generals attending a conference at the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies that they could not go to the Golan Heights or the Old City of Jerusalem as part of the conference itinerary, because they are occupied territories.

A U.S. Embassy spokesperson confirmed the ban, although he said it did not come from the embassy.

The spokesperson said that since 1967, there has been an official ban on U.S. officials travelling to the territories accompanied by Israeli officials. For example President Bill Clinton cancelled a planned visit to the Western Wall because Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert insisted on attending.

The spokesperson acknowledged, however, that the Jaffee Centre is not a government agency, but rather an academic institution affiliated with Tel Aviv University.

The military experts and researchers will go to Masada instead of on the previously planned trips to the Golan and Jerusalem.

The conference opened last Sunday with a speech by Chief of Staff Shaul Mofaz on the IDF's long-range strategic aims. Among the participants in the U.S. delegation are the director of the U.S. Army War College, General Robert Scales, and several retired senior generals.

At the last minute, American authorities also refused to give permission for any of the visiting generals to be interviewed by members of the press during their stay.

Syria to arm Iraq

By DOUGLAS DAVIS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LONDON — Syria has secretly agreed to supply military equipment to Iraq, according to Middle East intelligence sources quoted in the *London Times*.

The deal between the Syrian and Iraqi intelligence services will involve military equipment worth some $100 million, the sources said.

Under the agreement, Syrian spare parts for military equipment would be converted for use by the Iraqi army, the sources said. The parts would include engines for Russian-made tanks and tracks for armored fighting vehicles.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has faced a severe shortage of spare parts for his army as a result of the international arms embargo imposed after the 1991 Gulf War.

Syria is also expected to supply equipment for anti-aircraft radar facilities – hit by recent U.S. and British bombing – as well as trucks, aircraft, helicopters and ammunition.

Relations between Syria and Iraq, once considered regional archrivals, are reported to have improved significantly in recent months.

Western Wall

MWU named in suit

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The repercussions of the 1997 Maccabiah Games bridge tragedy keep unfolding.

The first civil suit related to the bridge collapse was filed recently in Israel while Maccabi Australia has announced it is on the verge of bankruptcy due to accrued debt related to the tragedy.

Sasha Elterman, a 17-year-old Australian tennis player who was poisoned by her fall into the polluted Yarkon River, is suing 19 parties, including organizers of the Maccabiah Games, the State of Israel and the city of Ramat Gan.

Elterman was one of dozens of Australian athletes and officials who fell into the river when a bridge collapsed as athletes paraded towards Ramat Gan Stadium during the Games' opening ceremonies.

Four people were killed and many injured in the mishap.

The lawsuit claims Elterman suffers from headaches and weakness and has difficulty walking and concentrating.

"There are days when she can't get out of bed," her Israeli lawyer, Pinhas Saltzer, is reported as saying. "They're trying to take her to school for an hour every day, but it tires her terribly."

Since the bridge collapse in July 1997, Elterman has undergone almost 30 operations to relieve the effects of a fungus she ingested in the Yarkon. The fungus, for which there is no known cure, has infected her lungs and brain.

Saltzer claims expenses related to her injuries have reached close to $3 million U.S. and may yet increase.

Roy Salomon, president of Maccabi Canada and a senior Maccabi World Union (MWU) executive, declined to comment on the suit, saying only that "Sasha Elterman is a very courageous young lady and all of us continue to pray for her recovery."

The Week in Israel

March 8

• Defence Minister Moshe Arens ordered the IDF to reassess "all the military options." Arens criticized the Grapes of Wrath understandings of April 1996 as limiting the army's freedom of operations against Hezbollah.

March 9

• An Arab woman was named Miss Israel for the first time in the nation's history. "I am totally Israeli, and I do not think about whether I am an Arab or a Jew," 21-year-old Rana Raslan, from Haifa, said at the pageant.

March 10

• Palestinian police shot dead two Arab teenagers when protests erupted in the Gaza Strip after a Palestinian court passed a death sentence in a politically charged murder case.

• The Israeli embassy in Moscow said it is alarmed by the "dangerous trend" of growing Russian anti-Semitism. The embassy issued the statement after a synagogue in Novosibirsk was vandalized. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is scheduled to visit Moscow in two weeks.

March 11

• The Palestinian Authority (PA) blamed Israeli soldiers for the death of at least one of the two teenagers killed during yesterday's violent confrontations with Arab demonstrators. Israel said its soldiers were not involved in the protests. Meanwhile, demonstrations against the PA continued for a second day.

• Valery Kaminsky, 54, of Rishon Lezion, a maintenance technician at the Israeli Air Force's Tel Nof base was indicted on three counts of spying for the Soviet Union. The state prosecutor charged in Tel Aviv district court that Kaminsky had been spying for the Soviet Union for 16 years.

March 12

• "Israel will make no concessions in Jerusalem," said Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon. He reacted to a formal letter from the European Union (EU) reconfirming its support for an international regime for Jerusalem and rejecting any Israeli limitations on EU diplomats meeting with PA officials there.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Poland to take jurisdiction over Nazi camps

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The Polish cabinet met last week to discuss a proposed bill that would bring Nazi concentration camps and other sites of Jewish martyrdom under the control of the national government.

The bill, if it becomes law, would remove control over Auschwitz-Birkenau, Majdanek, Stutthoff, Sobibor and other murder sites from local governments and create "spheres of protected zones" around them, said Andrej Przewoznik, secretary-general of the Consul for Preservation of Remembrance of War and Martyrology.

"The most important thing is that for the first time, the bill introduces regulations for the preservation of these [places]," he said.

Speaking through an interpreter at the Polish consulate, Przewoznik said the bill makes no specific reference to the controversial field of 239 crosses situated outside the main camp at Auschwitz. The presence of the crosses has been a sore spot for Jewish survivors of the camp. Ninety percent of the more than one million victims of Auschwitz-Birkenau were Jews.

Przewoznik declined to predict whether the bill, which he described as a "priority" item for the government, would lead to the crosses' removal.

But Nate Leipciger, a Canadian representative on the Auschwitz-Birkenau International Council, said he was assured by Polish president Aleksander Kwasniewski in February that all the crosses would be removed, except a single large "Papal Cross" that commemorates the Pope's visit to the death camp.

Leipciger, who also heads the national Holocaust Remembrance committee of Canadian Jewish Congress, said the bill will give the national Polish government jurisdiction over the camps and a 500-metre "quiet zone" around them. That should defuse a smoldering situation that has pitted local residents and business people in the Polish village of Oswiecim (Auschwitz) against survivors' groups and Jewish organizations.

Leipciger said Carmelite Sisters have leased property adjacent to Auschwitz to "a hard line nationalist and outspoken anti-Semite." He, in turn, permitted another individual supported by skinheads to erect the crosses.

The sub-tenant also plans to erect a shopping mall next to the death camp to take advantage of the large number of visitors to the historic site. Any such development can hardly be expected to be in keeping with the solemn nature of the camp, Leipciger suggested.

However, the bill empowers the national government to expropriate property in the area surrounding the camps, a power Leipciger expects Polish authorities to exercise.

Leipciger said passage of the legislation should lead to substantial changes around Auschwitz. Not only does he expect the crosses be removed, but the Auschwitz-Birkenau Advisory Council is suggesting the current restaurant, flower shop, bookstore and bus stop should be moved outside the camp perimeter. In addition, the council would like to see creation of an educational facility just outside the main camp, he said.

Plans to switch legal control over the Nazi concentration camps and the areas immediately surrounding them have been percolating in Polish government circles for some time and were not connected to the cross controversy, Przewoznik maintained. The proposed legislation is not limited to Auschwitz, but affects a number of locations in Poland where an estimated two million Jews were killed, he said.

Przewoznik, who has held his position for seven years, said the bill recognizes "it is the duty, not just of Poland, but of all people to preserve these sites. They have to testify as to what happened there.

[These] are meant to be educational sites, not only for Jewish and Polish society but for Europe and the world so that never again such things can happen."

Przewoznik suggested the bill should help create "a better understanding and intensify the dialogue" between Poles and Jews.

"We talk all the time about the past, but we have to also build a future," he said.

"The educational aspect is very important. Auschwitz-Birkenau should serve to educate the younger generation of Poles and Jews. This will help create a more intensive dialogue," he suggested.

But Leipciger is not convinced the disputes over Auschwitz will end with passage of the bill. "It will address the problems we have now, but there are still lots of interest groups that have different agendas. It doesn't mean that other groups will lie down and play dead. The rightist extremists are not just going to go away."

Sharansky given rough reception at Reform convention

By AVI MACHLIS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Natan Sharansky, Israel's minister of industry and trade, encountered hostility last week at a meeting of world leaders of the Reform movement.

Sharansky initially was greeted warmly when he arrived to address the World Union for Progressive Judaism's 29th annual convention in Jerusalem.

But seconds after taking the podium, a rabbi hurled insults at the former Soviet Jewish dissident, who was an icon in the struggle led by U.S. Jewry to free Soviet Jews during the 1970s and 1980s.

"He's been voting against us all the time," shouted Rabbi David Liliental of Amsterdam. "He owes us and he's betrayed us."

Rabbi Liliental was referring to support given by Yisrael Ba'Aliyah, the immigrant party that Sharansky leads, to Orthodox-backed legislation in the Knesset that Reform Jews say delegitimizes liberal Jews.

Sharansky replied that Haredi cabinet ministers have been accusing him of not backing their cause strongly enough, and said he was "proud of his role" in building bridges among religious streams.

But many of the 250 Reform rabbis and community leaders attending the conference from around the world, said they were disappointed when Sharansky failed to address the issues that have been straining Israel-Diaspora relations.

Instead, he talked about a recent trip to Russia.

At the end of his address, another participant shouted: "Why did you vote that we are not rabbis? Why did you vote for the conversion bill?"

Sharansky said he was in favor of dialogue, but did not want "legislation or the Supreme Court" to decide the issues.

The hostile atmosphere put a damper on what the Reform movement hoped would be a festive occasion, as it presented Sharansky with the first-ever Russian-language Reform prayer book.

Only a small portion of the crowd cheered when he left.

In contrast to Sharansky's cool reception, Amos Oz, the secular Israeli author, drew cheers as he repeated a recent pledge to join the Reform movement in its struggle against the Orthodox.

He also charmed the crowd with insights on the pluralism conflict, peppered with humor and literary language.

Oz said the heated debate between religious and secular Jews was actually a healthy manifestation of traditional Jewish culture, and will never spark a "full-scale civil war" like those that had devastated Europe and the United States:

"I don't think Israel is going to give the world this horrible spectacle," he said, adding that in 50 years, "this will be the world's most popular city for a healthy argument."

Oz also urged the Reform movement to refocus its struggle on providing an alternative to "a deep-seated emotional and intellectual stagnation" that he feels characterizes haredi Judaism today.

He said the battle for equal rights would not be won only in the Knesset or Supreme Court, but through education.

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Ontario govt. launches Alzheimer strategy

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. — The government has disclosed an overall plan for dealing with Alzheimer disease.

A draft of *Alzheimer strategy, a multi-faceted initiative on Alzheimer disease and related dementias* was recently released by Cam Jackson, minister of long-term care with responsibility for seniors.

"This is the first time any government in Canada has recognized the need for an overall strategy on Alzheimer disease," said Jackson. "The Alzheimer Society of Ontario and many other organizations across the province have been our active partners and we thank them for their invaluable assistance in developing this plan for action."

The 10-point draft strategy was released last week at the Sam McCallion Alzheimer Day Centre.

The strategy focuses on: annual staff training for front-line long-term care workers; a new physician training program; an increase in public awareness, information and education; planning for appropriate, safe and secure environments; more respite services for caregivers; research into caregiver needs; advance directives for preplanned personal health care choices; new psychogeriatric consulting resources; coordinated specialized diagnosis and support; and an intergenerational volunteer initiative.

"This strategy means more support and more resources for those living with Alzheimer disease and their families," said Jackson. "The government is taking action to deal proactively with this very serious disease which affects more than 100,000 Ontarians directly and one million indirectly."

The action plan is designed to improve earlier diagnosis of Alzheimer disease and to help support family caregivers. The unique nature of respite care for people who live with Alzheimer disease is recognized.

The government plans to implement the recommendations following a brief public review period, which ends April 6. Input from the public, community groups and Alzheimer organizations is encouraged. The feedback will result in a final strategy to be released later this spring. All comments should be sent directly to Jackson.

"We are delighted with the draft strategy, as it addresses the key concerns raised by our members," said John Carriere, president of the Alzheimer Society of Ontario.

Controlling stress said essential

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Under stress, a nutritionist tucks into a plate of mashed potatoes, and a psychotherapist develops a bad back, just like his father before him. A CBC-TV news anchor says he needs stress to get an "excited edge" in his voice.

These were the examples heard by an audience of 400 attending the healthy living series, given by Mount Sinai Hospital at the Leah Posluns Theatre of the Bathurst Jewish Centre.

Fran Berkoff, the nutritionist, Dr. Ari Zaretsky, the psychotherapist and Lorne Saxberg, the news anchor and panel moderator, all agreed that stress is necesssary in life, but needs to be controlled.

The crowd of office workers who head for the coffee shops first thing in the morning, is an indication that some are suffering from lack of sleep, said Zaretsky, underlining the need for a good night's sleep of six to nine hours.

It's not just combat veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, which is being seen more and more often, said Zaretsky, head of Mount Sinai's cognitive behavior therapy clinic.

A healthy diet, aerobic exercise, breathing exercises, yoga, massage and acupuncture can be helpful for all kinds of stress, he said.

Men who have had heart attacks and then suffer from depression, are at a much greater risk for a fatal attack, he said, adding that depression is still the most untreated disease, especially in men.

Holistic medicine is such a hot topic, that four out of 10 residents of the United States spent a total of 27 billion on the medicine in 1997, but only three out of 10 told their family doctor, Dr. Zaretsky said.

"My concern is not that [the medicines] don't work, since scientific studies are being done which show they are effective, but my concern is with their safety. What reaction does the brain have to these chemicals? There may be side effects. Talk to your family doctor first."

An "exercise buddy" is one way of keeping motivated to do aerobic or other exercises, said Denise Lai, a Mount Sinai physiotherapist.

Exercise pumps endorphins into the bloodstream, and this relieves stress, said Lai.

People should put a beeper into their computer, or write an entry in their daytimer, to remind them to have lunch, said Berkoff. "It is important to make time for food," she said.

She advised eating lots of complex carbohydrates such as bread, rice and pasta, and enough proteins. She added that people who eat fruits and vegetables are helping their immune systems, and are usually healthy.

Only people who are not eating well, need vitamins, she said.

"Don't diet. If you cut down 100 calories a day, you will lose 10 pounds in a year, "said Berkoff.

In the discussion period, Zaretsky said that attention deficit syndrome is more often due to genetics than stress, and said that he doubted that it affects more than five per cent of the population.

There is no evidence that the long-term use of anti-depressants is unsafe, he said.

The panelists and moderator were given golf shirts so they would exercise.

Carol Seidman, hospital vice-president, was chair.

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Israeli malls help Azrieli fulfill business dream

By JAMES PASTERNAK
Special to the CJN

TORONTO — When Canadian developer David Azrieli wrote a $70-million (US) cheque to the city of Tel Aviv in 1992 for a 200-year lease on land that had served as a depot for garbage trucks and municipal waste, he knew exactly what he was doing.

Azrieli was starting to build his fourth enclosed shopping mall and office complex in Israel, and taking risks were part of the challenge when he first set his sights on Israel several years earlier.

"I realized that there were different cultural considerations to keep in mind. However, geographical and cultural differences were not going to prevent me from fulfilling my dream of getting involved and participating in the economy of Israel. I set out to fulfil my goals with great anticipation," Azrieli told a recent gathering of the Canada-Israel Chamber of Commerce.

Azrieli, who began his career building four houses in a Montreal suburb, first introduced the idea of an enclosed shopping mall to Israel in the early 1980s. However, applying a proven commercial development formula from North America, to the Mediterranean, was no easy task.

The banks and government were skeptical, there was skyrocketing inflation, the financial system was undergoing a "severe crisis" and there was extensive red tape.

Moreover, prior to Azrieli's first shopping mall in Ramat Gan which opened in 1985, Israeli retailers bought their store units. There was no history of leasing retail space – a major principle of an enclosed mall.

"The purchase of retail space had led to a haphazard tenant mix, shoddy merchandising and a loss of control in the day-to-day operations of Israel's commercial centres," said Azrieli.

With each challenge overcome, Azrieli looked for another. Having established a new way of doing business in Ramat Gan, Azrieli then looked to the desert town of Beersheva for his second project, not a likely site for an enclosed shopping mall.

David Azrieli

"The resounding success of the first mall in Israel led me to take another initiative – to build a mall in the desert town of Beersheva. Once again, there was widespread skepticism about my choice of location," said Azrieli.

Over time, "The mall helped transform this formerly sleepy town into the metropolis capital of the Negev."

Three years later, in 1993, Azrieli's third development opened, this time in Jerusalem. It quickly started drawing foreigners such as Jordanians and Egyptians, in addition to the local Israeli and Arab populations. It is the largest shopping centre in the Middle East.

Azrieli said the introduction of enclosed shopping malls in Israel shaped different aspects of doing

Continued on page 61

DINING PLEASURES

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
1999 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

Please note that a Special Committee of the Whole meeting has been scheduled for **Monday, March 22, 1999, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Council Chambers, VAUGHAN CIVIC CENTRE, 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan, Ontario, for the purpose of presenting the proposed 1999 Operating and Capital budgets and receiving input from the public.

FURTHER INFORMATION may be obtained by visiting or contacting the Finance Department at (905) 832-8585, extension 8482. A copy of the Staff Report will be available from the Clerk's Department on Friday, March 19, 1999.

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Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

NEW LOCATION FOR JEWISH FILM FEST

After six years at the Bloor Street Cinema, the Toronto Jewish Film Festival has announced a change of venue. The 7th annual festival takes places April 29 to May 6 at the Cineplex Odeon Hyland Cinemas, on the east side of Yonge Street north of St. Clair.

Since the Hyland has two screens, festival organizers have almost doubled the number of films being shown. More than 60 features, shorts and documentaries are being screened this year, as compared to 35 last year, many of which were sold out.

"They'll be more repeats, and we'll be showing two Yiddish films this year, not just one," said festival director **Shlomo Schwartzberg**, as he was put finishing touches to the new program, due for release in full this week.

A frequent complaint of festival-goers in previous years has been that the seats at the Bloor Street Cinema were old and uncomfortable. The Hyland's seats, by contrast, should make it much easier for attendees to sit through a double bill.

The festival is scheduled to open with *The Dybbuk of the Holy Apple Field*, an Israeli film that, according to Schwartzberg, "can best be described as *Romeo and Juliet* meet *The Exorcist*." It was completed in 1998 at a cost of $3 million (US), making it the most expensive Israeli film ever made.

The festival is also screening *Photographer*, a powerful Polish-made documentary about the Lodz Ghetto, using a recently-found set of photographic stills taken by a Viennese accountant. "It gives a sense of what the ghetto was like," Schwartzberg said.

Another highlight of this year's festival is *Buzz*, a recent film by Israeli director **Eli Cohen**, who also directed *Summer of Aviyah*. *Buzz* tells the true story of two Israeli teenagers who committed murder for thrills – a well-known case in Israel.

Restored versions of two Yiddish films – *The Singing Blacksmith*, and *The Light Ahead* – are also on the festival program. The theme of this year's fest, which includes more Israeli films than ever before, is Jews from Distant Lands.

Festival passes are on sale now through March 29 for $90, and afterwards for $99; festival programs are due to be mailed out in early April. For details, contact the box office, 324-8600.

As a fund-raising event, the Producers Group and Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem present a screening of *The Harmonists* at the Hyland Cinema, March 25, 7:30 p.m. The film tells the story of a group of six young singers, three of whom are Jewish, winning such popular success in Germany that they are unwilling to take Hitler's rise to power seriously.

Tickets are $25 each, and include admission to a post-screening party. 324-8600.

* * *

Capsule Book Review: *World Religions: An Illustrated Guide* is a handsome coffee-table book weighing in at nearly 300 pages, and featuring sections on seven major religions. The first section, on Judaism, is colorfully laid out with numerous maps, photographs and illustrations. It provides a surprisingly detailed and informative look at Jewish religious beliefs, philosophy and history.

Subsequent sections, covering Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese Traditions and Japanese Traditions, are equally attractive and readable. Published by Duncan Baird, and distributed by Raincoast Books.

* * *

Three Plays in a Day: Necessary Angel Theatre Company is celebrating its 20th anniversary by presenting Three Plays In A Day, featuring short pieces by playwrights **Colleen Murphy**, **Jason Sherman** and **David Young**.

On the morning of April 1, each playwright is to be given an opening line by writer **Michael Ondaatje**, and is to write his or her respective play within the next 4-1/2 hours. Three guest directors will have five hours to rehearse the plays before they are performed in public that evening. Each play is to have four characters.

Tickets for this fund-raising event are $99, and only 200 are available. Imperial Room, Royal York Hotel, April 1. Doors opens 7 p.m., with plays at 8, 9 and 10 p.m. 703-0406.

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Entrepreneurial educator operates three business schools

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO—Frustration with what she saw as the lack of facilities available for her 16-year-old daughter led Esme Gotz into the field of education.

Today, Gotz is the director of three campuses of the Toronto School of Business.

To help her daughter and others with learning disabilities, she founded the Springfield School for Girls, a private facility for teenage girls. She explained that Springfield School was closed after five years as government legislation was in favor of "mainstreaming," which made it difficult to operate private schools like Springfield.

"I had become hooked on schooling," she says. "I missed that high of seeing someone break through barriers and achieve levels of confidence that they, and their families, never thought possible."

When the opportunity for a Toronto School of Business franchise presented itself in 1985, she opened her first campus in Oshawa. She has since opened branches in Pickering and in Cobourg.

The schools have become a major trainer and private post secondary training institution. "With more than 600 students on three campuses and a staff of more than 65," she says, "we are also a major employer in [Durham] region."

She notes that at the beginning, "I did everything – admissions, banking, payroll, name it, I did it. I learned an important skill: how to select competent people, and give them the trust. Now my job is to oversee."

The schools have grown, she noted with pride: "When we started in 1985, we had five IBM computers. We now have more than 400." She notes that every discipline needs access to computers and internet.

Most of the students are 22 to 30. "With the recent government cutbacks and with the downsizing of companies, many people in their 40s and 50s are returning to school for upgrading or seeking more current skills."

The schools have numerous diploma programs in business, computers, hospitality, office administration, health care and recently a department of computer animation was established.

"For me, one of the most rewarding aspects of operating the schools has been seeing the numbers of our students who have made lifestyle changes, gone on to good jobs and advanced to management positions. Some have also become employers, who call our Employer Services staff whenever they need personnel."

Gotz grew up in an entrepreneurial family in leather goods and plastic manufacturing in Johannesburg. She earned a degree in sociology and worked in the family business. She and her husband came to Canada in 1964 with their three children, Ruven, Julia, and Avril.

Gotz is a past president of Toronto Women's ORT and in 1995 and in 1997, was nominated as Oshawa Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year.

Novelist depicts women's shtetl life

Continued from page 31

away from it. Women had sex, and they liked it. The Singers and Aleichems never talked about female libidos.

Neither did they delve deeply into how women prayed. Nattel was fascinated by the discovery of prayers for women, called *techinas*. Women prayed in Yiddish, and asked God to guide them through childbirth, nursing and health for their children, but also so that their husbands would not lose themselves to drink and other women while on a business trip.

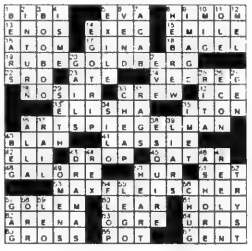
Nattel came from a largely non-observant family, but from a home that was permeated by stories, songs and customs from the old country. Both of her parents are Holocaust survivors. Her grandmother's second husband used to recount tales from a place called Blaska. "I could never find it on a map," Nattel says. "It may have existed at one point, or maybe not."

It looks like Nattel isn't worried about being pigeonholed as a "Jewish writer." She is hard at work on her second novel. Set in Chicago and east-end London at the end of the 19th century, it will explore Jewish heritage in a modern, pluralistic setting. A planned third novel "will be a Jewish book, because I'm a Jewish writer."

Ultimately, the author bemoans the loss of the shtetl's sense of community.

"We're all in need of figuring out how to form a community when there's so much impermanence and movement," she says. "We live in a society that emphasizes consumerism; the big house, the big car. [But] our sense of obligation should go beyond making a living. Sometimes, it takes a crisis to make people realize we need more than that."

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



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Latvian-born chanteuse performs in 16 languages

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

Aelita's act is very versatile. Her revues can be cabaret, swing Hollywood, '50s, Russian, Israeli and lots more.

TORONTO — The term "internationally-renowned star" can be overused by publicists in the showbiz industry. But it does seem to apply to singer/ performer Aelita.

After all, not only has the Toronto resident performed in the United States, South Korea, Israel, Germany, Cyprus, Russia and other international venues, she also sings in 16 languages.

Chinese and Korean are amongst the hardest languages she has sung in, she says. "Those are very difficult, but the language itself acquires a melody. Before a Chinese concert, I listen to Chinese radio stations all day," to learn pronunciations and nuances.

Aelita says no matter what the language, she will always learn the meanings of the lyrics of all the songs she sings. "There's a whole world out there and I want to make a connection with its people and cultures. If I sang only in English I'd be robbing myself and my audience."

Learning languages through song is not entirely a new concept for the Latvian-born chanteuse. Growing up, she supplemented her English classes by listening to English songs.

These days Aelita is on the road a lot with either her 20-piece orchestra or her full retinue of dancers and performers.

Her act is very versatile. Her revues can be cabaret, swing, big band, broadway, Israeli, French, '50s, Hollywood, Russian – there's very little she can't do.

Just take a look at her itinerary. She'll be doing her swing revue this June in Scarborough, her From Russia With Love set in the United States in November, she's booked for a Mediterranean cruise in May and she's performing at the Four Seasons here with her 20 piece orchestra New Years Eve.

"Nobody else in Canada does this," she says. "It is more difficult though [than specializing in one genre]. For example, if you sing Yiddish, people think you can't do rhythm and blues." She says she can't be labeled and "people ar blown away by that."

Her revues are huge produc tions with lavish costumes an dancers. And they're the sam dancers she uses whether it's he From Russia With Love set or he Jerusalem Revisited (which sh performs at the Israel pavilion fo Caravan.)

"Their talent has to be very broad," she says of her versatile performers. "And if they have the talent they will want to keep learn ing different things. It's no good t think you know it all."

Continued on page 6

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Russian revue includes acrobatic cossack dancers

Continued from page 61

Her Russian revue consists of "all the gems of Russian music;" acrobatic Cossack dances and traditional Russian songs as *Midnight in Moscow*, *Kalitka*, and music from *Dr. Zhivago*.

Even though she was raised in Latvia, which was occupied by the former Soviet Union for almost 50 years, Aelita has no problem celebrating Russian culture.

"Russia is a beautiful country with lots of talent and soulful music. What was good was good – the bad was anti-Semitism and lack of freedom – but I was brought up on wonderful music, books and culture."

Aelita has firsthand experience with anti-Semitism. In Latvia she was beaten up because she was Jewish and she remembers vividly her grandmother shutting the curtains when she lit the Shabbat candles.

She recalls what it was like during the height of Soviet paranoia in the ,'60s and how difficult it was to listen to Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald. "We used to get Voice of America but it was always jammed." So she used to go to the seaside with her radio and fiddle about with the antenna trying to tune the station in.

Always interested in singing, she won a talent contest when she was 15 and performed in Moscow. However, she wasn't allowed to perform outside of Russia (even in a Soviet bloc country like Bulgaria) because "they knew I had relatives in the States and I was an escape risk."

As with other Refuseniks, her life was hellish after she and her mother applied for exit visas. "For eight months we couldn't work or do anything."

It is with bitter irony that Aelita, who's done so well on the international level, faces hurdles almost reminiscent of Soviet-style bureaucracy when it comes to performing for the Jewish community here.

"Toronto is my home and I wish I can do more for the Jewish community – I'm not doing enough." But, she says, various event organizers always think it's better to "get someone from New York," than a local performer.

"It's funny because I do Jewish events even in South America. This makes me sad, it's something I would love to do for my soul."

Even performing in her favorite language – Yiddish– is problematic here. Her appeals to such events as Ashkenaz and Yiddishland Cafe have mostly been rejected. "They say I'm not hip enough," she says. "They say my songs have all been done before."

And while she's willing to learn new songs, she's not willing to compromise her style. "When I do a Yiddish concert it's an expression of my experiences in Latvia and all the repression I suffered," she says, her eyes visibly tearing up. "They do not recognize that I *am* the grande dame of Yiddish music."

You can sample her diverse forms of music on her new CD *Around the World in 60 minutes*,which is a compilation of songs from her different revues including Edith Piaf's *La Vie En Rose*, the Russian traditional classic *Kalitka*, Marlene Dietrich's wartime hit *Lilli Marlene* and a Yiddish version of *My Way*.

And they say she isn't hip.

You can order the CD from Ten International 905-731-6942.

Azrieli launched Israel's 'Canions'

Continued from page 57

business in that country, including banking, marketing and retailing. Azrieli takes credit for introducing the word Canion to Israeli society, which combines the word shopping and parking.

The concept of a shopping mall created a more positive atmosphere for customer relations. "The development of the Canions throughout Israel helped change prevailing attitudes towards consumers; the interaction between merchant and customer came to be characterized by mutual respect and cordial relations,"said Azrieli.

Another major change was with the introduction of leasing instead of buying retail space.

With centralized mall management (for such items as maintenance, cleanliness, operating hours and tenant mix), "The North-American-style shopping mall in Israel liberated the store owners from investing their capital in the purchase of stores, thus allowing them to use their resources to concentrate on what they do best – selling and merchandising," explained Azrieli.

Azrieli's crowning achievement in Israel is the massive development that bears his name, The Azrieli Centre, located in Tel Aviv. His firm was selected from an international competition of 21 firms to develop the eight-acre site.

Also called the Hashalom Project, the development has three office towers (42 stories, 46 stories and 50 stories), a two-level shopping mall, a landscaped plaza, recreation centre, entertainment sites, a hotel and a four-level parking facility that accommodates 3,600 cars. Phase I opened in March 1998, and the full project is to be completed by the end of 1999.

Azrieli said that the development is quickly becoming the Fashion Boulevard of Israel accommodating 30,000 to 40,000 pedestrians each day.

In a veiled hint that there might be a fifth project in mind, Azrieli said, "Consideration for the future is a very important element in making investment decisions in Israel, for we must remember that it is a young country with a greater deal of potential that has yet to be fulfilled. Personally, I am honored to have been called a "pioneer" in the realm of real estate development in Israel. The pioneering days are not over."

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MARRIAGE MINDED
Single Jewish female, 36, slime, cute, petite, confident, enjoy dining & dancing, music, movies, long walks, good conversation. Seeking a single Jewish male, 35-40, spontaneous, down to earth, ambitious, for serious relationship leading to marriage and children. AD#1917

HEART OF GOLD
Single Jewish female, 58, speak only Yiddish and Russian, brown eyes and hair. Seeking a single Jewish male, 60-70, kind, and well established. AD#1919

LIFE LONG PARTNER
Single female, 35, slim, attractive, a true romantic, enjoy theater, movies, and weekend getaways. Seeking a male, 35-43, who is intelligent, and attractive, inside and out. AD#1902

FRIEND OR LOVER
Single female, 38, dark hair, blue eyes, nice smile, a real people person, Kindergarten teacher, family oriented, down to earth, enjoy movies, live theater. Seeking a male, down to earth, with similar interests for serious relationship. AD#1887

WEEKEND GET AWAYS
Single female, 35, 5'4", brunette, slim, attractive, sensitive, romantic, intelligent, enjoy dining out, movies, reading, theater, weekend getaways. Seeking a sensitive, romantic male, 35-43, intelligent, attractive on the inside and out. AD#1888

SEEKING LIFE PARTNER
Single Jewish female, 39, petite, non smoker, never been married, down to earth, quiet, have a laid back lifestyle Seeking a good hearted male, 37-42, who enjoys oldies music and Bingo. AD#1863

FUNNY AND WARM
Divorced female, 52, intelligent, financially independent, warm, funny, enjoy dining in & out, long walks, sports, movies, baseball. Seeking a male, 55+, with similar interests. AD#1879

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single female, 35, 5'4", slim, brunette, attractive, enjoy movies, theater, travelling, ethnic foods, cottage and country life. Seeking a male, 35-43, professional, intelligent, handsome inside and out, a good communicator. AD#1881

LOVES NATURE
Single Jewish female, 42, blue eyes, intelligent, unique, enjoy art, theater, nature, travelling. Seeking a male, between 45-50 yrs, non-smoker, unique and caring. AD#1882

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single female, radiant, smart, sophisticated, compassionate, fun, open, loving, enjoy good food, good conversation, long walks, quiet romantic times. Seeking a male, who is romantic, professional, with traditional values, emotionally and financially stable, and is ready to explore life. AD#1866

DEVELOPING NEW INTEREST
Professional Jewish female, non-smoker, warm, pretty, enjoy dancing, long walks, movies, playing Bridge. Seeking a male, 55+, who is easy going, with similar interests. AD#1867

CANDLE LIGHT DINNERS
Single female, caring, loving, romantic, affectionate, enjoy working out, travelling, candle light dinners. Seeking a male, 45-55, with similar interest AD#1869

NUMBER ONE
Single mom of 1 teenage son, attractive, exciting, 5'5", Jewish, brown eyes & hair, very youthful looking. Seeking a handsome, single Jewish male, professional, traditional, established, tall, fit, kind, sincere, fun loving, with a zest for life. AD#1873

SIMPLE TWIST OF FATE
Single Jewish female, interesting, intelligent, unique, 34. Seeking a Jewish male, 35-46, for friendship, romance and trouble, if interested give me a call. AD#1876

LET'S CHAT
Single female, early 30's, attractive, fit, enjoy long walks, cycling, dining, movies. Seeking a single Jewish male, non-smoker, 30ish, no children, outgoing, fun, sensitive, caring. AD#1864

FULL OF LOVE
Single Jewish female, 18, 5'3", 115lbs, brown hair & eyes, non-smoker, honest, caring, enjoy moves, sports, dining and dancing. Seeking a male, 18-21, honest, romantic, trustworthy with similar interests. AD#1862

NIFTY 50'S
Single lady, hazel eyes, blond hair, love life, sense of humour, enjoy the arts, movies, the theater, music from classical to jazz, travelling, long walks, and romantic talks. Seeking a male, kind, compassionate, self-sufficient, with a good heart and a great smile. AD#1853

FRIENDS FIRST
Divorced female, 49, single mom, professional, warm, attractive, beautiful, blond hair, hazel eyes, non-smoker, university educated, down to earth, enjoy dining and dancing, sports, travelling. Seeking a male, 48-59, handsome, outgoing, honest, romantic, intelligent, who loves kids. AD#1949

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Men seeking Women

SENSE OF VALUES
Single jewish male, smart, intelligent, strong, outgoing, with strong sense of values. Seeking a female, who is fun, trustworthy, 25-32. AD#1921

COLLEGE STUDENT
Single Jewish male, 22, 6'2", college student, enjoy sports, especially golf and baseball, movies, dining out, dancing. Seeking a female, 18-23, with similar interests. AD#1922

LOVING
Single male, 5'10", black hair, green eyes, non smoker or dnnker, happy going person, enjoy cooking, dancing, dining out, movies, canng, loving. Seeking a very nice and sincere female with similar interests. AD#1923

LATIN MUSIC
Single Jewish male, 5'6", 147lbs, healthy in body and mind, enjoy Latin music, great outdoors, tennis and fine dining. Seeking an attractive, slim female, with similar interests. AD#1906

ATTENTION LADIES!
Single male, professional, mid 50's, Israeli-European background, enjoy walks, movies, dining and dancing. Seeking a female, attractive, petite, down to earth AD#1470

LONG DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 36, tall, fit, professional, easy going, down to earth, live in Western Canada, enjoy travelling, movies, weekends at the lake. Seeking a Jewish female, active, sincere, outgoing, 25-40, willing to relocate or have a long distance relationship. AD#1886

LASTING LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 46, physically fit, easy going, sincere, hard working, enjoy movies, books, art, dining out . Seeking a female, 30-40, for a lasting relationship. AD#1892

CONSIDERATE
Single Jewish male, strong, fit, athletic, great sense of humour. Seeking a female, 30-40, who is nice and considerate. AD#1895

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single male, 36, slim, blue-green eyes, brown hair, enjoy movies, dining and dancing, travelling, good conversationalist, financially secure. Seeking an attractive, outgoing, cheerful female, who is a good conversationalist, for relationship leading to marriage. AD#1898

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 34, 5'7", athletic built, Bachelor of Science, caring, honest, reliable, romantic, enjoy movies, cooking, 60's dancing. Seeking a single Jewish female, intelligent, professional, open, and friendly. AD#1877

SPONTANEOUS
Single Jewish male, outgoing, spontaneous, adventurous, enjoy working out, swimming, scuba diving, skiing, music. Seeking a female, who is passionate, with inner and outer beauty. AD#1878

OUTSPOKEN
Single male, 34, educated, outspoken, enjoy country life, outdoor activities, dining out, animals. Seeking a female with similar interests. AD#1880

ATTENTION LADIES!
Single male, 47, warm, romantic, intelligent, 5'9", medium built, good sense of humour, enjoy movies, dining out, good conversation. Seeking a female, who is warm hearted and sincere. AD#1885

CASUAL GET TOGETHERS
Divorced Jewish male, 40's, 5'8", 136lbs, enjoy culture, art, ballet, travelling. Seeking a female who is independent, for casual get togethers. AD#1870

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Single Jewish male, 5'5", handsome, secure, athletic, enjoy tennis, swimming, jogging, cycling, skiing, theater, dancing, socializing. Seking a female, 38-50, with similar interests. AD#1671

SOULMATE
Divorced Jewish male, 6', 240lbs, easy going, great sense of humour, enjoy sports, movies, and love to laugh. Seeking a female, 26-31, with similar interests. AD#1818

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single male, Goldsmith and an artist, enjoy music, fine arts, sports, writing. Seeking a female, attractive, single moms OK, 28-38, with similar interests. AD#1907

ONCE BITTEN, TWICE SHY
Single male, 50's, financially secure, handsome, from the Thornhill area. Seeking a female, good looking, with a good sense of humour, slim, age is not important, financially secure, a picture is a must after contact is made. AD#1810

BEST FRIEND AND LOVER
Single Jewish male, 5'7", 30 something, Andy Garcia looks, very attractive, impeccable dresser but a cowboy at heart, fun loving, romantic, stable, resourceful, professional. Seeking a Jewish female, late 20's- early 30's, attractive, vibrant, classy and slim. AD#1823

FUN LOVING
Single Jewish male, 33, easy going, fun loving, enjoy outdoor activities, movies, long walks, camping. Seeking a female, 25-38, with similar interests. AD#1777

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single Jewish male, 6', handsome, athletic built, love sports and keeping fit, artistic, with traditional values. Seeking a Jewish female, who is ready to make a commitment and start a family, who enjoys life and has old fashioned values. AD#1809

OLD FASHIONED
Single male, mid 30's, old fashioned, sensitive, stubborn, romantic, enjoy cuddling, outdoor activities, movies, camping. Seeking a female, 30-35, with similar interests. AD#1762

Questions ???
416-236-6644

REAL ESTATE Section

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Paul Slavens
REAL ESTATE INC. REALTOR
RESULTS 483-4337

FINE HOMES

ALLENBY SCHOOL AREA - $409,000
1st ad. Recent renovation. Unique 3 bdrm home. Master w/sitting area + ensuite bath. Family rm. w/walk-out. Luscious landscaped English garden. Fin. lower level. *Don Wagman

• • •

EGLINTON/BATHURST - $244,900
Charming & spacious bungalow in prime location. Multi fireplaces. Leaded windows. Fin. lower level w/rec rm + dark rm & cedar closet. Steps to Eglinton & subway. *Cathy Goldman.

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YONGE/EGLINTON - $499,000
Stunning home boasts Greenhouse kitchen w/breakfast area. Marble fireplaces. Tasteful renovations. Landscaped garden & deck. Fin. lower level. Private drive & built-in garage. *Edie Winberg

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AVENUE RD/LAWRENCE - $599,000
Newly built 3+ bdrms. Master w/walk-out to balcony. Skylights. Main fl. family rm w/walk-out to deck. Fin. lower level. CAC. Fabulous upgrades. *Betty Cohen.

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JOHN ROSS ROBERTSON SCHOOL
Charming 4+ bdrm. home. Reno'd eat-in kitchen. Gas fireplace in living rm. Finished lower level w/nanny's rm. & rec. rm. Central air. Offered at $439,000. *Edith Weiss.

• • •

YORK MILLS BUNGALOW - $614,000
Magnificent 75 x 150 ft. lot. Spacious principal rms. 3 bdrms. Centre hall plan. Finished lower level w/extra bdrm.& large rec room. Double garage. *Marlene Federman

• • •

BAYVIEW/GREENLANE - $659,900
Designer's own home. Approx. 4,600 sq. ft. Main floor family rm. + library. Multi fireplaces. Luxurious, private master retreat w/fireplace & 7pc ensuite bath. Fin. lower level. CAC. *Ruth Kaufman

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ALLENBY RENOVATION
St. Clements/Caldow. Fabulous 4 bdrm. home boasts new gorumet kitchen, main floor family rm. w/fireplace, spectacular master ensuite. W/O to deck & garden. *Leslie Dennis.

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SKYMARK PENTHOUSE - $359,000
Fabulous suite. Approx. 2,000 sq. ft. 2 bdrms + family rm. Stone fireplace. Skylights. 3 parking spaces. Panoramic views. Fantastic amenities. **Don Wagman.

• • •

STYLISH ROSEDALE TOWNHOME
Stunning 2 bdrms. + loft w/walk-out to deck. Paris kitchen. Granite counters. Fireplace. Central air. Parking. Offered at $349,000. *Leslie Dennis

• • •

FOREST HILL CO-OP
$92,900. Why rent? Charming suite in well-maintained building. Updated kitchen & bath. South facing unit with lots of sunlight. Great location. *Bobby Simpson.

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333 CLARK AVE. - 1ST AD
The Conservatory. New Listing! 2 bedroom, 2 full bath condo, family size kitchen, broadloom LR/DR, south/west views, balcony, underground parking. Many upgrades. Won't last. **$325,000.**

ARMOUR HEIGHTS - 1ST AD
Large 3 bedroom, square plan, on demand street, hardwood in LR/DR, powder room, white eat-in kitchen, nanny's room and bath in basement, new furnace, CAC, fenced garden. **$372,000.**

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Fabulous luxury custom home - 4 bedrooms, 5 baths. Richard Wengle-Design. Vaulted family room Gary Mitchell** 488-2875

11 YORK DOWNS DRIVE! $1,200,000!
Spectacular 70 x 433' ravine lot! Build your dream on best part of block! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

511 VESTA DRIVE! 5+1 BEDROOMS, 5 BATHS
SOLD
$1,069,000! Lower Village Gate. Exquisite details! Main family+ library+laundry+2 pce.! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

AVENUE ROAD/LAWRENCE - NEW HOME $899K
SOLD
Absolutely superb! Allen Tobe**/Bonnie Singer** 488-2875

AVENUE ROAD/LAWRENCE NOW $839,000
3,250' of luxury, 4+1 bdrms., 5 baths, granite kitchen, new appliances, hardwood, wrought iron railings. Sharon Bobkin* 226-1987

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4+1 bdrms., exquisite, 4 frpls. Must see! J. Gofman* 488-2875

LOWER VILLAGE TOWNHOMES NEAR COMPLETION
Fabulous Georgian freeholds, 3,100 luxury sq. ft., elevators, 2 car garage. Gary Mitchell** 488-2875

524 GLENCAIRN AVE.! 6+1 BDRMS., 5 BATHS
$739K! Main family+library+laundry+2 pce.! Fab. 50 x 132'! Walk to subway! Try your offer! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

NEW LISTING! 9 YEARS NEW! CENTRAL
3,100 sq. ft. On 50 foot lot, 2 storey, foyer, 4 bdrms., 4 baths, separate in-law suite in bsmt. A must see! Reesa Sud* 488-2875

YONGE/LAWRENCE - CUSTOM BUILT HOME
$679K. Stone ext., 4 bdrms., 4 baths. Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

JUST LISTED "CEDARVALE GEM"
Custom built home. Stucco exterior, 4 bdrms., 4 baths. Main floor family. Loaded with upgrades. Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

1ST AD! 43 ALEXANDRA WOOD! $548K!
Endless possibilities! 3+1 bdrms., 2 baths, reno. kit. w/main fam.! Fab. 106 x 71' lot! Don't miss! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

72 DON RIVER BLVD.! 62 X 215' RAVINE!
$539K! Breathtaking! Renovated 3 bdrms., 2 baths, backs on Don River! Year round retreat! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

176 BURNETT AVENUE! $259,900!
SOLD
Yonge/Sheppard! Spacious 3 bdrms., 2 baths bung.! Nanny ste.! Fab. 50 x 114'! Don't miss! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

BAYVIEW PROPERTIES

BAYVIEW/YORK MILLS - FABULOUS OWEN BLVD.
SOLD
Situated on 60 x 180 south approx. 5,100', 5 bdrms., 4 baths, 3 fireplaces, walk-out to treed lot! Sharon Bobkin* 226-1987

NEW LISTING! FABULOUS OWEN BLVD.!
4+2 bdrms., 5 baths, 2 st SOLD rble foyer, liv. room with Juliette balcony, mn. flr. lib., w/o fam kit. + fam. Sharon Bobkin* 226-1987

BAYVIEW/YORK MILLS NOW $799,000!
Reno'd. 4+1 bdrms., fin. lower level, marble entry, nanny suite, exercise room, sauna+++ Call Sharon Bobkin* 226-1987

115 BANBURY ROAD! NOW $519,000!
Unbelievable! By the Park! Updated 4+1 bdrms., 4 baths! Main fam.+lau.+2 pce.! Nanny ste.! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

BAYVIEW/YORK MILLS
Executive townhouse, stunning renovations, 3 bedrooms, eat-in kitchen, hardwood floors. Ruth Bass* 226-1987

EXECUTIVE NO MAINTENANCE TOWNHOMES
Only 3 left, 3 bedrooms. 2,200' main floor family room. Bonus package. North York location. Anna Pollock* 226-1987

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RENAISSANCE COURT $1,295,000
Grand 5 bdrms., 7 baths, 6,000 sq. ft. + finished basement. 3 car garage. Gary Mitchell** 488-2875.

RANCH BUNGALOW IN KING CITY!
Executive 3+2 bedroom bungalow. Approx. 5,000' of living space. Shows like a model! Anna Pollock* 226-1987

NEW LISTING! BATHURST/WORTH
Beautifully decorated and designed 4 bedroom. Large eat-in kitchen. Like a model. Anna Pollock* 226-1987

CONDOMINIUMS

BAYVIEW/GREENLANE - THE LANDMARK
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Luxurious 2 bdrm. condo solarium. Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

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"WESTMOUNT" AREA - LESS THAN 1 YEAR NEW!
Shows like a model home! Fin. basement, 9 ft. ceilings, modern & bright. Priced to sell! *Cila Fleischmann or *Sarah Tamin

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BATHURST-CENTRE "WILSHIRE"
Exquisite 4 bdrms., 9 ft. ceilings, fin. basement, skylights, premium pool size lot, extras galore! Must see!!! *Ted Waxman

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BATHURST-CLARK "SPRING FARM"
3 bedrooms, large family room, partly finished basement, 5 appliances, air, owner re-locating! $264,900. *Ted Waxman

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BATHURST & CENTRE ON QUIET CRESCENT
"Rosedale Heights" area, double garage, finished bsmnt., renovated, near great schools. *Cila Fleischmann or *Sarah Tamin

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CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

BATHURST-ANTIBES - YOUR CHOICE OF 3!
2 & 3 bdrm. condos, good view, 3 car park., corner unit, appls., air+++. Priced $164,500, $172,900 & $189,900. *Ted Waxman

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YONGE-SHEPPARD "LUXURY"!! $174,900
Approximately 1,540 sq. ft., many upgrades, hardwood floors, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, "Manhatten Place". *Helen Gould

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"PROMENADE" BATHURST & CLARK $219,000
Approx. 1,400 sq. ft., south west view, balcony & solarium, 2 bdrms., 2 baths, eat-in kit. with window. Its a 10! *Helen Gould

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2 bedroom Penthouse unit, tandem parking. *Sarah Rovet

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SOLD
Just 10 years old, 4 bedroom family room and nanny qrts. Super master suite & double garage. Jeffrey Joseph**

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50 x 170 lot. Beautiful new kitchen flows to huge breakfast and family rooms. Just move in. Jeffrey Joseph**

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Total gut, addition and new construction over 3,500 sq. ft. This house is in mint condition! Fin. bsmnt. w/office, mn. flr. library & fam. rm. Open House Sat. & Sun. 2-4pm Janine Sheeres**

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Spacious 4 bdrm., huge family room addition, gleaming hardwood floors. Breakfast room overlooks gorgeous garden, 50 x 125 ft. lot, fabulous location! Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

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BATHURST / STEELES – 3 BDRM. EXEXUTIVE TOWNHOME
Shows very well, finished basement, w/o to gorgeous rear deck, 2 parking spaces, only $239,900. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — REDUCED $20,000 TO SELL NOW!

Spacious ranch bungalow! California-style, 2,700 sq. ft. (approx.), 4 bedrooms, oversize family room, 69 x 120 ft. lot, eat-in kitchen, only $329,000. **ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — NEW LISTING
Lowest price in area! Semi-detached townhome, 2 storey, newer roof and furnace, eat-in kitchen, finished basement, only $169,000. **ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712..

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AVENUE ROAD / LAWRENCE – CHARMING 3+1 BEDROOM
2 storey brick home on 42 x 110 ft. lot, new porch, gorgeous deck and garden, finished basement, fabulous location, only $329,000. **ACT NOW!** Cll David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

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THORNHILL — BATHURST / CLARKE — 2 STOREY FAMILY HOME
3 + 1 bdrms., family room, fin. basement, oversized landscaped lot, near BAYT shul, only $279,900. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

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New listing! Investment property, asking $1.4 million. Call for details! Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

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WILLOWDALE - LARGE LOT
67' x 133'. Build your dream home! Steps to everything.

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OVERBROOK FINCH
Split level, 3 bdrms., 3 baths, family size kitchen, appls., fin. bsmnt., double gar., large lot.

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80 ANTIBES DRIVE 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, all appliances, high floor, immediately!

1201 STEELES AVE. WEST 2 bdrms., completely ren., hrdwd. flrs., whirlpool. Stunning — a 10+!

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BATHURST / STEELES
Newly built, 3,850 sq. ft. 4 bdrm. family home on 63 x 298 ft. lot, triple garage, bsmt. apt. Unsurpassed quality and workmanship!

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WALK TO BETH EMETH C.H.A.T.
Gorgeous ren. side-split, all new kitchen, with built-in appliances, new baths, incl. jacuzzi tub, fam. rm. w/oak built-ins. + w/o to patio & pool. Plus too many extras to list. Call now, this is a 10+++ and will not last.
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BATHURST WILSON
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York Mills/Bayview Custom blt 5 bdrm home backing to quiet park. Main fl fam rm & lib, 7 bth, cac, nanny ste, fully fin. bsmt, dble gar. $949K.416-364-1063.

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Orthodox family seeking home in Bathurst & Clark area for summer. 416-482-9163.

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2,400 SQ. FT. CONDOMINIUM PENTHOUSE
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Primrose. Approximately 1,150 sq. ft., 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 15th floor. Move-in condition. Includes 5 appliances. Call
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100 Antibes, lge. 3 bdrm, 2 bth, corner unit. Private. $179,900. Call 416-486-3106.

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Belle Ewart - Lakefront, shared lot, 13 bdrm, equipped, no agents. 905-881-3317.

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Looking to exch. my clean, kosher, 3 bdr home in TO for similar accom. in/near Jerusalem. July/Aug 99. N/smkr only. 416-489-5648, suzwin@yahoo.com

210 LAND/LOTS FOR SALE/LEASE

South Lake Simcoe at Big Cedar Pt. A lge. bldg. lot, 3/4 acre, water access, walking dist. to shul. $159,900. 416-967-4578.

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Warm, loving, ECE teachers for Sept. '99. P/T. Call Goldie at 905-886-0420 or fax resume to 905-886-0421.

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Frustrated by trying to find a suitable nanny? Let us help you. We have dependable, caring nannies who are thoroughly qualified, personally interviewed & pre-screened. All refs. are checked. Some are CPR trained. Low finders fee. **Wee Care Placement Agency 416-789-3070**

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"Five stars above the rest" Housekeepers, elderly care, nannies, cleaning ladies, party helpers. 905-771-6543.

High quality house cleaning. Call Dora, 736-1179.

LEGITT Cleaning Services. Busy lifestyle, work/family commitments, no time for chores? We'll make your home sparkle. Refs, bonded/ins 416-691-3487

Loving & resp babysitter req'd for 4 mo old, 4 dys/wk, 5 hrs per day, start end Apr. Some house keeping. Refs req'd. No Fri night/Sat calls please. 787-4801

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Cleaning lady, 10 yrs exp. Refs avail. Reas. prices. 638-2044.

Nannies, live-in &out, full &part-time, cleaning. In-home elderly care by RN's & nurses aides. Bonded, refs. **416-224-9907. Servicing Toronto since 1985.** *NUMBER 1 DOMESTICS.*

Tender Care Nursing Agency provides experienced, responsible RN's, RPN's, PSW's and live-in companions. 243-1927.

Well seasoned buby avail. for babysitting. 416-781-8772.

Young woman seeks overnight elder care position. $200/wk for 5 nights. Cheerful, responsible refs. 416-760-5556 or 494-0205

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Call now, and ask about our Guaranteed Service Agreement and qualify for a FREE Voucher of 2 hours caregiver relief.
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Exper. HCA avail. to care for elderly. Call 416-289-9051.

260 BUSINESS PERSONALS

Jewish Singles Registry. Over 1710 registered. **416-483-4151.**

264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carol Moskot & Daniel Zimerman welcome with love, son, Samuel Meir. Born Saturday, February 27, 1999. Proud grandparents are Isaias (Sao) & Evelyn Zimerman and David & Agnes Moskot.

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SALTER, Len - on Feb. 25, 1999, late of 66 Collier St., #2B.
SEGAL, Sam - on Feb. 25, 1999, late of 251 Brighton Ave.
BADNER, Matel - on Feb. 26, 1999, late of 55 Ameer Ave.
CHROSCICKI, Jack - on Feb. 26, 1999, late of 141 Brighton Ave.
WEINER, Ethel - on Feb. 26, 1999, late of 55 Ameer Ave., #113.
WELLS, Bert - on Feb. 26, 1999, late of 1166 Bay St., #1604.
BERZAN, Raymond - on Feb. 28, 1999, late of 132 Dalemount Ave.
BRANDES, Bookie - on Feb. 28, 1999, late of 90 Fisherville.
STEIMAN, Jenny - on Feb. 28, 1999, late of 100 Antibes Dr., #2507.
ABONYI, Violet - on March 2, 1999, late of 10 Shallmar Blvd., #614.
HEITNER, Jeannine - on March 2, 1999, late of 4175 Lawrence Ave., E.
HOUZER, Stanley - on March 2, 1999, late of 51 Caribou Rd.
KOHN, Hela - on March 2, 1999, late of 205 Cummer Ave.
POLLOCK, Ivor - on March 2, 1999, late of 303 Queens Dr.
COPNICK, Gertrude - on March 3, 1999, late of 109 York Downs Dr.
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BLEIER, Susan Donna Ann - on March 2, 1999, late of 15 Candy Courtway
COHEN, Sybil - on March 2, 1999, late of 7 Trudy Rd.
HERSKO, Margaret - on March 2, 1999, late of 130 Neptune Dr.
LAREDO, James - on March 2, 1999, late of 1925 Steeles Ave. E.
BRESLOW, Samuel - on March 4, 1999, late of 10 Ruddington Dr.
ZYNOBERG, Harry - on March 4, 1999, late of 63 Burncrest Dr.
ACOCA, Gladys - on March 5, 1999, late of 2878 Pharr Crt., Atlanta, Georgia.
WALERSTEIN, Max - on March 5, 1999, late of 28 Frontenac Ave.
JOSILEVICH, Sonja - on March 6, 1999, late of 155 Antibes Dr.
KOSAIA, Chava - on March 6, 1999, late of 5 Fisherville Rd.
KOVARSKAYA, Ida - on March 6, 1999, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
KRASNAY, Louis - on March 6, 1999.
BORENSTEIN, Jeanette - on March 8, 1999.
KOENIGSBERG, Alex (Mr. "K") - on March 9, 1999, late of 62 Invermay Ave.
ZLOTNICK, Ruhama - on March 9, 1999, late of 92 Westgate Blvd.
ALTMAN, Louis - on March 10, 1999, late of 265 Ridley Blvd.
IASKI, Luba - on March 10, 1999, late of 6250 Bathurst St.
WEINBERG, William - on March 10, 1999, late of 1121 Steeles Ave. W.
WEISS, Rita - on March 10, 1999.
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DAVIDOW, Sally - on Feb. 16, 1999, late of 9100 Bathurst St.
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Maccabi Canada names new Ontario chair

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Paul Wise

TORONTO — They say good things come to those who wait, but more than 30 years passed between Paul Wise's first encounter with Maccabi Canada and his current role with the organization.

But the onetime high jumper is back big time. Wise has been named co-chair of the Maccabi Canada's Ontario region. He shares the post with Ira Kaufman.

Back when he was a younger man, Wise was less interested in bureaucracy and budgets than in athletics and competition. An accomplished sailor, hockey player and high jumper, Wise played Varsity hockey at Boston University and could clear more than six feet as a jumper. In the mid-60s, he was slated to join Canada's Maccabiah team, but just before the team left for Israel he was told it couldn't afford a stand alone high jumper.

Naturally disappointed, he nevertheless didn't give up on the organization. Prior to the 1997 Games, he learned that sailing had been designated as a Master's event for athletes slightly past their prime.

Wise agreed to test his skills in a Laser, a beginner's boat usually associated with young and light athletes. Although "it was hairy out there" in the Mediterranean's eight-foot seas and he didn't do so well coming downwind, the competition in Israel "was a wonderful experience. I saw what the Maccabiah does and I saw Jewish youth from around the world connecting in the way they did. It was very moving for me.

"I was so overwhelmed, I committed to get at it and work with this organization."

Maccabi Ontario's top man has experience at the executive level in his B'nai Brith lodge and in the arts and entertainment division of the United Jewish Appeal.

Wise is staking out an ambitious agenda for Maccabi Ontario, in part by creating a more permanent structure for the organization. He plans to recruit new people and bring back those with Maccabi blood running through their veins.

"I sensed there had to be a building program in Ontario by calling on the strongest team members we could recruit," he said.

"I had sensed there was a huge network of people with ties to the Maccabi organization. My goal is to reach back and to embrace them into the Maccabi fold. They all know about the Maccabiah experience first hand."

Former Maccabi Canada president Sidney Greenberg "is coming back on the Ontario region board" as are Elliot Wahle and Irv Ungerman. Lewis Allen has been named Ontario sports chair and Gerry Berman is Maccabi's new treasurer.

With the cost of sending one athlete to Israel hovering around $5,000 (300 are expected to go in 2001), fundraising remains one of Wise's top priorities. Raising the organization's profile in non-Maccabiah years is part of his solution. An annual golf tournament and a concert or other entertainment event are being considered. Sponsoring bingos and organizing an alumni event are other items on his agenda.

Wise is enthusiastic when it comes to singing the praises of the Maccabiah ethos.

For those who will wear Canada's colors at the 2001 Games in Israel, the Maccabiah Games "are all about creating a better life for Jewish youth through sport and to create a lasting link to Israel," he said.

New fundraising event planned for hockey star

TORONTO — A recent fundraiser for ailing ex-Soviet hockey star Viktor Zhluktov proved so successful, organizers are planning to do it again.

This time, instead of an autograph-signing session, the public is invited to a celebrity sports dinner and charity auction at Rosa's Place Restaurant, 2201 Finch Ave. W. at 7 p.m.

Toronto Maple Leaf winger Sergei Berezin will be on hand to greet well-wishers and sign autographs. He'll be joined by Slava Fetisov, ex of the Stanley Cup champion Detroit Red Wings and currently an assistant coach with the New Jersey Devils.

The two Russian hockey players will make brief comments and answer questions from the audience, said Gennadi Kuran, one of the event's organizers. The dinner is sponsored by the Russian Hockey Players Association and the Russian Hockey Place in Canada. Tickets are available for $68, which includes dinner and a sports souvenir.

Proceeds from the event go towards bringing Zhluktov, a onetime member of the powerhouse Soviet national teams of the 1970s and '80s, to the Ichilov Hospital in Israel for surgery to correct a debilitating spinal injury (*CJN* Feb. 25).

No other hospital has agreed to perform the surgery, Kuran said. However Zhluktov, who lives on a $25 (US) monthly pension, cannot afford the $35,000 (US) cost of the surgery. His friends in the West are attempting to raise funds to send him to Israel for the operation, Kuran added.

About $5,000 was raised on Feb. 28 at an autograph session at Centerpoint Mall in which all five Russian Maple Leafs participated. The event attracted hundreds of people, beyond organizers' expectations, some of whom donated $100 to aid the former Soviet star, Kuran said.

For tickets and information about the celebrity sports dinner, call Rosa's Place at (416) 745-2222 or the Russian Hockey Place in Canada at (416) 264-5513.

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The Inside Back

Between a rock and a hard place

As readers of this column are aware, I have a great deal of criticism for the Israeli courts. In my opinion, the system is breaking down on many levels, while at the top of the pyramid, Supreme Court President Aharon Barak practises a form of "judicial activism" which, I believe, is not always justified and in some cases, actually causes damage to the rule of law.

You may be surprised, therefore, to learn that I attended the recent counter-demonstration in Jerusalem to express support for Barak and the court.

I would not bother to waste this space with my personal, political opinions, but I do believe that an analysis of recent events surrounding the court is important for a proper understanding of Israeli society and its relationship to the law.

The counter-demonstration of which I speak was a reaction to a demonstration against the court being organized by the haredi community.

In theory, the haredi demonstration was meant to simply be a meeting of prayer against what is perceived in that community as the anti-religious bias of the court. While reports differ, about 200,000 people came out to protest and express the opinion that their needs are not understood by the court.

The haredi protest was a legitimate expression of opinions. What it really involved, however, was a threat against the court, and a call to politicize it, by appointing judges based on their religious and political views and not on their judicial abilities.

North Americans are familiar with this argument in another form, i.e. that the courts have historically been a bastion of Christian white males who do not represent society.

There is a parallel situation in Israel, where the majority of the Supreme Court is made up of secular Ashkenazi jurists, many of whom come from academia and who do not seem in touch with society.

For that reason, among others, I also oppose extreme judicial activism.

The court should not be making policy, and many of its decisions in recent years seem to involve an attempt to "correct" what the judges perceive as negative trends in politics and the Knesset. The techniques for doing this include creating new rights and standards which have no basis in legislation or a constitution. In effect, the court is making policy, and while in many cases it is fighting against phenomena which are offensive and anti-democratic, I am not sure that it is fulfilling its role properly.

Having said that, the argument that the court has no right to make value judgments also indicates a lack of understanding of its job. When a petitioner approaches the court to decide an issue, anything the court does – whether it accepts the petition, rejects it or even refuses to decide, is a value judgment.

Take for example the issue of Conservative conversions. The parents of several adopted children converted by Conservative rabbis petitioned the Supreme Court to force the Interior Ministry to register the children as Jews. The court has done everything in its power to postpone making a decision and refer the issue back to the political sphere, among other things by initiating the establishment of the Ne'eman commission.

If the court accepts the petition, it will be accused of interference in the realm of religion and the state. However, deciding against the petitioners, or even refusing to decide, would be a value judgment in favor of the status quo. Thus, the court is often thrust into sensitive areas and has no choice but to decide.

The solution to the problems surrounding the court is not to politicize it and turn it into a reflection of the Knesset, nor is it to delegitimize it or intimidate it into silence. Doing so will lead Israel onto a slippery slope which could be fatal to democracy in this country.

There is plenty of room for reasoned, respectful criticism of the judges. However, when it comes down to it, the current situation is preferable to some of the alternatives being bandied about, and I therefore had no choice but to express my support for one of the bastions of freedom and democracy in Israel.

THIS RECIPE BROUGHT TO YOU BY...
HERB CAPLAN
1111 Weston Road (S. of Eglinton) 767-1655
WE SELL JENN-AIR FOR LESS

HERBED MATZAH BALLS

4 large eggs, beaten
6 tblsp. seltzer or club soda
1/4 cup vegetable oil
1 cup matzah meal
salt and pepper to taste
2 tblsp. finely chopped fresh mint
2 tblsp. finely chopped fresh dill
1 tsp. ground ginger powder

1. Beat egg whites until they peak. Beat yolks separately.
2. Mix matzah meal and herbs together.
3. Mix together yolks, seltzer, oil, salt & pepper and matzah meal mixture. Gradually add beaten egg whites until no white is showing.
4. Refrigerate 2 hours. With wet hands, shape matzah balls.
5. Add to boiling hot soup or water. Simmer matzah balls for about 15 minutes.

Yield: makes 15 balls.

About Life

Dear Ella,

My husband planned another evening with our friends Esti and Jerry without consulting me. They are wonderful good-hearted people, but by the time the night is over, I'm usually ready to scream.

Esti is the kind of person who always has to top whatever you're discussing. Her kids do cuter things; her dog is smarter; her husband works harder; her job has more pressure; and her hairdresser and mechanic are the best. There isn't a story that can be told that she doesn't interrupt with the words: "You think that's something, well listen to this..." I can't take a whole evening of her. I know one day I will blow up, and I feel it coming soon.

My husband and Jerry are good friends and my husband doesn't have a lot of close friends. I don't want to put a damper on their relationship by starting an argument with Esti. Any suggestions?

Better Than Nothing

Dear Better Than Nothing

It seems to me that you are putting yourself in an unnecessary position. You are probably a wreck after an evening with Esti, and very close to exploding, which is not what an evening with friends is all about.

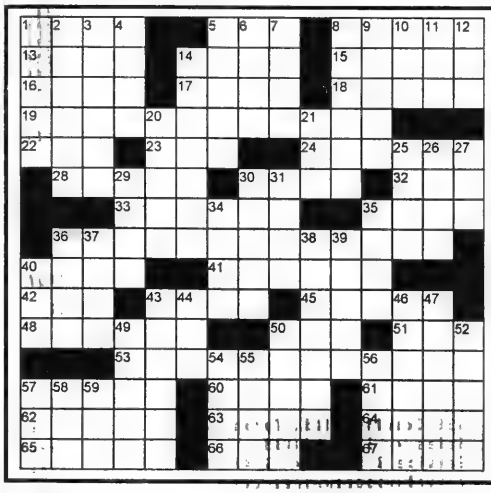
It is very commendable of you to endure the company of a person you seem to dislike for the good of your husband's social life; however, by suppressing yourself through each and every conversation, you are really not doing anyone a favor.

Do you think your husband wants to go out knowing you are miserable? Does he have any idea how you feel? My guess is he wouldn't put you through this if he had an inclination of your dislike for Esti.

First of all, inform him of your feelings and let him know that you think it's great that he and Jerry get along so well, but in future to please make plans that don't include you – especially without your knowledge. Maybe he can take Jerry to a hockey game and ease into a one on one relationship that way.

Give your husband more credit, discuss it with him and I'm sure he will understand.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN. *But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*



The Canadian Jewish news

Name That Toon

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

1 Netanyahu nickname
5 Infamous Braun
8 On-camera quip
13 Son of 29-down
14 Eisner at Disney, e.g.
15 Dreyfus defender Zola
16 Einstein concern
17 Actress Lollobrigida
18 Lox vehicle
19 Cartoonist known for outlandishly complex contraptions
22 Hit sign
23 Had challah
24 Changed direction
28 Denial to Dayan
30 Ship personnel
32 Diamonds, slangily
33 Elijah's successor
35 "Blame ____ Rio"
36 Cartoonist known for the Holocaust book *Maus*
40 Boring
41 TV dog
42 Actor Wallach
43 Word with eye or gum
45 Middle Eastern nation
48 In abundance
50 "Ben-____"
51 Woody Allen's workplace
53 Cartoonist known for creating Popeye
57 Clay creature
60 Producer Norman
61 Like 18-across?
62 Cleveland's Gund ____
63 Kid's nightmare
64 *Exodus* author
65 Not net
66 Stakes
67 Chap

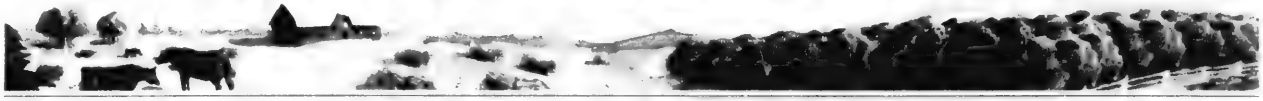
Down

1 Chicago eleven
2 Sequentially
3 Mistake
4 "Woe ____!"
5 586 BCE event
6 Sell
7 Call ____ (forgo walking)
8 Bialik's language
9 Representation
10 Russian fighter jet
11 Bullring cry
12 Director Brooks
14 Narcissist's "vacation"
20 Writer Godwin and track star Devers
21 First lady?
25 Comedienne Rudner
26 Milton Friedman's field, for short
27 Study
29 Son of Adam
30 Not dear
31 Riches precursor
34 Minuteman's home
35 "...to St. Ives, ____ a man..."
36 ____ *breve* (musical time)
37 Billiards boundary
38 Robert Shapiro, for one
39 Storytellers
40 Get down on one's knees
43 Jacob Gordin works
44 Stout of books
46 At Ashdod, maybe
47 Catch a cod
49 Signs of the future
50 Crux
52 Secret meeting
54 Film failure
55 Kid's skyscraper component
56 Don't sip
57 Reflex type
58 Hockey legend Bobby
59 *Hooray For Yiddish!* writer Rosten

(This week's answers are on page 59.)

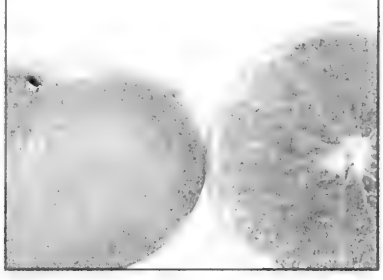
HIGHLAND FARMS 35th Anniversary Since 1964

HIGHLAND FARMS



FRESHNESS THAT MAKES CENTS.

Product of U.S.A., Florida
fresh
HONEY TANGERINES
69¢ lb 1.52/kg



Kosher for Passover
Chai Kosher Cor 218, Grade A
FROZEN TURKEYS
all weights
1.99 lb 4.39/kg

Kosher for Passover
Strub's, Original
DILL PICKLES
2.49 1lt jar

Product of U.S.A., California
fresh
ROMAINE LETTUCE
large size
69¢ each

Kosher for Passover
Feature
HERRING
• *in wine-600g*
• *European thick cut-620g*
3.99 each

Kosher for Passover
Bnei-Darom
CUCUMBERS
1.49 540g tin

Product of U.S.A., Florida, No.1 Grade
fresh
GREEN PEPPERS *extra large size*
99¢ lb 2.18/kg

From the Tropics
BANANAS
39¢ lb .86/kg

Product of Mexico, No.1 Grade
fresh
ASPARAGUS
1.99 1lb bunch

Kosher for Passover
Strub's
pure & beet
HORSERADISH
1.49 250ml jar

Kosher for Passover
Perl's
FRESH SALADS
• *potato* • *coleslaw*
2.99 400g tub

Kosher for Passover
Western Creamery
SOUR CREAM
• *regular* • *light*
1.29 500ml tub

Kosher for Passover
King David
MATZOS
9.99 5lb bundle

Kosher for Passover
Aviva
SUNFLOWER SEED OIL
2.49 1lt bottle

Kosher for Passover
Hechal
SABBATH CANDLES
3.49 72's

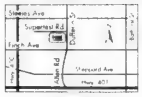
Specials Effective MARCH 14TH TO 20TH, 1999

VISIT OUR 4 GRAND LOCATIONS OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

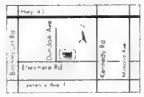
Kosher Products Available Only at Dufferin Location.

STORE HOURS: Monday - Friday 8:00a.m. - 10:00p.m.
Saturday 7:00a.m. - 10:00p.m.
Sunday 9:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.

Interac DIRECT PAYMENT



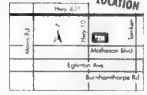
4750 DUFFERIN ST. AT SUPERTEST RD.



850 ELLESMERE RD. AT KENNEDY RD.

148 BENNETT RD. AT LAWRENCE AVE.

NEW LOCATION



50 MATHESON BLVD. AT HWY '10 IN MISSISSAUGA

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Your car in Israel

Eldan offers you all the advantages:

The largest fleet in Israel - 5000 cars • Newest models • Competitive prices
17 Branches all over the country

Group	Type of car or similar	LS 12 April 99 14 June 99
	Manual cars	
A	Fiat Punto 3 DR	**126**
B	Citroen Saxo	**147**
C	Daihatsu Charade P.S	**175**
C-1	Peugeot 306	**217**
C-2	Ford Escort / Daihatsu Applause	**238**
CD	Citroen Xsara Diesel	**259**
N	Kia Besta 8 seats	**455**
M	Minibus 10 seats	**490**
	Automatic cars	
D	Daihatsu Sirion	**210**
E	Daewoo Lanos	**245**
F	*Nissan Almera	**294**
G	*Mazda Lantis 1.8	**315**
K-1	* GMC Savana	**700**
X	* Subaru Legacy 1.8	**350**
XL	*Mazda 626	**385**
SX	*Chevrolet Malibu	**658**
KX	*Mazda MPV	**763**
VX	*Volvo 940 / Chevrolet Lumina	**693**
J-2	*Land Rover Discovery	**980**

* Power steering & Electric windows

High season supplement 25 March 99-11 April 99

From

Per week
Unlimited mileage
Exc. ins.

ELDAN RENT-A-CAR השכרת-רכב

										New Year (Rosh Hashana)	Yom Kippur	Sukkot	Hanukka	Christmas

U.S.A.- New-York In NYS: 212-629-6090 Fax: 212-629-8253 Toll-Free Tel: 1-888-ELDAN-GO/ 1-888-353-2646
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JERUSALEM

ELDAN HOTEL

אלדן מלון ירושלים

Hotel Eldan Jerusalem offers warm hospitality with courteous service provided by a skilled professional staff at attractive prices. The hotel is located within easy walking distance of Jerusalem's old city, the pedestrian mall and the city center.

The hotel has 76 rooms all with bath, air conditioning, television, radio, telephone, safe, work area, computer/fax line, minibar and coffee maker.

Guests may obtain a cellular phone for the period of their stay in the hotel.

The hotel restaurant "Well-done" has a wide assortment of special dishes for breakfast, lunch and supper.

Guests are invited to enjoy refreshing hot and cold drinks in the lobby coffee shop.

Eldan Rent A Car maintains an office in the hotel, enabling guests to combine their hotel stay with a car rental at especially attractive prices.

We honor Eldan's discount cards/cupons

24 KING DAVID ST. JERUSALEM TEL. 02-5679777 FAX. 02-6249525

For further information or to make a reservation, please call any one of Eldan's reservation centers in Israel or abroad:

Israel (Tel Aviv) Tel: 972-3-5654545

U.S.A. (New-York) Toll-Free Tel: 1-888-ELDAN-GO/1-888-353-2646

Favourites for Passover

1999•5759

GOLD SEAL SOCKEYE SALMON
213 g tin
3.47

BENNETTS PRUNE NECTAR
1 L btl
1.99

STREIT'S POTATO CHIPS
5 oz pkg
.97

BORSCHT
MANISCHEWITZ
946 ML BTL
(GOLDS OR HADDAR 32 OZ)
each
1.77

CHUNK LIGHT TUNA
TUNA DELIGHT
6.5 oz tin
.99

CERES JUICE
1 L tetra carton
2.39

BILLY BEE HONEY
500 g jar
2.79

PERRIER
750 mL btl
1.27
Every Single Day

MATZO BALL MIX OR MATZO BALL & SOUP MIX
MANISCHEWITZ OR STREIT'S
4.5-5 oz pkg
1.95

SMUCKER'S STRAWBERRY JAM
250 mL jar
1.88

LIEBER CRANBERRY SAUCE
16 oz tin
1.22

MOTT'S APPLE SAUCE
NATURAL OR UNSWEETENED
978 g-1.02 kg jar
2.48

LIEBER POTATO STARCH
16 oz pkg
1.37

SOUP NUTS
MANISCHEWITZ, HADDAR OR STREIT'S
1.75 oz pkg
1.95

YOLK FREE OR EGG NOODLES
MANISCHEWITZ
12 oz pkg
2.45

BERTOLLI EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL
500 mL btl
3.99
1 L btl
7.95

THIN WHEAT CRISPS
MANISCHEWITZ
8 oz pkg
3.95

COATING MIXES
STREIT'S MATZAH 2.75 OZ, BOBOMAN TOLD'S BAKE ON MANISCHEWITZ BAKIT 3 OZ PKG
1.44

GRIDDLE MIX
STREIT'S OR MANISCHEWITZ
9 oz pkg
3.95

NUT-OLA COTTONSEED OIL
128 mL jug
9.95

GOLDEN HERRING
FILLETS WINE MARINATED
600 g jar
3.99

MRS. ADLER'S GEFILTE FISH
REGULAR OLD JERUSALEM OR PIKE'N WHITEFISH
32 fl oz jar
5.77

TINY TAMS
MANISCHEWITZ ORIGINAL OR EVERYTHING
8 oz pkg
2.88

ABC LAUNDRY DETERGENT
32-35 USES
3.97

food Basics

•*MARKHAM:* 8190 BAYVIEW AVE.-ROMFIELD CRES & BAYVIEW AVE.;THE SHOPS ON STEELES & 404-DON MILLS & STEELES AVE. E. •*THORNHILL:* MAIN EXCHANGE PLAZA-BATHURST & STEELES

P6P6P6

Celebrate Passover 1999•5759

WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD BY OUR MAJOR COMPETITORS ON MATZOS, CANDLES, GRAPE JUICE OR MACAROONS.

CANADA DRY GINGERALE OR CLASSIC COKE
OR DIET COKE
2 L btl

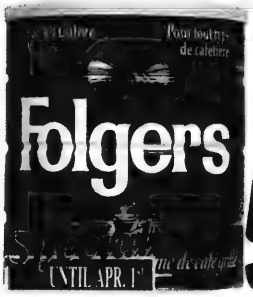
.99

CRISPY O'S FRUIT CEREAL
OR PLAIN
OR CHOCOLATE FLAVOURED
5.5 oz pkg

2.99

LARGE EGGS
LOOSE PACK
CANADA GRADE A
case of 15 dozen

19.95



FOLGERS COFFEE
REGULAR GRIND
1 kg tin

5.88

ASTRO YOGURT
"PASSOVER"
175 g tub

.49

MIGDAL CHEESE SLICES
WHITE OR COLOUR
3 lb pkg

15.99

MOTHER'S SOFT MARGARINE
2x8 oz tubs

2.95

TROPICANA ORANGE JUICE
CHILLED
1.89 L carton

2.95

food Basics

SPECIAL BUYS IN EFFECT FROM MARCH 17TH TO APRIL 1ST, 1999, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

Best Prices Everyday!

Kosher for Passover

1999•5759

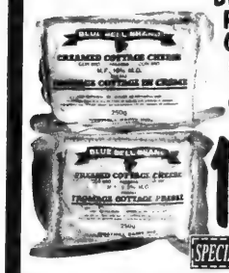
Kosher for PASSOVER
WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD BY OUR MAJOR COMPETITORS ON MATZOS GRAPE JUICE, CANDLES OR MACAROONS.

Dairy

WESTERN SOUR CREAM
REGULAR OR LIGHT
500 mL tub
.99
SPECIAL UNTIL APR. 1ST

STRUB'S DILL PICKLES
ORIGINAL BRINE
1.5 L btl
2.98
SPECIAL UNTIL APR. 1ST

STRUB'S YOM TOV BEET HORSERADISH
375 mL jar
1.67
SPECIAL UNTIL APR. 1ST



BLUE BELL PRESSED COTTAGE CHEESE
.5%, 10% OR NO SALT
250 g pkg
1.77
SPECIAL UNTIL APR. 1ST

BREAKSTONE WHIPPED BUTTER
8 oz tub
2.77
SPECIAL UNTIL APR. 1ST

SABRA SALADS
SELECTED VARIETIES INCLUDING EGGPLANT, TURKISH, MUSHROOM OR RATATOUILLE
4-7 oz tub
2.37
SPECIAL UNTIL APR. 1ST

Beverages

NESCAFE INSTANT COFFEE
RICH BLEND ONLY
200 g jar
3.97
SPECIAL UNTIL APR. 1ST

RED ROSE TEA
pkg of 72
2.97
SPECIAL UNTIL APR. 1ST

TIROSH GRAPE JUICE
1.5 L btl
3.99
OR LESS!
SPECIAL UNTIL APR. 1ST

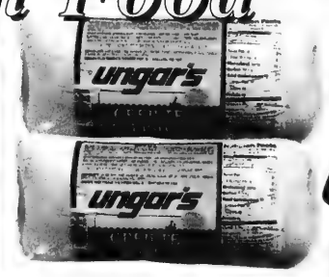
APPLE JUICE
HADDAR, ROKEACH, KEDEM OR MRS. ADLER'S
64 fl oz jug
1.95
SPECIAL UNTIL APR. 1ST

R.C. COLA, COTT'S GINGER ALE OR SODA WATER
2 L btl
.63
SPECIAL UNTIL APR. 1ST

SPARKLING GRAPE JUICE
KEDEM OR TAMPREE
750 mL btl
3.27
SPECIAL UNTIL APR. 1ST

Frozen Food

OLD SOUTH ORANGE JUICE
FROZEN CONCENTRATED
355 mL tin
.99
SPECIAL UNTIL APR. 1ST



BENZ OR UNGAR'S GEFILTE FISH
624-680 g pkg
4.88
SPECIAL UNTIL APR. 1ST

RICH'S WHIPPED TOPPING
8 oz tub
1.37
SPECIAL UNTIL APR. 1ST

KINERET WHITING FILLETS
16 oz pkg
4.83
SPECIAL UNTIL APR. 1ST

Produce

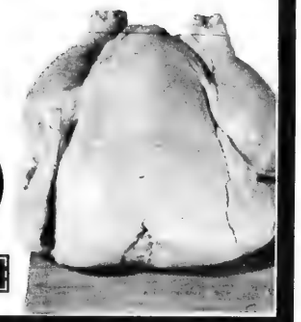
ROYAL GALA APPLES
PRODUCT OF CHILE
EXTRA FANCY GRADE
2.09 kg
lb .95
SPECIAL UNTIL MAR. 26TH

STRAWBERRIES
PRODUCT OF U.S.A.
NO. 1 GRADE
pint
1.49
SPECIAL UNTIL MAR. 26TH

Meat

FRESH CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS
GLATT KOSHER
COR364
3.95 kg
lb 1.79
SPECIAL UNTIL MAR. 26TH

FRESH FRYERS
GLATT KOSHER
COR364
4.39 kg
lb 1.99
SPECIAL UNTIL MAR. 26TH



Fresh Basic$

SUNKIST NAVEL ORANGES
PRODUCT OF U.S.A.
1.43 kg
lb .65

YELLOW COOKING ONIONS
PRODUCT OF ONTARIO
2 lb bag
.68

ROMAINE LETTUCE
PRODUCT OF U.S.A.
each
.77

SEEDLESS CUCUMBERS
PRODUCT OF ONTARIO
CANADA NO. 1 GRADE
each
.68
ONE SERVING = 100 G (1/3 MEDIUM)

GREEN BEANS
PRODUCT OF U.S.A.
2.14 kg
lb .97

SPINACH
PRODUCT OF U.S.A.
.97

Frozen Basic$

MASTER CHOICE PUNCH
355 mL
.47
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

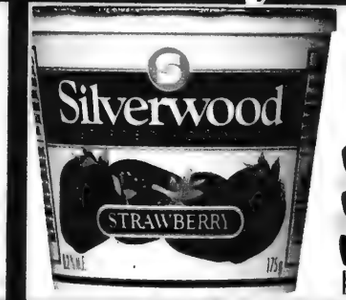
OLD SOUTH ORANGE JUICE
ASSORTED VARIETIES
355 mL tin
.99
Every Single Day!

McCAIN CREAM PIES
340 g box
OR DELITE CAKES
284 g
.99
Every Single Day!

GREEN GIANT VEGETABLES
CORN, PEAS OR GREEN BEANS
1 kg bag
2.47

CHICKEN BURRITOS
OR MILD, HOT, PIZZA
128-142 g pkg
.69

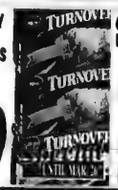
Dairy Basic$



SILVERWOOD YOGOURT
SELECTED VARIETIES
175 g tub
3/1.00
Every Single Day!

SUN QUENCH CITRUS
MASTER CHOICE
1.89 L jug
1.47
Every Single Day!

PILLSBURY APPLE TURNOVERS
383 G OR CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES 510 G
each
1.99



CHEDDAR OR MOZZARELLA CHEESE
200 G
1.99
600 G
4.77
Every Single Day!

•**MARKHAM:** THE SHOPS ON 404 & STEELES- DON MILLS & STEELES; 8190 BAYVIEW AVE.-ROMFIELD CRES. & BAYVIEW AVE.
•**THORNHILL:** MAIN EXCHANGE PLAZA-BATHURST & STEELES

T8T8T8

food Basic$

Best Prices Everyday!

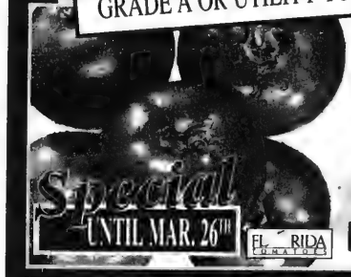
See Our Favourites for Passover Insert Inside.
WE WON'T BE UNDERSOLD BY OUR MAJOR COMPETITORS ON
WINES, CANDLES, GRAPE JUICE & MANISCHEWITZ

WE OFFER INTERAC DEBIT CARD SERVICE.

Best Price Guarantee...
FOOD BASICS WILL MATCH THE BEST PRICE BY ANY OF OUR MAJOR COMPETITORS ON FROZEN GRADE A OR UTILITY TURKEYS

.75 EACH WHEN YOU BUY 4 BTLS

PEPSI OR 7UP
MOUNTAIN DEW, MUG'S, SCHWEPPES, HIRES, DR. PEPPER OR CRUSH
2 L btl
Unit Cost 3.8¢ per 100 mL
4/3.00
OFFER AVAILABLE IN MULTIPLES OF 4 ONLY OR PAY 1.19 EACH



TOMATOES
PRODUCT OF U.S.A.
NO. 1 GRADE
1.50 kg
lb .68 OR LESS!

LEAN GROUND BEEF TUBE
MADE FROM 100% PURE BEEF
2.5 lb 4.15 each (1.134 kg)
3.66 kg
lb 1.66

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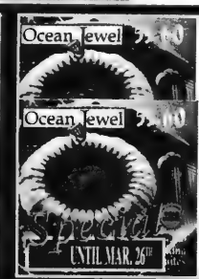

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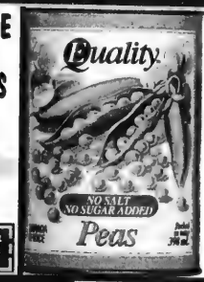

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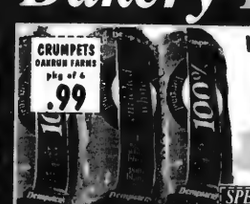

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This Week

National

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Polish newspaper apologizes for anti-Semitic article. *Page 7*

Passover Food

Tradition, reality and the dreams of our children. *Page 31*

Business

E-Commerce trade mission to Israel a success. *Page 67*

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Skier Adam Kates wins gold medal. *Page 74*

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Candlelighting: 6:18
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Havdalah: 7:23

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Israel, Ukraine sign pact

By AMNON BARZILAI
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

MOSCOW — Israel and Ukraine signed a defence memorandum in Kiev on Sunday, the first of its kind between the two countries. The memorandum includes cooperation between the defence industries and the transfer of security information.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, accompanied on his first trip to Ukraine by Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, met Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Prime Minister Valery Pustovoitenko to discuss cooperation and other issues. The two leaders also agreed to sign a treaty on avoiding double taxation and to work out measures to protect Israeli investments in economically struggling Ukraine.

The countries' bilateral trade amounted to $174 million in 1998, up 39 percent from 1997. Israeli investments in Ukraine, however, totalled a meagre $12.6 million (US).

Following the brief visit, Netanyahu arrived in Moscow Sunday for talks aimed at boosting ties and airing concerns about leaks of Russian nuclear technology to Iran. The prime minister was due to meet today with Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov and Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov.

Netanyahu's first stop was at the Choral Synagogue in the centre of Moscow, where he and Sharon spoke to members of the Russian Jewish community. Netanyahu praised the contributions of Russian Jews who have immigrated to Israel, saying their professional skills constituted "the main factor of progress in Israel."

Netanyahu warned of the growing anti-Semitism in Russia, calling it a threat to the Russian nation as well as to Jews. "What starts with

Continued on page 60

SURE SIGN OF SPRING
Rabbi David Batsri blesses the blossoming fruit trees on the outskirts of Jerusalem last week, by reciting traditional blessings for the first day of the month of Nisan. *[RNS/Reuters photo]*

Church targets Russians

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The makeshift sign outside Yorkview Heights Baptist Church in north Toronto touts another congregation, Beth Sar Shalom, in three languages: English, Hebrew and Russian.

In the church's basement, about 60 men, women and children are assembled for Saturday morning services. It's an eclectic crowd. Young and old mix with several black and Oriental faces. Children look intently at brightly-bound Bible stories for kids.

"Shabbat shalom!" announces the spiritual leader, Larry Rich, who heads Chosen People Ministries, an organization that's long been accused of trying to convert vulnerable Jews to Christianity. The service gets under way with prayers sprinkled with references to "Hashem Yeshua" (Lord Jesus), and spirited singing and clapping is accompanied by live violin.

A prayer is said for the State of Israel, and worshippers ask God to come to the aid of persecuted Christians around the world, especially those who are spreading the "Good News" of the Gospels.

Congregants later shake hands with their neighbors. *The CJN* reporter is greeted by a boy around 11 who wears a kippah and whose tzitzit hang out from his oversized suit jacket.

Special Report

But more telling is a young mother who admonishes her children to keep quiet – in Russian. In fact, there's quite a bit of Russian being spoken in the pews.

Is there is a disproportionate number of Russian Jewish emigres who are drawn to messianic congregations like Beth Sar Shalom? And do these congregations, which blur the line between Judaism and evangelical Christianity, deliberately target Russians, who may be easy pickings because of their vulnerability?

Jews for Judaism, the countermissionary organization, believes both to be the case, and it has set up a Russian Task Force to counter what it says is an alarming increase in the number of Jews from the former Soviet Union who are joining deceptive "synagogues" which worship Jesus as the Jewish messiah.

Jews for Judaism says Toronto is a "hotbed" of Christian outreach to Russian Jews, who tend to arrive with little if any affinity to Judaism and often with no family already here to help them get acculturated. Messianic congregations, many of which distribute printed material in Russian, are scooping them up in record numbers, Jews for Judaism charges.

Continued on page 18

INSIDE

More Food Ideas for the Passover Holiday.

"Grapes of Wrath" accords in jeopardy — please see page 59

The News in Brief

CANADA

Hate On The Internet

TORONTO — Human rights activists, law enforcement officials and interested Canadians gathered last week for the second International Symposium on Hate on the Internet, sponsored by B'nai Brith Canada. The conference examined free speech issues associated with the promotion of Internet hate, as well as strategies employed around the world to eliminate it. With a potential audience of 50 million Internet users worldwide, the computer is rapidly replacing conventional modes of communication for purveyors of hate propaganda, B'nai Brith stated.

Walkathon In Rwanda

TORONTO — Carole Ann Reed, director of education at the Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre, and Alan Simons, Rwanda's honorary consul general in Ontario, are scheduled to travel to Rwanda in July to take part in the first Walk for Hope in the capital, Kigali. The international walkathon will raise funds for projects to support children who survived the country's 1994 genocide. The two-week trip is jointly organized by the Hope for Rwanda's Children Fund, a registered Canadian charity based in Toronto, and its partner in Rwanda, the Tumurere Foundation. For more information, call 416-609-8580.

CJA Drive Up

VANCOUVER — The Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver's Combined Jewish Appeal campaign raised $4.2 million in 1998, an increase of six percent over the year before, community officials announced recently. Of the total, nearly $62,000 was allocated to Lower Mainland agencies. Another $85,000 was earmarked as a special gift for overseas and local agencies.

ISRAEL

Rabin Centre Planned

JERUSALEM — The widow of Yitzhak Rabin last week unveiled plans for Israel's official memorial to her slain husband. Leah Rabin said the Yitzhak Rabin Centre for Israel Studies will function as an educational facility, archive and museum "in the grand tradition of American presidential libraries." She said a main garden at the facility will be dedicated to the memory of Jordan's King Hussein.

Grieving Families Meet

JERUSALEM — Israeli and Palestinian families whose children have been killed in the Middle East conflict gathered last week to share their experiences. The families, brought together under the auspices of the Israeli group known as the Parents' Circle, met with Israeli President Ezer Weizman and former prime minister Shimon Peres, and visited a Jerusalem high school. They plan to meet together next month in the Gaza Strip.

WORLD

Chechen Blames 'Zionists'

MOSCOW — The leader of the Russian breakaway republic of Chechnya has accused "Zionists" of trying to topple him from power. Speaking last week to 50,000 supporters in the capital of Grozny, Aslan Maskhadov said those opposing his rule are acting on instructions from "international Zionist centres."

Spain, Austria To Pay

NEW YORK — Spain and Austria have agreed to contribute a total of some $10 million to a fund assisting Holocaust survivors, the countries' foreign ministers announced separately last week in New York. The fund, using gold the Nazis looted from European countries they overran, but never returned by the Allies after the war, now totals about $60 million. The fund has already paid for medicine and other humanitarian needs for survivors in the former Soviet Union, according to the World Jewish Congress.

Primakov Meets U.S. Jews

WASHINGTON — Russia's prime minister has agreed to meet with representatives of the American Jewish community during a scheduled visit to Washington this week. The National Conference on Soviet Jewry, which arranged the meeting with Yevgeny Primakov, plans to discuss concerns about rising anti-Semitism in Russia.

War Crimes Trial Starts

ZAGREB — The commander of Croatia's largest World War II concentration camp proclaimed his innocence at the start of his war crimes trial here this month. "I absolutely do not feel guilty, not for a single charge," Dinko Sakic said after hearing the 35-page indictment, which charged him with the deaths of some 2,000 people.

In 1944, Sakic was head of the Jasenovac concentration camp, where an estimated 600,000 Jews, Serbs and Gypsies were killed during the war.

Church To Help Shul

NEW YORK — Saint Thomas Church in New York is holding a March 28 benefit concert to raise funds for a nearby synagogue. Since a five-alarm fire devastated the Central Synagogue last summer, congregants have been holding services in their community centre across the street. Restoration of the synagogue is expected to be completed by the end of next year.

No Prosecution Of Communist Anti-Semite

MOSCOW — Russian prosecutors are refusing to launch a criminal investigation of a Communist party lawmaker for a statement that was widely interpreted as a call for anti-Jewish pogroms.

According to the prosecutor's office, a speech made by Albert Makashov last month "was not aimed at inciting ethnic strife."

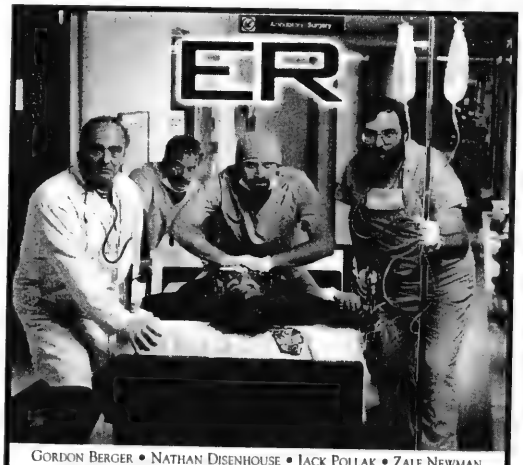
Speaking at a conference sponsored by the nationalist group known as the Movement in Support of the Army, Makashov said, "Jews are brave. They are so brave because we are sleeping, because none of us has yet knocked on their door."

A hard-line Communist legislator, Makashov said there are "good Jews" and "bad Jews." The "good [ones] will continue to live," while the "bad [ones] will have a hard time."

He also suggested the group, which he leads, should change its name to the Movement Against Yids.

This month, the Russian parliament's scheduled vote on a motion aimed at censuring Makashov was blocked by the Communists, the largest single group in the house.

Makashov recently announced that he will make a bid for the Russian presidency when elections are held next year.



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Swiss fund allots $300 per survivor

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — An estimated 7,000 Holocaust survivors living in Canada will each qualify for about $300 (US) from the $2.5 million allotted to Canada from the Swiss humanitarian fund.

The cheques will all be sent out around the beginning of August. In the meantime, officials will check the applications for which a spring deadline – May 24, 1999 – has been set.

The estimate of 7,000 is less than half of the 16,000 to 18,000 survivors thought to be in living Canada, according to records which are not completely accurate. The number of Canadian applicants is in line with that in the United States where less than 30 percent of survivors have applied.

The amount finally paid out to each needy survivor will depend on how many applications are received; the estimate of 7,000 people each receiving $300 (US) is just an educated guess, said Rabbi Gunther Plaut, chair of a Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) committee of survivors.

"We will get the money distributed as fast as we can," he said. Rabbi Plaut, 86, and 10 other committee members from across Canada are not applying for the funds, which are intended for needy survivors.

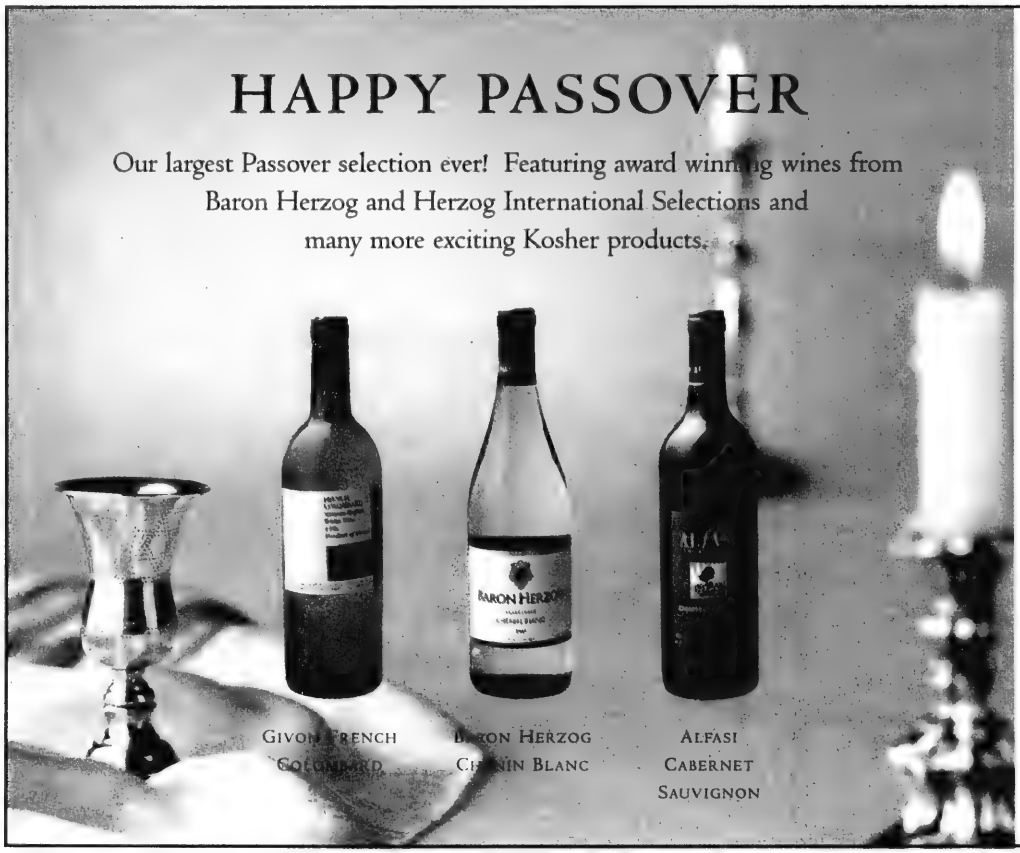
Valid applications will not be audited or investigated as the committee feels that the question of need must be determined by the individual survivors, he said.

"We know that many survivors

Continued on page 5

PASSOVER PREPARATIONS

Grade 2 students at the Bathurst campus of United Synagogue Day Schools, from left, Orly Frieberg, Jonathan Hertz, Melanie Simon and Eric Masters, are experiencing first-hand the meaning of Passover. They have collected kosher food for needy families and are preparing for their own seder.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From the editor's desk

Mutual trust, no politics

As I wrote last week in this space, Canadian Jews should take an active interest in the conversion institute that opened last week in Israel under the joint auspices of the government of Israel and the Jewish Agency for Israel. The institute is officially called the Institute for Jewish Studies and its mandate is to prepare candidates for conversion.

The functional and stylistic "architects" of the institutes were Ya'acov Ne'eman and his six colleagues who comprised the Committee to Develop Ideas and Proposals in the Matter of Conversion in Israel appointed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu some 22 months ago.

Finally, after a great deal of resistance by the Orthodox establishment, the institute has been created.

The Jews of Canada have helped bring the institute into existence. Through our donations to our local UJA/CJA and UIA campaigns, we directly support the institute, its program and its values. In doing so, we are taking an unambiguous stand on behalf of intra-communal civility, tolerance and respect.

But what exactly is its program? And who are the decision makers whose onerous responsibility it now is to try to help the institution take root in Israeli soil and grow into a vital, life-sustaining part of its Jewish landscape?

Mirroring the number and religious affiliation of the people who served on the Ne'eman Committee, there are seven members on the institute's board of directors, five Orthodox, one Reform and one Conservative.

The chairman of the board and the effective head of the institute is *Prof. Benjamin Ish-Shalom*. If he had no other credentials, his name alone would qualify him for the post. But Ish-Shalom does have other credentials too.

Born in Israel, Ish-Shalom studied at Yeshivat Hesder Har Etzion, served in the armored corps of the IDF and is the founder and rector of the Centre for Advanced Jewish Studies, Beit Morasha of Jerusalem.

Avraham Duvdevani, an Orthodox board member, is the head of the Settlement Division of the World Zionist Organization and a member of the National Religious Party and of the Bnei Akiva national executive.

Ayera Dashevsky, the third Orthodox board member, graduated from the Moscow Higher Institute for Education, the Machanayim Institute Moscow-Jerusalem and Touro College. *Miriam Katrosky* is Dashevsky's alternate on the board.

Rabbi Yaacov Medan, the fourth Orthodox member on the board, was born in Jerusalem. He is a graduate of Netiv Meir Yeshiva and of the Har Etzion Hesder Yeshiva in Gush Etzion.

Dr. Amnon Shapira is the fifth Orthodox director. He is a member of Kibbutz Tirat Zvi, a graduate of Bar-Ilan University and the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) in New York. Shapira is a teacher in the regional high school of the Beit Shean Valley and a senior lecturer at Bar-Ilan University. *Rabbi Shmuel Reiner* is his alternate.

The Reform member on the board is *Rabbi Michael Boyden*. He was born in London, England. Rabbi Boyden is the spiritual leader of the Ra'anana Reform Congregation. His alternate is *Rabbi Meir Azari*, the Haifa-born chair of the Reform Rabbinical Council in Israel.

The Conservative representative on the board is *Rabbi Prof. Reuven Hammer*, a graduate of Yeshiva University and the Jewish Theological Seminary and Northwestern University and currently professor of rabbinic literature at Schecter Institute of Jewish Studies. Rabbi Hammer's alternate is *Rabbi Prof. David Golinkin*, dean of the Rabbinical School and Associate professor of Jewish law at the Schecter Institute of Jewish Studies.

I have devoted an inordinate proportion of this column's space to identifying the institute's board of directors and to briefly sketch their credentials. The reason I have done so is to demonstrate that the board is a highly talented group, representative of a wide religious swath of the Jewish world and deeply committed to the work, the symbolism, the mandate and the hope of the institute.

The institute will be run according to five agreed-upon principles:

- the acceptance of mitzvah as a central and committing principle in Judaism;
- the acceptance of the classic texts – Bible, Talmud, and the body of halachic thought – as the common basis shaping Jewish existence in all its varieties;
- an "adopting" shomer mitzvot family and a religious kibbutz community that will respectively sponsor and accompany each student;
- the study program to be taught in a unified manner, explaining and representing the different streams;
- emphasis on kashrut, family purity, Shabbat and traditional religious education as well as interpersonal relationships.

The program devotes 440 hours of lecture and discussion per student.

One of the first decisions the board made was to affirm that they will undertake their work on the "basis of mutual trust, the [avoidance of] politics, and function solely on pedagogic considerations." May they succeed. *MBD*

SEE JN

INTENT ON HITTING THE TARGET
These young archers at the recent Leo Baeck Fun Day are transfixed in concentration as they learn how to aim straight in bows and arrows and in life. [Motty Levy photo]

Greater Toronto Area

Annual NCJW Passover food drive kicks off

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The 16th annual Passover Food Drive, run by National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), Toronto section, kicked off this year with opening ceremonies designed to raise community awareness of the project.

The food drive is Council's largest service project, said Roz Fine, Toronto section president.

Each box includes a Haggadah (available in English or Russian), candles and food items such as a frozen chicken, matzah, soup mix, gefilte fish and cookies.

Over the last several years, about 2,000 boxes a year have been distributed, said Rebecca Ber, co-chair of the food drive with Charlene Arje and Bonnie Dale.

About 25,000 Jews in the Greater Toronto area live below the poverty line, Ber told *The CJN*.

In 1984, concurrent with an influx of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union, NCJW initiated the project to meet the needs of clients of Jewish Family & Child Service and Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, she added. That first year, 300 boxes were delivered.

These days, NCJW also fields referrals from Circle of Care, Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, the Reena Foundation, the Board of Jewish Education, rabbis and physicians.

The drive, which is supported by Mazon Canada and Canadian Jewish Congress, reaches between 3,000 and 5,000 recipients a year, but there are "many more that are in need, and we need to make sure that everyone in need gets those foods," said Arje. She urged Council and community members present to stay involved, give of their time and donate food or money to the project.

Arje also emphasized the community aspect of the food drive, which brings together people from across the denominational spectrum. Every year students from Reform, Orthodox and Conservative schools help pack boxes. "I really believe it teaches values and the importance of tzedakah in Judaism," said Arje.

"As our social welfare system gets leaner, it gets more difficult for those who have little to begin with, to survive with dignity," said educator Selma Sage, filling in as keynote speaker for Rabbi Elyse Goldstein who was out of town for a family brit milah.

The food drive serves seniors, singles, newly arrived immigrants, and those receiving financial assistance, with discreet and special consideration to anyone in need.

"All of these people are counting on you, on me, on us," Sage said. "We cannot let them down."

Last year over 4,500 people were serviced by the Passover Food Drive, according to an NCJW news release. The number is expected to be significantly higher this year.

The cost of last year's drive was over $40,000. Over 1,000 volunteers were needed to sort, pack, and deliver food.

If someone asks for food, you are not allowed to question it, she said. "Our tradition reminds us that deeds of loving kindness have the highest priority of all."

After the formalities, community members and food drive supporters spent time packing boxes.

The food drive continues until Mar. 26. Delivery of boxes will take place Mar. 28.

From left, Bonnie Dale, Rebecca Ber, Charlene Arje, Selma Sage and Roz Fine are seen with some of the donations for this year's Passover Food Drive, an NCJW project. [Frances Kraft photo]

7,000 Jews qualify for fund

Continued from page 3

feel that the money is coming to them for what they went through, but we would ask them to remember that any money they take means less for the people in need."

A total of 4,600 requests for applications have already been received, said CJC director of finance and operations Abe Smajovits, who spoke to *The CJN* from Montreal.

Survivors who have legal guardians are eligible for the payout as long as the applications have the proper proxies, he said.

Ads are being placed across Canada, with different details in each region, announcing the May 24 deadline. The ads tell survivors where to pick up applications. A batch of 2,500, now being printed, should be available by the end of March.

A toll-free-hot line, 1-877-252-6555, is open to anyone who wants to request an application.

The ad running in this issue of *The CJN* is sponsored by the CJC, World Jewish Restitution Organization, Swiss Fund for Needy Victims of the Holocaust/Shoah and UIA Federations of Canada

Rabbi Plaut expressed regret that the Swiss humanitarian fund came along too late for the survivors who have died.

Those survivors who were little children in the Nazi regimes, will now be in their mid 60s, he pointed out.

ATTENTION
JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

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The modest amount to be paid to each person will depend on the total number of needy applications approved.

Any eligible individual in Canada wishing to apply must submit a completed application to the address listed on the application form so that it is received prior to **May 24, 1999.**

Application forms can be acquired at the following locations in your community:

Jewish Community Centre, Jewish Family & Child Service, Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, Canadian Jewish Congress, UJA Federation, B'nai Brith Canada, UJA Federation's Holocaust Education & Memorial Centre of Toronto

Or by calling toll free 1-877-252-6555

Greater Toronto Area

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Transfer health services, Harris asked

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — In pursuing a promise by Premier Mike Harris to make health services available to all students, the Ontario Jewish Association for Equity in Education (OJAEE) is asking that the services be transferred from one ministry to another.

The transfer from the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) would get around the Education Ministry's refusal to fund independent, religious schools.

This rationale will be presented to Janet Ecker, minister of Community and Social Services, at a meeting later this month, Henry Koschitzky, chair of OJAEE, told the executive of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region.

This can best be accomplished through the MCSS Community Care Access Centres, he said. These centres coordinate services to children who have been assessed by the board of education as having special needs other than "learning difficulties."

Koschitzky said his committee is not dropping the fight for funding for Jewish day schools, which the premier has turned down for the present, but is concentrating on the health services issue.

In another matter, Lorrie Goldstein, Toronto *Sun* editor, said many Jews are "dynamic, controversial people," and that is why there is so much Jewish news in the media.

Examples of such "high rollers" are Mayor Mel Lastman and Sun Media chief Paul Godfrey, he said.

"When you are a player, people pay attention to what you do."

Explaining why Jews fascinate newspapers, Goldstein said the media tend to divide the world into oppressors and oppressed, victims and victimizers, and haves and have nots.

"The media regard Jews as on both sides. They are seen as victims of the Holocaust and anti-Semitism, but in Israel Jews are viewed as oppressors."

Goldstein, who joined the *Sun* as a general assignment reporter in 1978, said his paper is "a friend of Israel," and that this is a policy he picked up from his predecessor, John Downing.

David fighting Goliath

Criticism of Israel by the media is the price Israel pays for being a democracy and letting journalists into the country, "while in other countries, they would have their heads chopped off," Goldstein said.

The perception of Israel by the media has shifted, so that instead of David fighting Goliath, Israel is now Goliath, he added.

A report on Jews in Germany was given by Nathan Kalmanowicz, finance and religious affairs officer of the Central Union of German Jews. Though there were only 20,000 Jews in Germany 10 years ago, there are now 80,000, thanks to an influx of Russian Jews, he said.

Another 25,000 Ukrainian Jews have obtained visas for Germany, and the community is expected to grown even more, although "we know the best plan for them would be to go to Israel or the United States," he said.

Less than one percent of the Jewish population in Germany is German-born, said Kalmanowicz, who hails from Lodz, Poland. About 10 percent of the Jews come from Israel.

Out of 6,000 Jews in Munich, his home city, only 30 to 40 families keep kosher and about 10 per cent go to shul regularly. Only one percent of the Jewish population could be classified as haredim, he said.

Jewish consciousness is quite evident, he said, because 90 percent of German Jews visit Israel once a year and some go two or thee times in a year.

Keith Landy, head of the region chaired the meeting.

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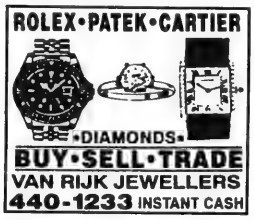

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LEARNING ABOUT GOVERNMENT FROM AN MP

Leo Baeck Day School grade 5 students (from left) Evan Babins, Kevin Treger, Ely Rosenblum, Zachary Saadon, Sarah Josse, Allan Ungar and Shawn Bernstein were visited recently by Thornhill Liberal MP Elinor Caplan. The students are learning about government, both in Canada and Israel, and Caplan spoke about the issues she faces as an MP.

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Polish paper apologizes for anti-Semitic article

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Accused Jews of treachery, greed and of collaborating with Nazis

TORONTO — A Polish-language newspaper has agreed to retract and apologize for a two-part article that employed classic anti-Semitic themes, and accused Jews of treachery, greed and of collaborating with the Nazis to kill other Jews.

Gazeta publisher Zbigniew Belz will publish a retraction, and apologize to the Jewish community in an upcoming edition, said Andrew Kumor, the paper's news editor.

"It was a mistake to publish the articles, but we would like more clearly defined guidelines on anti-Semitism," Kumor said. "Too often, people accuse other people of anti-Semitism. That brings the Holocaust to the back of the mind. This has to be exactly defined, what could be discussed or not."

The article, 42 pages long in translation, appeared in the Christmas and New Year editions of the *Gazeta*.

Written by Father Jan Kurdybelski, an occasional contributor to the paper, who lives in Poland, it traces Jewish history from the dawn of the Talmudic era to modern times.

Kurdybelski calls the Jewish holy book a "source of fanaticism" – one of the article's milder attacks.

He quotes various anti-Semitic sources to show that "Bolshevism is a Jewish creation;" that "the Jewish nation, perfidious and hated by God...is corrupt in mind and hardhearted, and their sole aim is to ruin and destroy the property and goods of Christians;" that "the Jews served the Russian armies as informers and betrayers;" that the talmudic "tractate Baba Batva teaches how to swindle Christians in trade ...and swindling them is not a sin but a virtue and a merit."

Kurdybelski also claims that the Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto collaborated with the Nazis and that "Jews were no more compassionate that the Germans."

"This article certainly promotes hatred of an identifiable group," said Keith Landy, chair of Canadian Jewish Congress' Ontario region.

Congress raised its concerns at a meeting with the *Gazeta*'s management after being informed of an anti-Semitic article in the paper by *The CJN*. *The CJN* had been alerted to the article by a concerned reader but did not have the resources to translate it.

"They've agreed the apology will follow [the format] of a Press Council complaint, with a flash on page 1 and the substance of the apology inside," Landy said.

Kumor said the *Gazeta* often "discusses Polish-Jewish relations, and this was just one article on that. This was supposed to be on the Polish perception of the Jewish community throughout history."

While acknowledging that "we maybe did not realize the issue is so sensitive for the Jewish community," Kumor claimed that similar opinions about the Jews have been expressed by an Israeli writer. "I don't share those views, but the point is, that this in just a voice in the debate."

As to whether the article was "unadulterated anti-Semitism," as Landy has charged, Kumor said "I'm not sure I'm the right person to talk to. It was a kind of provocative thing to publish. It is a reflection of the Polish community's view of the Jewish community, which in history was anti-Semitic."

Ala Gettlich, a member of the Polish community who attended the meeting, said she felt "embarrassed and angry" when she read the articles. "There are still people who haven't learned the lessons of history and until they do, there is a danger that such views will take support," she said.

"As a Christian," she continued, "I'm offended that another Christian would use a holy book of another religion to attack that nation."

Gettlich said the *Gazeta* should have published an editorial explaining that the article was an example of some Poles' views of the Jews but that the newspaper didn't endorse it.

The *Gazeta* had published previous articles on Polish-Jewish relations and the paper "wanted to show this side of the debate," she said.

"More discussions are needed between the communities to foster a better understanding," Gettlich said. Congress is lacking "an appreciation of the nature of various immigrant groups," she added.

Belz, who approved the articles, and Kumor, are recent immigrants. Both had been jailed in Poland for articles they had written. "They approach freedom of the press differently than us. To say you should use self-censorship is offensive [to them]. I think they need more time in Canada to understand that," Gettlich said.

Landy rejected suggestions the issues were of debatable historical importance.

"It was unbridled anti-Semitism of the worst kind. To suggest it was in the realm of legitimate debate is not a maintainable position." Landy acknowledged that during Congress' meeting with the *Gazeta*, "Kumor wanted to get into a discussion on the merits of raising questions of historical interest."

But, "Canadian papers like *Gazeta* that have a wide distribution should be held to a standard that is acceptable to Canadians," he said.

The *Gazeta* is published five times a week, with an average daily circulation of 3,500-4,000, reaching 10,000 readers on the weekend.

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Editorials and Letters

The Canadian Jewish news

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Dry Bones
WHEN AMERICA LEFT VIETNAM THEY ABANDONED THOUSANDS OF THEIR VIETNAMESE FRIENDS BEHIND ENEMY LINES
BUT WHEN ISRAEL LEAVES THE SOUTH OF LEBANON WE WON'T DO THAT!
NO?
ABSOLUTELY NOT!
THERE ARE NO VIETNAMESE IN SOUTH LEBANON.

Steering clear of the brink

While the political leaders of Israel are travelling throughout the country campaigning for votes for the May 17 election, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is conducting his own campaign among as many foreign leaders as will hear him, seeking support for his intention to declare independence for a Palestinian state. Arafat says that he already has assurances from the "non-aligned" states (whatever that means now, after the collapse of the Soviet Union almost a decade ago) and the Arab states, that they will recognize a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Of late, Arafat has had a very busy schedule travelling to Washington, the Vatican, Holland and most recently Greece, trying to gauge, if not drum up support for a possible unilateral declaration of independence after May 4, the date on which the Oslo Accords were to have been finally completed and implemented.

In most government capitals, he has succeeded in securing support for Palestinian statehood, but not for a unilateral declaration of such. Indeed, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution last week warning Arafat not to declare his state unilaterally.

Israel too, has warned him. The consequences of a unilateral declaration would be dire. The political aspirations of the Palestinian people would be set back, perhaps irremediably; but far worse, would be the violence and bloodshed that would surely accompany such a precipitous act.

In typically hyperbolic and inflammatory language, he issued a statement last week saying he was consulting with world leaders "in a race against time" to reach a decision by May 4. And in his trademark manner of factually and morally inverting the truth, he called upon the international community to save the peace process before things were pushed "to the brink of explosion."

Arafat is due to visit Canada very soon in what has been described by Canadian diplomats as a low-key working session with senior Canadian officials. We urge the government to impress its view on the Palestinian leader that a unilateral declaration would be disastrous for his people and for the entire region.

Arafat alone controls whether the peace process is pushed "to the brink of explosion." The Canadian government has an opportunity to help steer the process away from that fiery edge.

Halt the aggression

As these words are being written, the Yugoslav army of Slobodan Milosevic has once again resumed its military offensive against the villages and communities of Kosovo. With the departure last week of some 1,300 foreign monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the collapse of the peace talks, many observers feel that Milosevic has given the orders to "finish the job" against the ethnic Albanian province.

Of course, what most people fear is that "finishing the job" means resuming a process of slaughter and "ethnic cleansing" against the Kosovans. The west cannot and must not allow this to happen.

If NATO air strikes are necessary to deter Milosevic from "finishing the job," they must be launched without hesitation after American envoy Richard Holbrooke attempts, yet again, to bring a halt to the Yugoslav aggression against the Kosovans. We urge the government of Canada to lend its voice to the rising, urgent western chorus approving reasonable, military means to try to save the people of Kosovo, whose lives have apparently been targeted for extinction by the president of Yugoslavia.

WISDOM OF THE AGES
"And this is the Torah of the peace offerings that he (the cohen) will offer to God." (Parshat Tzav)

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Induction oath in IDF had different meaning

Re the article (*CJN*, March 4), by Rabbi Yehiel Ben Ayon about the induction of the IDF soldiers in the Kotel.

Although the article was well written and inspiring, I was surprised by the lack of knowledge of the Hebrew language displayed by the author and the editorial staff of *The CJN*.

I have served as a soldier in the Israeli military in active combat duty. I can, in fact, tell you that the induction of my comrades and I after boot camp, was one of the most uplifiting events in my life – a lifetime opportunity that I would cherish for the rest of my life. The highlights of the induction is the military oath *"ani nishba,"* I swear. As a sign of respect to the Orthodox soldiers who cannot say these actual words, their induction includes the words *"ani matzhir,"* I declare.

At no point during the induction do the soldiers utter the words *"ani mashbiah,"* which in English would mean something like, I praise, glorify or make something or someone better. This is not what was meant by the soldiers who have been proudly saying these words in the past 50 years or more.

Again, I would like to say that I liked the article and its content; however, seeing *"ani mashbiah"* in the title of the article has somewhat upset me.

Michael A. Aharon
Toronto

Contrasts haredim and IDF positions on Israel

The haredi demonstration was certainly in stark contrast to the front page photo of the soldiers mourning their fallen officers and comrades (*CJN* March 4).

As well, the initiating ceremony at the Wall was gripping. As a former assault troop sergeant in the Canadian army, I can relate to these events as a part of the Jewish experience in Israel! What have the Haredim done to defend their homeland? They are exempted from military service.

I can appreciate people wanting to study the Talmud and the Torah, but in today's life that is not enough.

Especially in Israel, creative minds and work are absolutely necessary.

As a former president of Canadian Magen David Adom, I know the need for innovation and motivation. Let the Haredim give a little accommodation to those Israelis who believe in hard work and democracy no matter what their particular Jewish orientation may be!

Ted Nashman
Montreal

Student conferences funded by federations

Thank you for *The CJN* commitment to Jewish campus life by your weekly On Campus features. Re: the article by Dave Gordon (Mar. 11), the conference in Calgary was the Western Regional Conference hosted by the University of Calgary Hillel and the Calgary Jewish community. This regional conference had student representation from Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver.

It is important to note that both the Atlantic and Western regional conferences were funded by UIA Federations Canada, its 10 federated community UJA campaigns, and the UIA campaigns in unfederated communities across the county. Local federations and UIA Federations Canada commit more than $1.2 million annually to support and develop Jewish campus services in over 20 communities.

Sheldon Maerov
Associate Executive Vice-President
UIA Federations Canada

Do you know these Jewish women writers?

I am seeking information on the following Jewish Canadian women writers, active during the first half of this century: Raisa Applebaum, Vi Berkowitz, Vera Black Slotkin, Arakie Cohen (née Ruth Jacobs), Malca Friedman, Ruby Friedman, Miriam (Mildred) Goldberg, Phyllis Kahan, Naomi Lenin, Freda Myron, Lena Newman, Sylvia Schwartz Raff, Regina Shoolman Slotkin, Hanna Tennenhaus, Ida Seigler Bension Wynne.

Please note that in some cases the spellings may be incorrect, and some names may have changed following marriage. Information on other Jewish women who published work in English before 1960 would also be welcome. Your assistance will help to prevent the accomplishments of these women from sliding into oblivion.

Reply to Dr. Michael Benazon, at Champlain College, Lennoxville, Que., J1M 2A1, 819-563-2709, or by e-Mail at mbenazon@abacon.com.

Michael Benazon
Lennoxville, Quebec

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Perspectives

Heeding the imperative to unity

By MOSHE KAVEH

Passover is a family time, going right back to the first seder, when God commanded the Jews in Egypt to gather by clan and jointly partake of the paschal offering. Appreciation of freedom, and recognition of God's providence are the holiday's central themes, but unity of purpose and commitment to community are Passover motifs no less important.

If the Jews of Egypt had not been a relatively cohesive unit despite all of their differences, they would not have been able to pick up and leave en masse with relatively little notice.

How tragic then, that today's Jews ignore the imperative of unity, as our global Jewish society becomes increasingly vulgarized through unbridled, untamed confrontation.

Angry demonstrations deepen the fissures between secular and observant Jews in Israel. Ugly rhetoric between synagogue groups abroad, guts any sense of community. And on a personal level, Jews are quick to crudely label and stereotype one another – an illness born of ignorance and antagonism. No one has the patience to withhold judgment, out of what should be an abiding, overriding concern for klal Yisrael.

We are like two trains – religious and secular, Orthodox and Reform, Jewish and democratic – rushing headlong towards each other on a collision course.

Is such a catastrophic collision inevitable? I emphatically say no. Not if we – the moderates of the Jewish world from all parts of the religious and communal spectrum – seize centre stage and take control of the agenda.

I sense a profound hunger for new leadership that will boldly sweep aside the antagonisms, to work with ideological rivals in order to ensure a better Jewish future.

Nice words, but how?

To start with, it is easy to determine what not to do. Ultra-Orthodox leaders who publicly compare the Chief Justice of the Israeli Supreme Court to Haman, or invoke the Holocaust when talking about Reform Jews, are stomping into unacceptable rhetorical territory. Liberal Jews who speak of the Orthodox as medieval or uncultured, or who mock tradition and faith, err grievously as well.

As a devoutly Orthodox Jew who believes in synthesizing modernity and enlightened western values with tradition, I am appalled by the divisive invective that some religious leaders are hurling at fellow Jews in the name of our heritage. We must rein in the passions, and address difficult ideological matters with reasoned, intellectual debate.

But calling for more light and less heat is the easy part, and it is hardly enough to solve the challenges that confront Israel and the Jewish people. What we need is nothing less than an institutional revolution, one which produces new mechanisms for bringing people together, and then finds solutions to deep-seated problems of religion and state, religion and community. The old, existing institutions simply cannot solve these problems.

Thirteen judges on the Israeli Supreme Court, no matter how distinguished, are not the people who should be ruling on Who is a Jew? and what is an appropriate conversion to Judaism. The decisions of that court must be obeyed, because the rule of law is the hallmark of democracy and is necessary to prevent societal chaos. But right now, the court is ruling on spiritual matters by default because other Israeli institutions are unable to address them.

Nor should Israeli politicians in a deadlocked parliament be deciding on matters of synagogue and state. Israel is like an orchestra with very different instruments in different sections. To get elected, a typical political leader acts as if he or she is responsible for only one section; very few are committed to leading the entire orchestra and creating harmony.

Haredi protesters confront secular protesters last month in Jerusalem. [RNS/Reuters photo]

The official Israeli rabbinate is dutybound to support and defend Jewish law, Halachah, by appropriate Orthodox standards. But the chief rabbis need to be more willing to seek solutions within Halachah that make room for Jews whose approach to Jewish law differs from the constituencies they represent.

The idea that Halachah is a rigid system subject only to the strictest, most narrow interpretations of the Torah is mistaken. Reputable Orthodox Torah scholars at Bar-Ilan University and other institutions have found, for example, halachic precedents for a somewhat less demanding conversion process, for more flexibility in judging requests for divorce, and for leniency on other issues now in contention. Acknowledging and furnishing adequate hearing to these views has been all too slow.

Similar criticism could be launched at the umbrella synagogue groups in North America, few of whom can honestly tell themselves that they have contributed to greater harmony, not discord.

So who will lead us out of the morass? The answer: Solutions will come from the next generation of leaders, from Israeli and Diaspora Jewish young men and women who are committed to Jewish unity, and who understand that rapprochement on many of our mutual problems – without abandoning one's principles – is not only possible, but essential.

I am enthusiastically optimistic because I know that, in Israel at least, a revolution is underway. There is a developing narrative of new-found dialogue and shared values in Israeli society.

Far from the Knesset and confrontational television broadcast studios, a populist revolution is blossoming. Thousands of people, in hundreds of organized and private frameworks, religious and secular, are studying Jewish tradition and culture together, yearning with palpable hunger for a new common ground, perhaps even a collective identity. There is no doubt in my mind that this is a phenomenon consequent upon Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's murder and its psychological impact on the Israeli public.

Take the Festival of Jewish Studies entitled Hachel that has taken place over the past two Sukkot holidays. Over 5,000 adults from across the political and religious spectrum participated in this eclectic, wonderful feast of Jewish lectures and open discussions on everything from religion and state, to art, chassidut and magic, women's readings of the Bible and the beauty of Halachah.

And believe it or not, all this was sponsored by the ardently secular United Kibbutz Movement, the traditional Bar-Ilan University (which I head), and two dozen other groups from the Yesha settlements, to the Reform movement – funded significantly by the Avi Chai Foundation. I have visited dozens of similar encounter groups for secular-religious dialogue, across the country.

At Bar-Ilan University, some of the country's most prominent pedagogues are working to bridge the divisions. The campus literally hums with the sound of dialogue. Leading academics from the school of education, the political science and philosophy departments, and the faculty of law, among others, are involved in a plethora of activities geared to improve relations between Israelis, and to fashion a new synthesis between Jewish and democratic values.

These activities include a novel educational program teaching Judaism and democracy as complementary values in 30 religious and secular high schools; on-campus seminars for teachers and educational administrators; and 40 student encounter groups exploring topics such as racism and prejudice, Jewish religion and identity, and Zionism and democracy. Over 1,000 young men and women of widely disparate backgrounds and beliefs participated in the program.

Prof. Moshe Kaveh

Our findings: Over the course of the programs, there is a big change in the attitudes of the participating teachers and students, who initially express great skepticism about the synthesis of the seemingly competing values being discussed and debated.

Our brief, then, is to analyze, describe and prescribe a new insight for contemporary Israeli/Jewish society – as a civil society, a Jewish community, a Jewish and democratic state, as one people. The way to start this is through dialogue.

Capping all this promising activity is the publication of a new Bar-Ilan University journal, called *Democratic Culture*. Law professor Yedidia Stern and philosophy professor Avi Sagi, the co-editors, seek to heighten awareness and deepen understanding in Israeli society at large of the complementary interface between democratic norms and Jewish values.

This activity constitutes the great hope for our fissured society. The grassroots is pulling back from the precipice of civil war, and seeking mutual understanding. That's the promising story of Israel today, which unfortunately you won't read about in the sensationalist Israeli media.

So I am optimistic. Bridging the gaps is possible if we provide frameworks for learning and dialogue. For the students who have never attended a synagogue, yet hunger for Jewish content and learning. For religious students who believe in democratic values and in working with non-observant peers to create a decent, just society.

Judaism is what must unite us – as a culture for secular Jews; as a way of life for religious Jews. We need not be on the same track religiously; but we must be headed in the same direction, towards a future in which our descendants will have enough in common and enough pride in their Jewishness so that our people remain intact.

But unfortunately, I do not see many moderate Jewish leaders who are willing to break the institutional mold, overcome narrow political or organizational considerations, and represent the majority of Israelis and Jews everywhere who are yearning for reconciliation and civility on religious issues. Now is the time to speak up!

In preparation for Passover, the legendary Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav composed the following prayer: "May it be your will, O Lord," he wrote, "that there be great affection and peace among all your people of Israel; that we should all be guided by brotherly love and compassion; that we should accept one another, and learn from one another; that we should appreciate all your living beings; and that the misfortune of one person should touch the hearts of all."

And on this Passover, let us say: Amen.

Prof. Moshe Kaveh is president of Bar-Ilan University, and chair of the Council of Israeli University Presidents.

Opinions

The voice of a compassionate man

The recent publication of a new biography of Primo Levi reawakens the memory of an unforgettable voice. Levi's clarity of prose, his calm and analytical style of writing, his scientist's eye, all give us a unique perspective on the Holocaust.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

His prose is full of questions. In his first book, *Survival in Auschwitz*, published in 1947 (recently renamed *If This Be A Man*), he asks gently: "In our days many men have lived in this manner, crushed against the bottom, but each for a relatively short period; so that we can perhaps ask ourselves if it is necessary or good to retain any memory of this exceptional human state. To this question we feel that we have to reply in the affirmative."

To Levi the *lager* (camp) was a reflection of the Inferno of Dante. But it was also a "gigantic biological and social experiment" which he was compelled to document. The scientist in him had to record the results of this horrific experiment, with its zones of black and grey. Worst of all there was "no why" there – no way to rationalize events, judgments, or outcomes. Each was dependent on whim.

In the *lager* he learned that mankind can be brutal and heedlessly arrogantly evil, and also that the human spirit can survive. But he never romanticized that will to live, and saw that sheer luck was the deciding factor. When he was free, his personal odyssey home (similar to that of Ulysses) gave him the opportunity to analyze others who had survived. In *The Reawakening* he describes with quiet humor the rigors of his return to normalcy, to a world where reason could be relied upon to answer "why."

That Levi was a great storyteller is evident in *The Periodic Table*, in which he likens the stories of his life before, during, and after the war to elements. Each element has its properties, just like the variety of human conditions.

Liberated by the realization that he can indeed fall in love, he feels "ready to enter life with joy and vigor...My very writing became a different adventure, no longer the dolorous itinerary of a convalescent ... but a lucid building, which was now no longer solitary; the work of a chemist who weighs and divides, measures and judges on the basis of assured proofs, and strives to answer questions."

He is now ready to "dredge up events from my memory and describe them with the greatest rigor and the least clutter." As he says simple, elsewhere, "I am of those people to whom many things are told."

That ability to tell and retell stories leads him to the one novel of the war which he wrote not from his own, but from others' experiences. *If Not Now, When* is a novel about partisan resistance based on stories he heard after returning to Italy.

His brief stint as an Italian partisan had ended in an almost comic rout of the fledgling band he joined as the Nazis closed in on his family after Germany occupied Italy in 1943.

It is in *The Drowned and the Saved*, a reflective book, that Levi , like Elie Wiesel, struggles to understand how the insanity of the Holocaust can be understood. But where Wiesel's stories grow longer, more mystical and fantastic, Levi's grow tauter, shorter, more succinct and emblematic.

Wiesel says, "There are things that happened that are not true; and things that are true, but did not happen." Levi struggles to understand how "what may not be, can be." Despite the assertion that "things whose existence is not morally permissible cannot exist", he knew they had existed "down there," and that millions of Europeans not only allowed them to exist but participated in those immoral deeds.

Finally he asks the question, how will we live, we at the century and the millennium's end? Do worse catastrophes await? He writes, "When it comes to the future, we are just as blind as our fathers...Why aren't we fleeing 'before'?"

Will this biography's new insights answer for us the question of why Levi died? Was the weight of his story in an increasingly disinterested world too much for him? No coward, he knew what life had been like "down there," how hard he fought to survive and how many all around him lost the will to survive.

All we have is his voice, the voice of a courageous and compassionate man who strove to understand humanity in all its elements.

An assault on democracy

The past few months have not been happy ones for our courts in general and the Supreme Court of Canada, in particular. They have been subjected to an unrelenting attack upon their decisions and, indeed, their very legitimacy.

Bruce Elman in Edmonton

Critics of the court argue that they are out of control and that the Charter of Rights is to blame.

This latest series of attacks on the court probably began with the Vriend case. The court decided that the Alberta human rights legislation should protect individuals from discrimination based upon sexual orientation.

Conservatives and religious fundamentalists vilified the court for its ruling.

The most recent provocation for the court-bashers was the Ewanchuk case – a case of sexual assault. The case – for those of you who have been visiting another planet – is quite straightforward: the defendant had touched the 17-year-old girl in a sexual manner in spite of being told No repeatedly by the complainant. No had never deterred the accused before.

You see, he had three previous convictions for rape and one for sexual assault. Nonetheless, the accused was acquitted by the trial judge because he found that the girl had "impliedly consented." The Alberta Court of Appeal affirmed the trial judgment. This, as Justice John Major pointed out in his Supreme Court judgment, was an error. There is either consent or there is not and there is no such thing as implied consent. In a concurring judgment, Justice Claire L'Heureux-Dubé, quite rightly, took Appeal Court Justice John McClung to task for his gratuitous and exceedingly insulting comments about the young girl and for the myths and stereotypes which lie at the heart of his comments.

McClung then wrote a letter to the *National Post* wherein he complained about L'Heureux-Dubé's judgment and noted that it was these type of judgments that were probably to blame for Quebec's high male suicide rate. (He, allegedly, did not know that L'Heureux-Dubé's husband had committed suicide some years ago.) He apologized to L'Heureux-Dubé but never to the young woman who was, through his comments, twice made a victim in the case.

McClung's judgment in the case was legally wrong; his extra-judicial comments were clearly inappropriate. He brought the justice system into disrepute. The Canadian Judicial Council must now deal with the matter.

The accusations levelled at the Supreme Court of Canada pale, however, in comparison to the vilification directed at the Supreme Court of Israel. One need only look to the recent haredi demonstration against the Israeli Supreme Court for confirmation of the virulent nature of the assault upon the court.

A quarter of a million haredim were marshalled from all areas of the country to protest the court's interpretation of the Basic Laws of the state. Placards read "The High Court Represents Violence" and "An End To Incitement (i.e. the incitement by the court)."

The invective, which leading haredi rabbis, including Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, directed at the court and Chief Justice Aharon Barak, was even worse and should not be repeated. Both current chief rabbis – Rabbi Yisrael Lau and Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron – attended the demonstration against the court even though they are employees of the state and supposedly non-political. It is, of course, our right in a free and democratic society, to criticize any of our governmental institutions including the courts and their decisions.

But there is a fine line between criticizing the decisions of the courts and questioning their legitimacy. The line is crossed when the critics do not recognize the rule of law. These are the facts of our legal system and, indeed, of our democratic system: the Constitution is the supreme law of Canada and the charter is part of the Canadian Constitution.

The Israeli Basic Laws on human dignity and liberty and freedom of occupation are superior to all other law. When judges interpret the constitution or the Basic Laws (or any other law), they are fulfilling the role that was given to them in our constitutional system – to uphold the rule of law. Those who attack the legitimacy of the court, on the other hand, are undermining the rule of law and democracy itself.

These challenges to the court are, to cite Barak, an assault "on democracy, in the true meaning of the term democracy. These arguments endanger not only the court but the very character of Israel [and Canada] as a land of law, which defends the rights of the minority and every individual." Those who attack the court should be cautious, always ensuring that, in their criticism of the court, they recognize and support the rule of law rather than undermine it.

A memory rediscovered

No, this column does not deal with an embattled aspect of psychiatry. It reprints a notation I had made many years ago. The event it describes took place a week before Pesach in 1945.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

We had been fighting on German soil for almost half a year, and had not met a single Jew who had survived the carnage. But then, between Aachen and the Rhine, Jewish settlements had not been too numerous. Would Cologne be different? It had harbored one of the oldest Jewish communities, whose origins went back to Roman times. Would there be survivors?

We had hardly entered the city when the first civilians approached us. "Are you really Jews?" they asked. When we assured them that we were, wildly gesticulating men and women surrounded us. There were tears, there was joy, there were the first tales of how they had survived: by hiding with Christian friends, by using false names, but mostly because they were only partially Jewish, and Adolf Eichmann had not gotten around to putting them on his special trains. There were also the first bitter inquiries after relatives who had been shipped away.

Looking back, I think we were too overwhelmed to grasp the full significance of it all. That came later, when we liberated the first concentration camp at Nordhausen.

We went to Roon Street Synagogue. There it was, almost as I remembered it in my youth! The strong outlines of the Byzantine structure, the solid walls, quite unimpaired. But inside, a gaping hole left from the raging fires of hatred. The beams were still scarred, the ashes still grey with accusation.

We stoked through the ashes. A half-burned leaf of a prayer book came in view and crumbled as soon as I touched it. My foot struck a piece of wood. It was one of the lions from the top of the Ark, its paw still raised as if to uphold the commandments. It was not burned but clearly broken off, testimony to someone's savagery. I lifted the carving tenderly, and I would always cherish it.

Curious citizens, Jews and non-Jews, came and watched silently. We told them that the next afternoon we would hold a service amid the ruins. The people spread the news.

Thursday, March 22, marked an unforgettable experience. Ragged, half-starved Jews, their spirits barely rekindled, stood next to their more fortunate co-religionists from America. A women pointed to the place where the bimah had been. "My son had his bar mitzvah here," she said. "Where is he now?"

We all cried unashamedly, battle-hardened soldiers along with the pitiful remnants of Cologne's great Jewish community. We sang with a fervor which seemed to wring an amen from the empty walls. The first synagogue service in Germany since 1938!

All of us were swept up in an immense wave of gratitude that the reign of evil was coming to an end and that even in the land of terror, the spirit of the Eternal People would not be quenched forever.

The Kirshner File

Portrait of a great magazine editor

William Shawn was an institution at *The New Yorker*, whose glossy pages have been graced by the likes of John O'Hara, E.B. White, John Updike and Truman Capote, among others.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

As editor of the magazine from 1952 to 1987, Shawn wielded enormous power, and was judged to be one of the most influential figures in American letters. But for all his clout, he was intensely private and remote, eschewing the allure of celebrity.

The antithesis of the glamorous Tina Brown, one of his successors who recently resigned, Shawn was a publicity-shy man who was averse to "buzz" and who poured all his energies into building and consolidating a magazine famous for its crystalline short stories, perceptive essays and sardonic cartoons.

Eight years after Shawn's death, two of his former colleagues have written pungent memoirs about his life and his work. They are *Here But Not Here* (Random House) by Lillian Ross and *Remembering Mr. Shawn's New Yorker* (The Overlook Press) by Ved Mehta. Both books reveal important facets of his personality, but they are not biographies. In the end, they do not take his full measure, and Shawn remains somewhat shadowy and elusive.

Like Shawn, her lover for more than 40 years, Ross is a secular and assimilated Jew. "Both Bill and I," she explains, "felt Jewish, especially when it came to humor, but we didn't think in terms of Jewishness for our identity. Both of us seemed to be comfortable with the heritage without any formality over it."

She met Shawn, who was almost twice her age, several years before he took over the editorship from the legendary Harold Ross (no relation). At the time, Shawn was married and had three children. The affair was known to all, including his wife and colleagues at *The New Yorker*.

According to Ross' account, they had a wonderful relationship, and were "collaborators, partners and friends, both personally and professionally." She never felt like "the other woman," and Shawn repeatedly told her that he considered her his wife.

Given the fact that she was a smart and accomplished woman, it is remarkable that Ross tolerated such an arrangement for so long. Evidently, she was content with being his mistress. "Our lives were joined," she observes at one juncture. Elsewhere, she rhapsodizes: "We couldn't get enough of each other. Our love never became stale."

The story of their friendship, which is thankfully devoid of prurient details, is interesting to a point. But as I ploughed through *Here But Not Here*, a reference to his barren marriage, I found myself far more drawn to her portrait of Shawn, the dedicated and discriminating editor.

Shawn, she discloses, was an individual whose creative gifts were obscured and thwarted by his success. Eternally obligated to his writers, he felt imprisoned by his job, which he described as "the ultimate cell."

Working with speed, courtesy and concentration, he accommodated himself to their vocabularies, to their rhythms and to their endless needs. Shawn was usually able to reject unsatisfactory writing. But such was his solicitude that, once in a while, he bought a piece so as not to hurt the feelings of an author.

Reticent though he may have been, Shawn was supremely confident in his abilities. In 1961, to his dismay, the editors in the fiction department rejected *Zooey*, a short story by J.D. Salinger. To his ever-lasting credit, he ignored their advice and published it, thereby enriching American literature.

Although he devoted days and nights to helping his writers and artists, he never encouraged them to delve into his own personal life. "His oldest friends somehow knew he had marked a line beyond which he did not wish them to step," Ross writes.

Among the writers he nurtured was Hannah Arendt, the German-born political scientist who, in 1963, produced a five-part series on the Eichmann trial that later became the controversial book *Eichmann in Jerusalem*.

As Ross tells it, the editing of Arendt's manuscript was unusually difficult because her often-cumbersome Germanic sentences had to be converted into understandable prose.

Regrettably, she devotes precious little space to Shawn's early years at *The New Yorker*, the first issue of which appeared in February 1925. Shawn, born in Chicago, submitted his first article to the magazine in the early 1930s. A report on a pickle barrel factory in New Jersey, it was never used.

Yet, in the words of Mehta, a staff writer who revered him, Shawn was a fluent and natural writer whose prose bore the unmistakable mark of his character – simple, direct and generous. Still, in all the years he was at *The New Yorker*, he published only one piece, entitled *The Catastrophe*. It was a one-page fantasy concerning the destruction of New York City by a meteor while the rest of the world goes about its business as usual.

For reasons that are never explained by either Ross or Mehta, the magazine hired Shawn as a reporter after his inauspicious pickle barrel assignment. In 1935, he was shifted to the research department. Four years later, he was named managing editor of the fact department, a position which put him in charge of all non-fiction.

At their first meeting, Shawn made a powerful impression on Mehta, an Indian national whose eye for detail is belied by his blindness. He was particularly impressed by Shawn's utter lack of self-importance.

Shawn treated all writers equally, and left them alone. "The fact that writers from the 1920s and writers from the 1980s could work under the same roof and could write for the same *New Yorker* was testimony to the magazine's continuity and to Mr. Shawn's ability to assimilate in his magazine styles from many generations of writers."

Immensely loyal to his writers, Shawn never wavered in his support of them. "It was as if only death could part the two," Mehta notes.

His loyalty was certainly a factor in his success. In a memo once penned to the publisher, Shawn outlined the hallmarks of a great editor. "He must have art sense, editorial instincts, the feeling for a good story, but most important, the ability to establish a good relationship with writers on staff, and the skills to help (them) cope with their inevitable insecurities."

William Shawn

Shawn spared no expense to getting it right. Even after the magazine had gone to press, he gave no thought to making a correction, Mehta writes.

As refined by Shawn, the editing process was rigorous, perhaps pedantic. Galleys were read by Shawn himself, a lawyer, a fact checker and an editor who vetted them for grammar, sense, clarity and consistency.

Mehta is bitter about Shawn's sudden dismissal. *The New Yorker*, owned by the Fleischmann family, was sold to the Newhouse media empire in 1985. In 1987, Shawn was fired after 55 years of service and replaced by Robert Gottlieb, editor-in-chief and president of Alfred A. Knopf, a subsidiary of Random House.

In Mehta's view, the new proprietors "destroyed" *The New Yorker*, a judgment which, in hindsight, appears rash. Today, the magazine is different but as good as it was during the Shawn era.

Mehta's epilogue, concerning the final five years of Shawn's life, is infused with sadness. After he was pushed out, Shawn never regained his bearings, and died with the conviction that the magazine he had shepherded to greatness had irretrievably declined. Poor Shawn.

We'd like to wish you a happy and healthy Passover Holiday.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SENIORS

Forest Hill Place
645 Castlefield Avenue, Toronto

Open House
Sunday, April 18 from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Tours of Forest Hill Place available.

Guest Lecturer
Rachel Turkienicz, Ph. D. in Talmudic and Midarshic Studies,
Director of Judaic Studies at the Toronto Heschel School
Topic: "Sefirah" between Pesach & Lag B'Omer
Thursday, April 22 at 2:00 pm

Nutrition & Fitness
Guest speaker, Rosalie Moscoe, Certified Wellness Consultant &
Motivational Speaker. Topic: "Helpful hints with nutrition &
fitness to see us through to the millennium"
Thursday, April 29 at 2:00 pm

For reservations call Marlene or Susan at 785-1511

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New JWI program reaches out to mothers

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — A new program, sponsored by Jewish Women International (JWI), is designed to give mothers the break they need.

Called MOM. (Mom's Own Moment), the course consists of a series of eight topical seminars and workshops held Friday mornings at the Bathurst Jewish Centre (BJC). Babysitting is available at the BJC.

Penny Krowitz, executive director of JWI, said the program evolved due to a need by some women to get involved in the Jewish community, yet not in the traditional way. "Many of them look at organizations as a place for their mothers or grandmothers, but not for them," she said.

Although women's roles have changed from a generation ago, their basis needs are still the same, said Krowitz. "They still want to socialize and be connected with like-minded women, and they do want to connect to the Jewish community. These needs have remained constant, no matter what the generation."

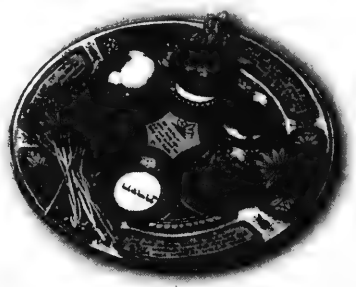
There is a growing trend, she said, for women to stay home with their children, whether they are stay-at-home mothers, work part time around their children's schedules, or work at a home-based business. "Whatever their situation, they need something to stimulate them during the day, and get out and meet others like themselves. There was little out there for them."

She said a group of women, got together to discuss the matter, and MOM. was born. "They planned the two-hour programs themselves. Topics include making the right educational choice for your kids; Judaic art created by me; how to make $100 grow and grow; the latest trends in decorating; and taking the best pictures of your kids. There is a wonderful broad spectrum of topics, with something of interest for everyone."

She said that the program is being run as a pilot. "We are hoping that this group will bond, and will continue meeting in some format. We plan on working with them if they show an interest in joining the organization in a format that is workable for them. If they just want to register, however, that is perfectly fine."

The cost of the program is $85 (babysitting extra). Deadline for registration is April 6. Call 630-9313 for more information.

A Passover Shopping Tradition



The customs and rituals of Passover are richly observed at Spring Farm Marketplace where so many thoughtful ways to celebrate the holiday await...from keepsake haggadahs to beautifully engraved kiddush cups, to one of the largest selections of Kosher l'Pesach foods in the city.

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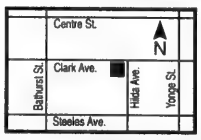

SPRING FARM MARKETPLACE

441 Clark Ave. at Hilda Ave., Thornhill

A L'CHAIM FOR WEALTH MANAGERS

State of Israel Bonds and CIBC Wood Gundy recently hosted a reception for 100 wealth managers, who were treated to a special tasting of Highland malt Scotch whiskies, courtesy of Seagram. From left were guest speaker Warren Thomson of Newcourt Capital Inc., which is helping finance the new Cross-Israel Highway project; Richard Venn, chair of CIBC Wood Gundy Securities; event chair Jeffrey Olin; investment advisor Alan Friedman; and Bonds' executive VP Larry Waller.

MINYANIM IN THE GTA
WEEK OF MARCH 26-APR. 1/'99

Synagogue	Address & Tel.	Fri. Night	Shabbat	Sun. A.M.	Daily A.M.	Daily P.M.
Adath Israel (C)	37 Southbourne Ave. (416) 635-5340	6:20 PM	9:00 AM	8:00 & 9:00 AM	7:00 & 7:45 AM	6:40 & 6:25 PM
Anshei Minsk (O)	10-12 St. Andrews St. (416) 595-5723	6:26 PM	9:15 AM	9:15 AM	7:15 AM	6:30 PM
Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am (C)	55 Yeomans Rd. (416) 633-5500	6:30 PM	9:00 AM	8:30 AM	7:00 & 8:00 AM	6:30 PM
Beth Radom (C)	18 Reiner Rd. (416) 636-3451	5:30 PM	8:45 AM	9:00 AM	8:00 AM	5:30 PM
Jewish Russian Community Centre (O)	18 Rockford Rd. (416) 665-9600	6:18 PM	9:30 AM	9:00 AM	7:00 AM 9:00 AM	6:30 PM
Kehillat Shaarei Torah (O)	2640 Bayview Ave. (416) 229-2600	6:18 PM	9:15 AM	9:00 AM	7:00 AM	----------
Sephardic Kehilla Centre [Abir Yaacob] (O)	7026 Bathurst St. (905) 669-7654	6:18 PM	8:45 AM	8:00 AM	6:45 AM	6:30 PM
Temple Emanu-El (R)	120 Old Colony Rd. (416) 449-3880	7:30 PM	10:30 AM	8:30 AM	7:30 AM	----------
Temple Kol Ami (R)	36 Atkinson Ave. (905) 709-2620	7:30 PM	10:30 AM	----------	----------	----------

This is not a comprehensive listing of the synagogues in the Greater Toronto area. The information is provided by the Vaad Harabonim of Toronto and the Toronto Board of Rabbis. The Vaad and the Board will periodically revise the listings. For Pesach davening times, please call the Synagogue which you wish to attend.

Greater Toronto Area

Jewish covenant symbolized by brit milah blood

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The covenant between God and the Jewish people is not symbolized by the brit milah itself, but by the blood that comes with it, according to Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman, professor of liturgy at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York.

Rabbi Hoffman was speaking at a lecture entitled Brit Milah: sign of the covenant, sign of the times? sponsored by Kolel: a Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning. The program was held at Holy Blossom Temple.

If it were only the ceremony of circumcision, he explained, then it would not be incumbent on those converting and already circumcized, and those born without a foreskin, to have a ritual drop of blood taken from the penis.

The blood of circumcision, he said, joins with the blood of the paschal lamb, whose blood was smeared on the doorposts of Jewish homes in Egypt to complete the covenant.

Those two commandments, said Rabbi Hoffman, circumcision and the sacrifice of the paschal lamb, are what was thought to lead to salvation. He quoted a passage from Ezekiel that said, "I passed by you and saw you wallowing in your blood, and I said, "In your blood live...In your blood live" (16:6)

On the other hand, he asked, why does a man's blood bring salvation, while a woman's menstrual blood pollutes?

Culturally, he said, women are seen as being associated with nature – wild, threatening, uncontrolled. "Nature is to be feared because it is uncontrolled. Circumcision symbolizes that men are controlled, something that all cultures value."

What we know about Judaism, he said, comes often from edited and laundered texts, texts which are often, not only imperfectly preserved, but different in different editions.

"Judaism is a living thing," Rabbi Hoffman said. "Some things are good, some things are neutral, some we would rather not remember. That is the complexity of the Jewish religion."

For instance, he said, Christianity began by accepting the concept of the two bloods, just as Jews did. However, when they decided that they would not accept mitzvot such as circumcision, only the paschal lamb was left as a means to salvation.

The notion in the eucharist, that wine is the reminder of that blood, they got from the Palestinian Talmud, which says that the wine at the seder is the blood of the lamb.

"Christians used [that concept]. Jews forgot about it.

The fact that women were exempt from certain areas of religious life, and from observing some commandments, was not connected with women's intellectual abilities, he said.

According to his research, in the Middle Ages women had a great deal to do with religious life, even if they were not obligated.

The rabbis of that time, Rabbi Hoffman said, made circumcision into an all-male event, partly, he believes, as a reaction to Christian asceticism, and because of a climate of "moral puritanism" that made it somehow improper for women to be involved in such things.

He quoted a 1285 ruling by Rabbi Samson ben Tsadok (the Tashbetz) that implied that at that time, women brought their infant sons into the synagogue for the brit, and the circumcision was performed on her lap. What he was concerned about, it appears, is that observers might get the impression that something improper was going on, even if nothing in fact was.

Dr. Yoel Abells, a Reform mohel, one of the moderators of the program, noted that people see brit milah differently than in the past, and that we must be sensitive to those differences.

As well, he said, Jews must recognize the importance of including women in the ritual, as mohelet, for example.

During the question period, a member of the audience asked about the movement by some men to reverse circumcision by restoring the foreskin. He raised the issues of lack of consent by the infant, the amount of pain, and the ramifications, which he said include poor sexual functioning, impotence in middle age, neuroses, and a lack of self-esteem.

Co-moderator Dr. Rochelle Schwartz, a family practitioner and mohelet, said that there is "no compelling reason to go against Jewish tradition." Many mohalim, she said, including Orthodox, use painkillers.

As well, there are certain health benefits, and there is no evidence of impotence or other sexual problems, she said.

About consent, she noted that "we don't ask babies about vaccination, or piercing their ears – we just do it."

USDS SCIENCE FAIR

Michael Cohen, a student at the USDS Richmond Hill campus, shows his project on an endangered species, the snow leopard, as part of the school's recent annual science fair.

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Education seen as the key to win loyalty to Judaism

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — In a free society such as ours, all Jews are Jews by choice, says Rabbi Irving Greenberg.

"If Jewish life is of a high level, they will remain Jews, otherwise people will become attracted to the open society," said Rabbi Greenberg, president of Chaverim Kol Yisrael/Jewish Life Network and founding president of CLAL National Jewish Centre for Learning and Leadership.

Rabbi Greenberg was part of a panel at the Leonard Wolinsky Lectures on Jewish Life and Education, held recently at York University. The lecture was held in celebration of the establishment of the Koschitzky chair in Jewish teacher education at York University. Other panel members were Barry Holtz, a professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York; Michael Shire, director of the Centre for Jewish Education in London, England; and Dvora Steinmetz, founder of Beit Rabban, an independent day school in New York and a teacher at the Drisha Institute, a school for adult women, founded by her husband.

Rabbi Greenberg said there is no other way to win loyalty to Judaism except through education. "Our goal should be universal literacy – living life through Jewish eyes."

The five building blocks to committed Judaism, he said, are Hebrew day schools, Jewish camps, Israel, youth movements and adult learning. "These are the keys to a literate, high-functioning Jewish community. They all have a total immersion-type of learning, which is the key."

The weakness of Sunday schools and afternoon Hebrew programs, he said, are that they are a deviation from normal life. "They are a temporary society. In a total universe, people absorb more deeply."

Although most Hebrew schools and camps are denominational, he said, denominations are no longer the essence of their approach. "There are issues that transcend denominational lines. All the denominations share these issues. Whether a congregation, for example, prays in Hebrew, in the language of their country, or a combination of both, they are all correct. We are coming to understand that dancing and singing are something that liberal Jews and Orthodox Jews do.

Credit given

"Reform Jews must be given credit for thinking that they cannot ignore modern culture, and Orthodox Jews must be given credit for not bending the rules. All these views are true, and each group has something to learn from the other."

People should not be bound to any one denomination, said Rabbi Greenberg, but rather, should come to grips with pluralism. "The true choice is pluralism. It says that 'I know the limits of my situation.' If you don't know your limits, you are dangerous or insane. When you recognize your limits, you are accepting of others and you are free, not only to listen, but to learn."

Holtz said that Jewish education cannot be wedged into the definition of general education. "We have to prepare leaders and teachers to deal with the fact that the big agenda in Jewish education is education for the purpose of commitment. The system fails if students come out knowledgeable but uncommitted. Mere learning is not the be all and end all of a Jewish education."

There is also a spiritual element to a Jewish education, he said. "We care about our leader's own religious growth. We don't want principals running a school if they have no relationship to prayer or Jewish practice. We care that our leaders are people with commitments."

Children, said Shire, have a natural relationship to God, which they often tend to lose as they get older. "God-talk is part of childhood, but for some reason, something seems to happen. They suppress their natural religious inclination."

He would like to see young people, after childhood, develop a religious outlook, and a commitment to spiritual awareness. To develop that, he said, young people need to be involved in an encounter experience such as a trip to Israel or summer camp. "Through an encounter experience, comes reflection and thinking. It is the role of the educator to guide the youth through their experience. This educator has the role of being the midwife to tradition."

Steinmetz said that women still need to gain tremendous ground in education. "Huge things still need to happen. There is no real place for women to serve in society. There is no true learning context equivalent to the male yeshiva, where a woman can involve herself in Torah study and prepare herself for a life of Torah study."

The only way to make change, she said, is "to pay attention to how we teach children – how we teach the boys and the girls."

JCT DINNER/DRAW

Over 450 friends and supporters of the Jerusalem College of Technology gathered at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation recently for their annual dinner draw. Shown are (from left) Joseph Klasner and David Anisman, project co-chairs; Noreen Azoulay, coordinator; Jerry Klasner and Henry Zieleniec, co-chairs of the Canadian friends. The event raised over $100,000, the best year so far.

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Photos by Orah Buck, from the permanent installation; "Time in Faces".

Bulabutish organization powered by 'people person'

Spotlight

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
CJN Staff

Norma Mamott

Norma Mamott thinks that her position as community fundraiser for the Association for the Soldiers of Israel, is not a great leap from her life as singer/comedian Norma Davis.

Mamott, who trained at the Lorne Green Academy of Radio Arts, says that her experience working in nightclubs, entertaining troops in Korea and Japan, and as a puppeteer at the Ontario Science Centre, prepared her to deal with the public and relate to a variety of people.

She has worked at the Association for the Soldiers of Israel and the Canadian Zionist Cultural Organization since 1980, and chances are, if you've ever called the office, you've spoken to her.

She speaks to donors, people who want to buy memorial or greeting cards "or people who just want to talk. I think of myself as the link between the soldiers and the public. We want the soldiers to know that the Diaspora is thinking of them.

"We're a *bulabutish* organization. Our funds go towards providing the soldiers with the things that the Israeli government cannot afford to give them. When people call in, I want them to know that they are appreciated."

Suellen Boyd, the office administrator, calls Mamott a "people person. Ninety percent of the people who call in want to talk, and she talks to them.

"I believe, that Norma single handedly built up the business. She listens to people and she charms them. She takes her job beyond taking orders. Everything she does has that personal touch."

Holocaust survivors, says Mamott, are among the organization's strongest supporters. "They, particularly, care for the soldiers. They know the importance of the survival of Israel. I can't tell you how many times someone has told me that if Israel had been there for them, they may have had a family today."

Mamott, who has one daughter and two grandchildren, says being a Jew has always been important to her, and this job is a logical step in her career. "I love working. It keeps my mind young and it keeps me active. I plan on retiring when I am 120."

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BEST WISHES FOR A KOSHER & ENJOYABLE PESACH

Educator stresses benefits of counselling whole family

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Schools and communities are in crisis when it comes to educating and raising children, according to Marv Sniderman, who had 30 years of teaching, counselling and administrative leadership experience at the North York Board of Education and is a family counsellor in private practice.

The difficulties are greater because there is a growing proportion of families with children under 18 who are headed by a single parent, and there are more stepfamilies, common-law arrangements and other socio-economic changes, Sniderman said in an interview.

"It's difficult to define a family today. There appears to be a critical need for family therapists to focus on the needs of children.

"Although some families with child/school difficulties turn to outside agencies including family therapy, many are reluctant to seek help outside the school system. In many cases, they tend to emphasize the problem of the child in school rather than addressing the broader family issues.

Marvin Sniderman

"Parenting today's adolescents [also] appears to be more difficult than in previous years because of the far-reaching technological and sociological changes. With changes come benefits to our society, but problems as well."

Traditionally, the student has been targeted as the problem, he said. "The goals for the student are generally specific and school-related, such as improved grades, less acting out or completing assignments.

"It is my contention that effective family counselling can reach beyond specific interventions to more comprehensive, lasting changes."

What is important, he believes, is the need to help family members develop clear communication, expand awareness and learn to cope with demands and changes.

"It is important to create an active hierarchical structure where parents are in charge of their children while giving them increasing independence and freedom as children to mature."

The role of the therapist or counsellor is to help clients develop problem-solving skills, he said.

"My philosophy is that therapy should be as brief as possible, because most people want resolution of some problematic symptoms; and therapy should be solution-focused and action-oriented and should deal with present interactions."

Sniderman said it is important to work with the whole family. This gives him the opportunity to observe how individual family members interact with each other within the family. This leads to strategies for helping each person.

Using a speaker/listener technique, Sniderman teaches children and adults the value of listening first and then speaking. Keeping the discussion to one person at a time and one subject at a time, and rephrasing for clarification are skills incorporated into his technique, along with established rules for both the speaker and the listener.

He says that as a family counsellor, "There is an inner satisfaction in knowing that I am helping others to help themselves."

CORRECTION

In the article about the Leo Baeck Day School learn-in on racism (*CJN*, March 18), the title of speaker Danny Fine was incorrect. He is director of community relations, Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region. *The CJN* regrets the error.

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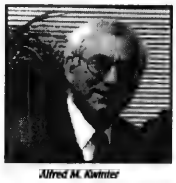

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Shammas remembered for devotion to shul

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Alex Koenigsberg, a fixture at Adath Israel Congregation for 45 years, died earlier this month following a stroke. He was 80.

Obituary

Known affectionately as Mr. K, Koenigsberg served as the synagogue's sexton (shammas) until he turned 65, and then as its sexton emeritus.

He was involved in virtually every aspect of synagogue life, said his son Melvin.

Alex Koenigsberg

Born in Brezovica in the former Czechoslovakia, he studied at the famed Nitra Yeshiva in Slovakia. During World War II, he was sent off to a forced labor camp and was later incarcerated at Dachau and Birkenau, part of the Auschwitz complex. Both his parents were murdered in the camps.

After liberation, he became an administrator at two Displaced Persons camps in Austria where he lived with his wife, Ida Zimmerman, whom he married in 1946.

He came to Toronto in 1951 and trained as a tailor. He worked in the garment trade briefly before being hired as the sexton at Adath Israel, known popularly as the Romanian Shul, then located at College and Bathurst streets.

In those early days, Koenigsberg did everything from custodial work to scheduling bnei mitzvah, recalled Rabbi Erwin Schild, the synagogue's spiritual leader until his retirement in 1989.

"He was the janitor, the assistant cantor, he booked simchot and he was the Torah reader," Rabbi Schild said. "He did it all."

When the synagogue moved "uptown" in 1956 to its current location at Bathurst and Wilson, "he looked after everything. He played a major role in the new building."

In 1969, the congregation honored Koenigsberg at a tribute dinner, as did State of Israel Bonds in 1980. In 1994, the Alex Koenigsberg Conservatory was opened at the synagogue, consisting of a chapel, library and board room. An endowment fund in his name continues to fund adult education and new resources for the shul.

As the synagogue prospered over the years, it hired bookkeeping and janitorial staff. But Koenigsberg kept busy with bookings, services and the overall running of the shul.

As sexton emeritus, he scaled back somewhat, leading the synagogue's second minyan. But he still had a hand in the congregation's direction.

"His whole life revolved around the synagogue," Rabbi Schild remarked. "He was a wonderful individual, with a tremendous sense of *ahavat Yisrael* (love of the Jewish people) and he continued studying Torah. He was the most beloved person in our congregation."

He leaves his wife Ida; sons Melvin and George; daughter Brenda Shear; and nine grandchildren.

MASKS AND MUSKETEERS AT BBYO BALL

B'nai Brith Youth Organization's (BBYO) Greater Toronto Council held its Masquerade Beauheart Ball at the Thornhill Country Club recently. The group's AZA executive (top photo, from left, Yoni Lerman, Adam Gilbert, Adam Shulman, Avery Benmergui and Michael Bernknopf) were attired as musketeers. Sabrina Fernbach and J.D. Katz (above) were ball co-ordinators.

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Russian Jews targetted by messianic groups

Continued from page 1

Rabbi Yoseph Zaltzman, head of the Jewish Russian Community Centre (JRCC) and unofficial spiritual leader of Toronto's 40,000 Russian and ex-Soviet Jews, uses stronger terms. He calls the lure of the missionaries "a spiritual holocaust."

It's impossible to say how many are attracted to Christianity, he says. "Even one is too many. Unfortunately, many [Jewish Russians] are an easy target. They are told they are still Jewish but they can believe in Christianity."

The answer, says Rabbi Zaltzman, lies in better and more proactive Jewish education programs for emigres. That's one reason the JRCC last year hired a director of its new Centre for Jewish Studies, which offers a myriad of programs in Russian and English.

Jews for Judaism's volunteer-run Russian task force has initiated several programs. Rabbi Michael Skobac, the group's education director, has presented seminars at the JRCC on Rockford Road, warning of the messianic threat.

Sasha Katz, a young Jewish immigrant from Kiev who was once a member of a messianic "synagogue," also presents programs in Russian, both through the Russian centre and Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS).

Most recently, task force members, led by Jews for Judaism's executive director, Julius Ciss, picketed outside New Covenant House (also known as the Toronto Jewish Mission) on Sheppard Avenue, which has long been accused of targeting Russians. This time, the mission was charged with actively proselytizing unsuspecting Russian Jews in the guise of classes in English as a second language.

Jews for Judaism calls it a "stealth" campaign. They say the Russians come for English lessons and instead get instruction in the Christian Gospels.

Rev. Douglas Freeman, pastor at New Covenant House, refused to answer *The CJN*'s questions about the classes.

In 1996, the Toronto branch of Jews for Jesus hired a full-time Russian outreach worker. According to the organization's newsletter at the time, Boris Bekerman was a Russian Jewish believer "who met his Messiah" in 1993. He was hired to go door-to-door in Russian-Jewish areas of Toronto and, according to Jews for Jesus, three people "received Y'shua [Jesus] as their Savior and Lord!

"Please pray for our continued outreach to the Russian Jewish people," the newsletter implored.

Asked by *The CJN* whether Bekerman is still on staff, Andrew Barron, Toronto director of Jews for Jesus, laughed and referred the question to the organization's international headquarters in San Francisco.

Susan Pearlman of the international headquarters told *The CJN* that Bekerman is no longer active in Toronto. She said she did not know why.

Jews for Judaism says several messianic congregations in Toronto distribute material printed in Russian, bearing Jewish symbols like Stars of David and Torah scrolls. According to the group, there are at least two congregations in the city geared especially to Russians: Beth Sar Shalom and Shaarei Yeshua, which was said to meet at the Centennial Library on Finch Avenue, near Bathurst Street. Jews for Judaism says simultaneous Russian translation of services was offered at both places.

However, there was no Russian translation of the English services attended by *The CJN* at Beth Sar Shalom. And an official at the Centennial Library said Shaarei Yeshua had not used the facilities for a long time.

Rich of Chosen People Ministries told *The CJN* that Russian translation used to be provided at Beth Sar Shalom, but not anymore.

He estimates that a quarter of his congregants are Russian immigrants, "but they all speak and understand English now." He said he has not noticed an increase in the number of Russian speakers attending his congregation. "We're obligated by our faith to reach out to all people," Rich said. "We don't focus on Russians."

Begging to differ is Rabbi Skobac, who believes that supply for the demand by Christian missionary groups was provided by the fall of communism, after which thousands of Russian and ex-Soviet Jews poured into Toronto.

The end of communism opened the window for messianic groups everywhere, Rabbi Skobac feels.

"Hundreds of them went to Russia after the fall of communism in order to start saving souls. And because [state-mandated] atheism was over, people were open to receiving the Gospel."

So, many Jews were already exposed to Jesus before leaving. And even during the 1970s and '80s, the leanest years of Jewish emigration, those Jews who did get out were often met by so called Hebrew-Christian missionaries at transit points like Ladispoli in Italy.

Outreach groups successful in Israel

Rabbi Skobac points out that these Christian outreach groups have become especially successful in the United States, Germany and ironically, Israel, where the Knesset is still struggling with bills aimed at limiting their influence.

In Toronto, Russian Jews are getting sucked in for the same reasons as their brothers and sisters around the world: they arrive with little or no Jewish education, and often, the first religious congregation that contacts them is a messianic one. After that, "they just try to fit in," Rabbi Skobac says. "They're told they can stay Jewish and still believe in Jesus."

Another selling point is these messianic congregations' style of outreach: friendly, warm and inclusive. Sasha Katz, the young emigre from Kiev, remembers it well.

Now a poised 25-year-old business student at York University, he arrived in Toronto in 1991 with very little Jewish background. He had no bar mitzvah, and only his parents and the state made him aware of his Jewishness. "We were cultural and gastronomic Jews," he says.

Sponsored by an aunt who had converted to Christianity years before, Katz was taken to what he thought was a synagogue just 10 days after he arrived. It was Congregation Melech Yisrael on Ranee Avenue.

"People were so nice to me," he recalls. "It was very welcoming and friendly." After he rented his own apartment, he realized that his fellow congregants were his only friends in Canada. "So it went from a social thing to a religious thing," and he got more deeply involved. "I liked these people, so I accepted Jesus into my heart."

Another move, this time to North York, put Katz in touch with a Lubavitch family, who invited him to stay one Shabbat. The family, upon hearing the young man's adoration of Jesus, connected him to Jews for Judaism. Katz spent many sessions with Ciss, and began exploring Jewish outreach groups like Aish Hatorah.

The people at Melech Yisrael weren't happy about this development. "They told me that Julius [Ciss] was the devil," Katz remembers. "They had no intellectual argument against him, so they used an emotional one."

Slowly but surely, Katz returned to the Jewish fold. These days, he lectures for Jews for Judaism and attends the Orthodox Shaarei Tefillah Congregation. He sees his episode as a Jew who worshipped Jesus typical of the dangers which lie before ex-Soviet emigres.

As for the solution, Katz cites increased outreach and education, but also says Russian Jews need to be met with a more mainstream approach after they arrive. Rabbis connected to the Russian community are all chassidic, and that may put off many immigrants who have so little Jewish knowledge.

Asked whether messianic congregations posing as synagogues target Russian Jews, Katz doesn't pause. "One-hundred percent," he says.

Rev. Douglas Freeman (left), pastor at New Covenant House, is confronted by Julius Ciss, executive director of Jews for Judaism, and volunteers Sarita Walerstein and Michael Joffe (holding signs). The Sheppard Avenue mission is accused of proselytizing Russian Jewish immigrants.

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Dr. Nadler is the author of "The Faith of the Mithnagdim: Rabbinic Responses to Hasidic Rapture" and "Heretic and Hero: Baruch Spinoza and the Modern Jewish Imagination"

Public Cordially Invited

Day school students face off in hockey tourney

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — It's not clear whether it was the last-minute come from behind victory or the pizza lunch that got the boys most excited, but either way, the annual Yitzhak Rabin Hockey Tournament proved a roaring success yet again.

Six teams from seven Jewish day schools (two paired up to ice one team) faced off at Chesswood Arena for this year's extravaganza and get-together.

Following last year's pattern, Associated's Kamin Kings locked horns with USDS Bayview in the championship matchup.

This one proved a real see-saw affair that had an estimated 200 fans at the edges of their seats. USDS jumped into an early 1-0 lead, but from there the contest proved to be a real nail-biter with both teams taking turns being stymied on good scoring chances, said Steve Stern, coach of the Kings.

The tide turned late in the third period when the Kings foiled a close-in scoring chance and roared up the ice on a counterattack. Adam Gold carried the puck deep into the USDS end, cut around a defenceman and tucked the puck between the Bayview goaltender's legs with 1:52 left on the clock.

The place erupted with cheers, signalling a major shift of momentum. With Bayview reeling, Associated kept up the pressure. The puck quickly ended up in the corner deep in the USDS end, with right-winger Kyle Pasternac on a mission to retrieve it. He got control and centred it to leftwinger Jory Stern who buried a one-timer with 1:02 left to play.

The place went nuts.

Coach Stern called the Kings' win "a combined effort of the whole team. They all played well... It's unfortunate that somebody had to lose."

In addition to the finalists, teams from USDS Richmond Hill, Associated's Neptune and Leslie branches (they iced one team), Leo Baeck and Bialik took part in the tournament. The Kings beat Bialik 3-1 in the semi-final while Bayview advanced to the championship with a 3-1 win over Leo Baeck.

All the boys and girls who took part had an "absolutely fantastic day," Stern said. Besides the hockey, they enjoyed getting together with friends from other Jewish schools over a pizza lunch.

Debbie Noyek, whose son, Adam, played for USDS Bayview, and Arlyn Zimmerman, with two kids in the tournament, organized the event.

"It was our first year putting it together. It was a lot of work, but it was a lot of fun," she said.

We're number one!! Asscociated's Kamin Kings celebrate their last-minute 2-1 championship victory over USDS Bayview in this year's Yitzak Rabin Hockey Tournament. [Fred Stoppel photo]

The tournament created tremendous school spirit and brought together friends from other Jewish schools, she said.

In addition to the tournament, the schools played about a dozen 7 a.m. exhibition games against each other, beginning in January, Stern said.

"The kids just eat it up," he said. Even though many of the boys play for other teams, "the pride and joy of playing for their school is just tremendous."

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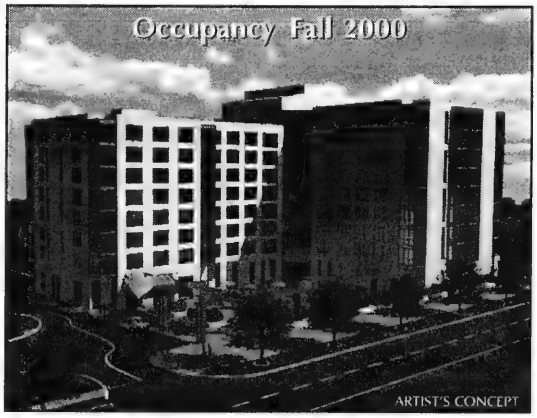

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Mission to Israel reveals array of social problems

By WENDY GOLDBLATT SCHNEIDER
Special to The CJN

Ethiopian immigrant teaches even more recent olim. [Israel photo]

No one who has been on a visit to Israel over the last decade could fail to have noticed the proliferation of super highways, five-star restaurants and hotels, single family dwellings, shopping malls and other signs of Westernization.

Is it any wonder that an increasing number of North American Jews are questioning why, if the Israeli lifestyle is so close to our own, Israel's needs should take priority over those of our own communities?

Consequently, there is a growing trend among North American Jewish communities to lower their United Jewish Appeal (UJA) allocations to Israel and overseas communities in favor of local needs.

Tragically, there is a heavy price being paid both in Israel and the Former Soviet Union (FSU) as a result of this perception.

The Voyage to Discovery II, a UIA/Federation mission to Israel and the Crimea last January, was an attempt to address this issue.

Many of the participants had come with a belief that the needs of our local communities were at least as important to those of Israel. Throughout the course of the week however, we came to the realization that Israel's outward signs of prosperity are, in fact, masking a huge array of social problems that can be attributed to the staggering number of immigrants absorbed over the last 10 years.

As for the needs of the Jewish communities in the FSU, these have been easy to overlook, due, to some extent, to the fact that the Israel and overseas allocation is presented as one category. At the end of the mission the majority of participants completely reversed their thinking on the subject of the responsibility of North American Jewish communities towards Israel and beleaguered communities throughout the world. This article is an attempt to explain why.

Our mission took us to the Crimea, a peninsula in the southern Ukraine that juts out onto the Black Sea. We visited Simferopol, the capital city of the Crimean region and the resort city of Yalta.

During our short stay we were hosted by two organizations – the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC or "the Joint") – which are facilitating the revitalization of Jewish life in the FSU.

Although their mandates differ, both organizations are literally saving Jewish lives and Jewish life in the FSU. JAFI works with that segment of the population for whom aliyah to Israel is a viable alternative to a bleak future in the Ukraine while the DJC helps those who lack the strength or will to leave the FSU.

The Joint's presence in the FSU dates back to the 1917 revolution when it came to the aid of impoverished Jews and those who were victims of pogroms. A 50-year absence caused by the Joint's expulsion by the Soviet State in 1938, ended with the perestroika and glasnost of 1988.

Since then the Joint and JAFI have established an extraordinary infrastructure of welfare centres across the FSU that has led to a virtual explosion of Jewish communal life.

The thousands of welfare professionals and volunteers mobilized by these centres have provided literally millions of food packages and hot meals. They made millions of homecare visits, loaned medical equipment and supplied fuel, clothing and blankets to elderly and impoverished Jews throughout the last decade.

We were taken in small groups on visits to elderly shut-ins. Our group visited 86-year-old Rosa, who lives in a dilapidated building on an old-age pension of $20 a month.

Rosa lost her husband and two children and her remaining child has left the country. Although visited weekly by a JDC welfare worker, and helped occasionally by her neighbors, she spends most of her time alone.

She was delighted to meet us, people she viewed as her benefactors. We realized that, prior to this visit, we had little awareness of the scope of the organization that supports Rosa.

In Simferopol we were taken to a Jewish Agency educational facility where hundreds of aliyah candidates and their families are enrolled in Hebrew classes and support groups.

We sat in on one class where adult students were learning vocabulary appropriate for a night out on the town in Tel Aviv.

When asked what they had heard about life in Israel, they answered honestly. Yes, they'd heard a great deal about the difficulties of absorption from friends and relatives already living in Israel. Nevertheless they were ready to go there because they had no future in the Ukraine.

Our next stop was a teacher training class for another group of adult students who had decided to delay their own aliyah and take on the role of passing their knowledge of their Jewish heritage to their peers.

Their teacher had made aliyah years earlier but had returned to the FSU to give something back by involving herself in training another generation of teachers.

On our final stop at this facility we stepped into a room where a support group for parents whose children have already made aliyah, was in progress. While some spoke about their intention to follow their children to Israel, we sensed that the decision to emigrate was fraught with complications. Many parents are intermarried and cannot, in many cases, agree on whether or not they should leave the Ukraine.

But there was one message that was unmistakably clear: every parent was grateful that their children had an opportunity to study and live in Israel as there is no viable future for Jewish life in the Ukraine.

The distance between Israel and the Crimea is covered in a mere two-hour flight, but for the new immigrant the transition from one reality to another can take a lifetime.

In Israel we were briefed by Jewish Agency officials, who made no attempt to hide the fact that, compared to the challenges of absorption and integration into Israeli society, the aliyah process is the easy part.

And while we heard many encouraging stories from young students from both the FSU and Ethiopia about how initial loneliness eventually gave way to feelings of success and well being, we also heard many heartbreaking stories about those who have fallen between the cracks.

Good intentions notwithstanding, the Ethiopian community in particular, is suffering from the disastrous consequences of dismal absorption experiences.

The practice of placing the children of new immigrants in youth aliyah villages, for example, has had disastrous consequences on the Ethiopian family unit. Alienated youngsters have turned away from parents and grandparents whom they have come to see as primitive.

At the same time, these youngsters struggle with feelings of inferiority as they feel rejected by native-born and westernized Israelis. Increasingly Ethiopian youth are finding solace through substance abuse and identification with Afro-American culture.

Research on the subject supports the anecdotal evidence with dismaying statistics: Only 20 percent of Ethiopian youth write high school leaving exams; 75 percent are streamed into vocational courses and one out of every 10 students drops out altogether.

During a morning devoted to the problems faced by the Ethiopian community, we were encouraged by the words of an articulate young Ethiopian woman, who spoke about her positive absorption experience. But her voice cracked with emotion when she described what it felt like to drive by the Central Bus Station

Continued on page 22

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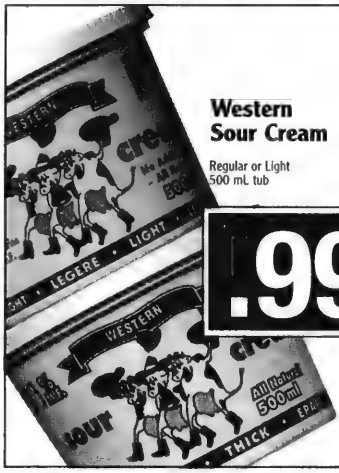

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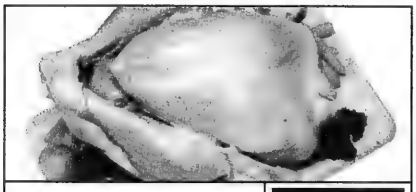

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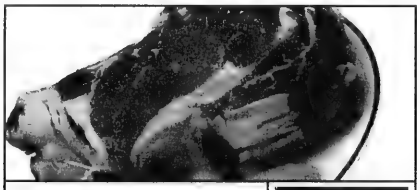

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Features

Funding cutbacks hurting Jewish Agency programs

Continued from page 20

in Tel Aviv where other young Ethiopians of her generation were hanging out, lost and aimless with no purpose and nowhere to go.

Jewish Agency officials told us that the only chance to save the large numbers of Ethiopian youth at risk was through intensive educational and social programs. But the Jewish Agency has been forced to reduce funding to such programs because they are receiving less from North American communities. As long as these budgetary cuts remain in place the chance of such programs being undertaken on a large scale seems unlikely.

On a more positive note, one particular trend that is occurring within Israeli society offers much cause for optimism. While donating to Jewish causes has been seen as primarily a Diaspora responsibility, there is evidence that philanthropy is growing in Israel.

Three years ago, Israeli songwriter, Ehud Manor traveled to the cities of Minsk and Vilnius with a group of young North American Jewish leaders. The experience changed him.

Overwhelmed by the generosity of these North American Jews, who arrived on the doorsteps of elderly Jewish shut-ins with food parcels, American dollars and open hearts in hand, he was moved to join the Jewish Agency's new Israeli division, The Israeli Spirit, and has now become one of its key spokespersons.

The increased Israeli philanthropy is a clear indication that the covenant signed at last November's General Assembly of Jewish Federations in Jerusalem, which emphasized the special responsibility of Jews towards one another, is becoming a reality.

Lena Krichevskaya, who fled what she described as "terrible anti-Semitism in Ukraine," is among 100 workers in Israel's oldest matzah factory, which produces 3,000 tons a year. [UJA Press Service photo]

Israelis and North Americans are both engaged in nothing less than a reshaping of the Zionist dream. The debate over whether one can live a more meaningful Jewish life in Israel or in the Diaspora has given way to a new partnership where both Israel and the Diaspora are joined together in the common goal of maintaining Jewish life around the world.

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Family mission 'outstanding'

TORONTO — Forty-seven participants from Ontario and Montreal recently participated in the Family Mission to Israel, co-sponsored by the Jewish Education Council of Montreal (JEC) and Canadian Jewish Congress, (CJC) Ontario region.

The two-week trip left the participants, mostly first-time visitors, with memories that will last until their next visit.

The families took a whirlwind tour of Israel that included sightseeing, camel riding, a boat cruise on the Kinneret, spelunking (cave crawling), exploring ancient Israel, a b'not mitzvah ceremony on Masada, and lots of walking and hiking.

"Carla (18) and Robyn (16) are in love with Israel and plan on going again either to study or travel," said Vicki Lubell of London, Ont., who along with her husband Bruce and two daughters, experienced Israel for the first time. They were also able to visit their daughter Lauren, a student at Hebrew University.

"The group simply could not get enough of Israel, and wanted to make the most of every minute," said Michael Soberman, director of Community Services for Congress' Ontario region and one of the trips organizers.

Ruthie Saragosti, coordinator of the Montreal Israel Experience Office and another of the trip's organizers, said, "They were so much fun to be around. The kids, teenagers, adults and grandparents amazed us with their enthusiasm and their ready-to-try-anything attitude."

Ron Korzinstone of Montreal, called it an "outstanding family experience, one that instills lifelong memories and a deep desire to return." His daughter Carla, and Joelle and Danya Kelenson had their bat mitzvah ceremony on top of Masada.

"This is a special occasion for you and your families," Dr. Rabbi Shimshon Hamerman, scholar-in-residence on the JEC/CJC Family Mission told the group. "You are standing on one of the most historic sites in Judaism during this rite of passage. I am sure you will always treasure this moment as you begin your adult lives."

Gesher Chai, a city-wide program in Montreal, twins Jewish schools here with schools in Israel. A highlight of the program for William Malkinson, was when he and other children on the mission visited Ma'anit school in Beersheva, which is twinned with PALS, his afternoon school in Montreal.

Gad Elbaz, director of the Montreal Israel Experience Centre, said that "this was an incredible experience for these families. The partnership between the Jewish Education Council and Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region added a communal dimension to the program."

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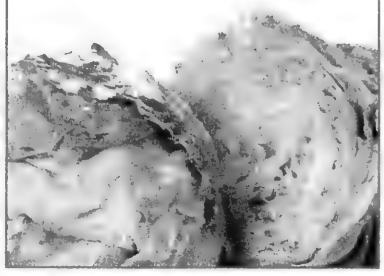

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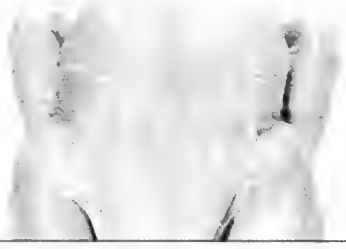

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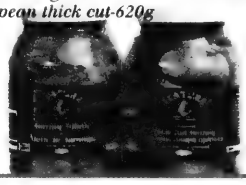

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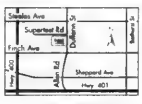

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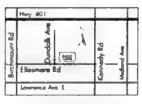

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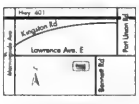

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Coast to Coast

Library receives Montgomery collection

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — A large and valuable collection of the works of Lucy Maud Montgomery now resides in the National Library of Canada, thanks to the generosity of Ottawa-area lawyer Ronald Cohen.

A ceremony was recently held in the foyer of the National Library to introduce the collection and thank its donor.

Cohen, chair of the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council, described how he searched around the world, and added to his Montgomery collection over a 15-year period.

"I chased Montgomery's works wherever they could be found: in Canada, in the United States, in England and Scotland, in Oslo, in Seoul, in Tokyo, in Auckland, in Sydney."

He delighted the audience with anecdotes of his various acquisitions, and the story of how he decided to donate the collection to the National Library.

National librarian Marianne Scott, Cohen said, was a dinner guest at his home one evening several years ago. Browsing through the bookshelves, she exclaimed that she must have the Montgomery collection for the library. According to Cohen, from that moment on, his collecting had a sense of purpose.

"My goal in assembling this collection was to locate as many different copies as I could, in the hope that these would some day offer clues to a bibliographer, to scholars, to collectors, to those who treasure these works not only as stories, but also as artifacts. Differences in the presentation of the title page, the binder's cloth, the name of the printer, the typeface in which the printer's notice is set, the copyright date and so on, led to the painstaking gathering of pieces of a puzzle to which, I hope, some scholars will soon turn their attention," said Cohen.

The National Library already had 700 books by Montgomery, but, said Cohen, "this collection was something that only a collector could...put together – the variety of material that it [contains], 15 or 20 copies of one title, all just a little bit different bibliographically. If you are concerned about a book as a publishing artifact, then a collection such as this becomes a bibliographer's dream."

Cohen does not intend to stop with the 300 Montgomery books he has already donated. "I will continue putting things together for them which will be part of this Ronald I. Cohen/Lucy Maud Montgomery Collection," he said.

When asked if he would miss his books, he replied "No, I might have if I had sold them, but the collection is still there and I can go and see them at any time... They are now available, not only for me, but for all those other people who may want to use them for some scholarly approach."

Master of ceremonies, Randall Ware, head of public programs for the National Library, introduced Scott, as well as such dignitaries as Mauril Belanger, MP and parliamentary secretary to Sheila Copps; members of parliament from Prince Edward Island; and the head of several cultural agencies.

CJA figures up slightly

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — With just a few loose ends to tie up in Winnipeg's 1998-99 Combined Jewish Appeal (CJA) campaign, the results are almost identical to last year, says executive director Gerry Koffman

In 1997-98, Koffman reports, the Winnipeg campaign raised $3,050,000. This year, the campaign is up just $3,000. "Last year, we registered one of the single largest increases in recent history."

One difference he noted, was that this year there was a slight shift in contributions from local needs to Israel and overseas needs.

Winnipeg is the only Jewish community in North America that still has a two-line card, which allows donors to designate how much of their contributions they want to go to local institutions and how much overseas. Last year, 70 percent of the money raised was for the local community. This year, the percentage was down to 67 percent.

Part of the reason for the shift, Koffman explains, was that donors were made aware that money going overseas not only goes to Israel, but also to the rescue and resettlement of Jews from the former Soviet Union.

"About 5,000 Jews a month are still coming out," he says. "As the economic and social conditions in the former Soviet Union continue to deteriorate, anti-Semitism is becoming palpable.

Scene in Ottawa

By G.K. SIMCOE

As the Jewish community approaches Passover, children throughout the country are reviewing the Four Questions. For the governing Liberals however, there is only one question currently being studied: To prorogue or not to prorogue?

Parliament is preparing to adjourn for its traditional Easter recess. Normally limited to two working weeks, the Liberals are actively considering a suspension of Parliament that could last well into the fall. There are pluses and minuses associated with this course of action.

On the plus side, the possibility of a full-scale CBC strike means the government will be subject to less criticism than would otherwise be the case.

Second, without question period and the daily scrums, the government can more quietly manage the fallout from the APEC hearings, the social and health-care transfers to the provinces and Bill C-55.

All of these issues and many others, have the capacity for seriously hurting the Liberal government. The temptation to dodge public scrutiny by shutting Parliament down must be attractive.

And, lest we forget, the government has the thinnest of majorities in the House. Committee travel has been cancelled and even ministers are being instructed to remain in Ottawa whenever the House is sitting.

A respite from that kind of pressure would surely be welcome by House Leader, Don Boudria and his deputies.

But the most compelling reason for the government to consider an unscheduled leave of absence is the mounting pressure from its caucus – two-thirds of which comes from Ontario – to free up MPs to assist in the provincial election campaign unofficially under way in Ontario.

The provincial Liberals are in trouble and candidates have begun calling in all of the IOUs owed by federal MPs. With not much to occupy themselves in Ottawa on the backbenches anyway, MPs would like to settle their debts now, before they have to go on the hustings for their preferred candidate in the next leadership race.

Among the minuses, proroguing parliament would be a tacit admission by the government that its agenda is very thin. The health-care budget made a momentary splash but nothing on the horizon passes for new and exciting government initiatives.

But the most worrisome consideration for the Prime Minister's Office would have to be the idle-hands syndrome. With little else to distract them, the caucus murmurs calling for the prime minister to retire might swell beyond control.

Strange, how both the pluses and minuses add up to a leadership race.

G.K. Simcoe is a pseudonym.

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Coast to Coast

Elie Cohen a legendary figure in Israel's Mossad

By ELIAS LEVY
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Elie Cohen, a legendary figure of the Israeli secret service, is one of the great heroes in the turbulent history of the State of Israel.

Born in 1924 in Alexandria, Egypt, to a family that came from the Syrian city of Haleb, Cohen was one of the principal Mossad agents active in the Arab world. His extraordinary accomplishments and courage allowed Israel to thwart the aggressive designs of the autocratic government in Damascus for several years.

Recruited by the Mossad in the late '50s, Cohen left Israel and settled in Buenos Aires under the name of Kamel Taabeth, a prosperous Syrian businessman. When he arrived in Argentina, he established close relations with several Arab entrepreneurs who were living in South America, and he was entirely successful in being accepted by the rich Syrian community in Argentina.

When he arrived in Damascus in January 1960, Cohen/Taabeth had several letters of recommendation. He quickly became the new idol of the Syrian capital. One of his best friends from Buenos Aires, Commander Amin al-Hafez, was slated to become president of Syria a short time later. For awhile, some people even thought Taabeth would be given an important ministerial portfolio, perhaps that of defence.

While conducting his import-export business, Cohen/Taabeth maintained his political contacts. He was frequently invited to visit Syrian military bases and even made a complete tour of the fortifications erected by the Syrian government on the Golan Heights.

The information that he daily sent to Tel Aviv, mainly in Morse code, covered all aspects of Syrian society. He got highly confidential documents out through Europe, in which he described in minute detail troop movement along the border, and specified the positions of tanks that might impede the progress of the Israeli army if there was an armed conflict.

He provided a list of all Syrian pilots, as well as precise sketches of the arms with which their planes were equipped. He also regularly transmitted to the Mossad first-hand information about political life in the Arab world and its centres of military power.

On Jan. 8, 1965, the Syrian intelligence service suddenly burst into his apartment and surprised him in the process of sending a coded message to the Israelis. A military tribunal condemned him to death. Cohen was hanged in the public square in Damascus, amid the cheers of the crowd, on May 18, 1965.

Almost 34 years after the death of Elie Cohen, his brother, Maurice Cohen, three years his junior – he is now 71 – is actively campaigning to have Elie's memory honored.

For several years, Maurice, a former member of Mossad, encoded and decoded messages addressed to and sent by his brother, the spy of Damascus, without knowing the identity of the spy.

For five years, Maurice has been conducting a vigorous international campaign to have the Syrian government return Cohen's remains to to his family for burial in Israel.

Maurice, who has already collected some 35,000 signatures of support, has sent a letter explaining the purpose of his fight to several international figures, among them, U.S. President Bill Clinton, South African archbishop and Nobel Prize winner Desmond Tutu, and former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev.

Several religious leaders, including the former Sephardi chief rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Ovadia Yossef, support his cause. Rabbi Yossef sent a personal message to Syrian President Hafez al-Assad last year, urging him to make this humanitarian gesture to the Cohen family.

"It is clear that President al-Assad will not make a political gesture," Cohen told *The CJN*. "However, we are counting on the support we have received in the Jewish and Christian religious world to have him at least authorize the members of our family to go to Syria to say Kaddish at the grave of our beloved brother, Elie."

Cohen recently spoke to the members of the Montreal Sephardi community during a evening dedicated to the memory of his brother organized by the Cercle des études juives francophones of the Jewish Community Centre, in collaboration with the Canadian Sephardic Federation and the Alliance Israélite Universelle.

Cohen has also begun a campaign of education and sensitization in Israel to have his brother's story become an integral part of the history of Zionism and of the Jewish state.

To sign the petition seeking to have Elie Cohen's remains returned to his family, contact his Internet site at www.elicohen.com.

To contact Maurice Cohen, e-mail mcohen@virtual.co.il or mcohen65@netvision.net.il.

This story appeared in French in the Montreal edition of CJN. *(March 4) Translation by Carolan Halpern.*

Ottawa's Ecole Maimonides 'the little school that could'

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Ecole Maimonides is determined to overcome adversity and become "the little school that could."

In the past couple of years, the school has twice been struck by arson but has fought back with strength and determination, and a dedicated team of staff and volunteers.

Most of the school's recent fundraising, however, has been directed toward improving its security system, leaving little for education-related expenses, and even less for its scholarship fund. The school's policy of welcoming every student, regardless of his or her ability to pay tuition, has become difficult to implement with such additional expenses.

To overcome this, An Auction of Fine Art was recently held to benefit the Children's Scholarship Foundation of Maimonides School.

"Out of misfortune has come some good. Because of the fire, Maimonides is now a name that people recognize and sympathize with. Several businesses donated refreshments and paper supplies for the event, and many people were involved in planning the evening, who had never been involved before," said Rabbi Yehoshua Botnick, executive administrator of the school.

The evening opened with a viewing and silent auction; then the bidding began. With all of the art donated, no reserve bids were required to cover expenses.

According to Rabbi Botnick, it was a wonderful opportunity for everyone. The public was able to purchase quality art at low prices, and those who donated the art benefit from a tax deduction.

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Conspiracy for a New Age

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — New Age mysticism has taken a wild turn to the radical – and loony – right, if the appearance in Toronto of British author David Icke is any indication.

Author of *And The Truth Will Set You Free* and *The Robots Rebellion*, Icke recently addressed a session of the Learning Annex in an address that combined elements of *The X-Files* with even stranger science fiction scenarios.

Icke expanded on his grab-bag New Age philosophy with disturbing references to classic Nazi conspiracy theories. His address focused on a "global elite" that included the House of Windsor, the Rothschild banking family and former U.S. secretary of state Henry Kissinger.

Though he did not refer to Jews specifically in two weekend addresses, attended by 200 and 300 people respectively, Icke has cited *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, a Czarist forgery, as proof of his world conspiracy views. The British periodical, *Open Eye*, quotes him as asserting that "there is a global Jewish clique" which has "worked to create the First World War, the Russian Revolution and the Second World War."

He has also been quoted as saying the "Mossad [Israel's intelligence agency] is actually the intelligence agency primarily for the Rothschilds, the banking cartel of the global elite."

Icke, a former spokesman for Britain's Green party and a self-proclaimed "son of God," was banned by the party from addressing its 1994 convention because of the anti-Semitic views contained in *The Robots Rebellion*.

David Sersta, who operates the Learning Annex, monitored Icke's addresses after being notified about his extremist views.

"He is really far-fetched in his philosophy," Sersta said. "He believes a global elite runs the world, and that organization has extra-terrestrial bloodlines.

"He referred to Princess Diana being sacrificed by the House of Windsor, which he described as 'shape-shifting [extra-terrestrial] reptiles.'"

The Rothschilds and Kissinger (who Icke described as a "go-fer" for the global elite), are part of a white Aryan race that controls the world, Sersta reported.

"His focus was on the British aristocracy being shape-shifting reptiles, while U.S. presidents belong to a secret society and are part of the extra-terrestrial global elite," Sersta said.

"You'd have laughed if you were there. You can't take this seriously unless you believe in an extra-terrestrial takeover of the world."

Sersta suggested Icke is popular in the New Age community because of his "entertainment value," although he acknowledged "some people take it seriously."

His inclusion in a Learning Annex program is consistent with the organization's goal of sponsoring entertaining speakers who discuss off-beat topics like angel-reading, psychic readings and personal growth issues, Sersta said.

But Canadian Jewish Congress took his appearance in Toronto more seriously. Keith Landy, chair of Congress' Ontario region, wrote to Sersta on the day of Icke's first appearance to notify him of Icke's past, including the promotion of his book tour by the violently neo-Nazi group, Combat 18.

"Given Icke's alleged connection to the extreme right, and more importantly, his writings of such an extreme anti-Semitic nature, I would ask that the Learning Annex explain their decision to promote his lecture," Landy wrote.

Bernie Farber, executive-director of the Ontario region, pointed out that Nazi-apologist Ernst Zundel authored a book that claims Nazi flying saucers are based in Antarctica. "That didn't make him any less of an anti-Semite," he said.

Sersta said the Congress letter prompted his attendance at the lectures. But because it came so late in the day, he was unable to alter Sersta's speaking schedule, he said.

"I would never bring anybody with any leanings of anti-Semitism or racism," Sersta said.

However, in light of Icke's lecture, "you have nothing to worry about," he added.

According to information received by *The CJN*, Icke's book, *And The Truth Shall Set You Free*, was scheduled to be on sale last weekend at the Total Health show at the Canadian National Exhibition. However, when *The CJN* attempted to inquire about sale of the book at the show, a person who refused to identify herself grew defensive and hung up the phone.

FILM SCREENING

Jacques Bensimon, managing director of TFO-TVOntario, makes a point at a recent film screening sponsored by UJA Federation's Sephardi Network. [Motty Levy photo]

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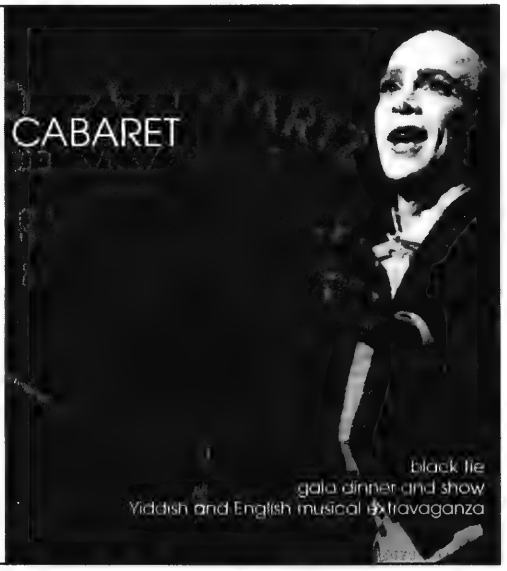

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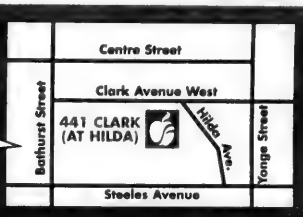

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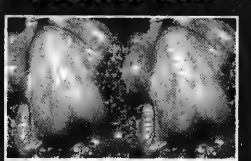

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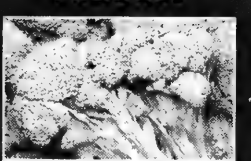

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Coast to Coast

Sukkah balcony decision appealed by league

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — A Quebec Superior Court judge erred when he ruled that there was no Jewish religious duty to erect a sukkah on one's balcony, the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada argues in its appeal of that decision.

The league is appealing the June 5, 1998 decision by Judge André Rochon to impose a permanent injunction preventing a group of Jewish residents of the Le Sanctuaire condominium apartments from erecting sukkot, the temporary huts associated with the seven-day holiday of Sukkot, on their balconies.

The league contends that Rochon "manifestly erred in law by allowing himself to become the arbitrator of religious dogma."

Rochon ruled in favor of the condo co-owners' association, the Syndicat Northcrest, which first went to court before Sukkot, 1997 to seek the injunction. The Syndicat cited "numerous complaints" from residents about the huts, and condo bylaws prohibiting any type of construction on what are considered common areas of the co-ownership.

The league, represented by lawyer Steven Slimovitch, is acting as intervenor in the case. The respondents are Moïse Amselem and his wife Gladys Bouhadana, Miguel Bernfield, Edith Jaul, Antal Klein and Gabriel Fonfeder.

The league says that Rochon committed an error of law when he "entered into the analysis of the religious duty and, in essence, ruled that there was no Jewish religious duty to erect a sukkah hut on one's balcony, and in effect, went beyond examining the religious duty, but more so questioned the very existence thereof…"

The league says Rochon also erred when, in assessing the sincerity of the Jewish group, he "appears to hold that the duty is to construct rather than dwell in a sukkah hut."

The appellant's factum cites a 1985 Supreme Court ruling that "With the Charter [of Rights and Freedoms], it has become the right of every Canadian to work out for himself or herself what his or her religious obligations, if any, should be and it is not for the state to dictate otherwise…"

The Jewish group testified, as did their expert witness Rabbi Moise Ohana, that their religion ("or at minimum, their conception of it") requires them to have a sukkah on their balcony.

The Syndicat, including its expert Barry Levy, a rabbi and dean of religious studies at McGill University, argued that Judaism does not require a sukkah in any specific location, and "its being placed on one's balcony is simply a question of convenience."

Rochon made his mistake when, faced with these two opposing interpretations of Judaism, he "felt that he was obliged to intervene and, in effect, decide what in fact Judaism mandates," according to the factum…

"He ruled that, despite the evidence advanced by the [Jewish group], they misconceived their religious duty and, in effect, misunderstood it."

The league contends that the function of the trial judge was to verify if the group "honestly believed that their religion required" them to have a sukkah on their balcony.

Instead, Rochon sought to determine if their religion requires them to have a sukkah on their balcony.

The league submits that the state, through its judicial arm, must never take on the role of interpreter of religious dogma for three main reasons: it is not in the spirit of the separation of church and state; only a competent religious body should make such interpretations; and such judicial interpretation is "irrelevant."

The charter, it says, "protects not a religious belief per se, but rather one's concept or understanding of one's religious belief."

The league also takes issue with Rochon's decision that freedom of religion under the charter only protects that which is obligatory in one's religion. "Such a view fails to recognize the intrinsically personal nature that is freedom of religion."

The league says Rochon was wrong to conclude that the Jewish group was not sincere in its contention of what their religious obligations are, on the basis that some of them had not in the past erected sukkot at their homes, but rather had gone to the homes of family members who had a sukkah.

Rabbi Ohana had testified that Jews can celebrate the holiday in any sukkah, as long as using it is not an "exceptional chore." The factum states that in the past, going to spend the holiday with family was not a burden for the appellants, but circumstances have since changed and it would now be a burden.

"As explained by Rabbi Ohana, as per Jewish law, to celebrate Sukkot in this fashion would run counter to Jewish law."

In preferring Levy's interpretation of Jewish law, Rochon has rendered a decision that "wholly negates the freedom of religion of the [appellants], and in effect, requires them to practise their religion in a manner which they find repugnant."

The Jewish group of residents is expected to shortly make its own written submission to the Court of Appeal, Slimovitch said. Then, the Syndicat Northcrest has 90 days to respond.

Federation CJA, Centraide redefine their relationship

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Two of the largest fundraising organizations in Montreal, FEDERATION CJA and Centraide, have redefined their relationship for the first time in 25 years.

In exchange for greater Jewish community participation in Centraide's campaign, Centraide has guaranteed that FEDERATION CJA will receive 3.4 percent of its proceeds. The federation will actively encourage Jews to contribute to Centraide, including asking Jewish business owners to set up voluntary employee payroll deduction plans, a major source of Centraide donations.

The 3.4 percent figure was arrived at by using the 1991 census, which found that Jews – as defined by religion – made up that percentage of the population of Greater Montreal (the Island, plus Laval and the South Shore).

In 1998, Centraide raised $33 million, which means the federation will receive about $970,000 this year. Centraide's allocations will be announced in the next six to eight weeks, said its executive director Michèle Thibodeau-DeGuire.

That rate will continue until data on the Jewish population from the 2001 census is made known, usually at least a year after the census is taken.

The prior arrangement, in place since 1974 when the last agreement was drawn up, was also based on a percentage of Centraide's proceeds: about 3.6 percent. But because the amount Centraide has been raising has soared, the actual sum the federation receives will be considerably higher than in the past. Over the past decade, Centraide's proceeds have increased from about $20 million to a record $33 million last year.

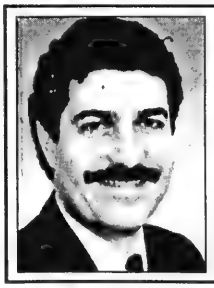
Last year, the federation received over $775,000 from Centraide. Traditionally, Centraide has been the second highest contributor to the federation, after the wealthiest Jewish families, and the federation has been the recipient of Centraide's second largest allocation, usually behind Catholic Community Services.

In return in the past, the federation had agreed not to solicit donations to Combined Jewish Appeal in the general community. Both campaigns are run publicly at about the same time, in the fall.

The relationship recognized that many of the federation's constituent agencies are open to the public, on a non-sectarian basis, and that several Centraide-supported agencies are frequented by large numbers of Jews.

Centraide currently supports more than 250 groups and agencies and 33 innovative community projects, affecting 500,000 people.

Centraide collects half of its proceeds through workplace donations, 35 percent from corporate gifts and 15 percent from the general public.



Dan Ronen
Liberal Candidate – Thornhill

My best wishes to the Jewish Community for a happy, healthy & kosher Passover.

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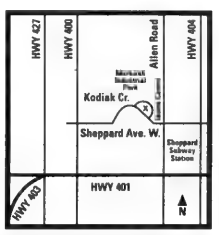

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דער אָפּשטאָם פֿונעם פּסח סדר

פֿון דר. פֿרעד וויינבערג

מיינע אייניקלעך , אין זייער קינדערישער נאיוויטעט, טראַכטן, אז דער פּסח סדר, הי מיר פֿראָדען אים היינט צו טאָג, איז פּונקט אזוי ווי די בני-ישׂראל האָבן זיך געפֿירט אין מדבר באַלד נאָך יציאת-מצרים. דאָס הייסט אַ סדר מיט אַלע פּיטשעוקעס: מרור, מצות, חרוסת, דער באַהאַל-טענער פֿון די קינדער אפּיקומן, חד גדיא נעזאַנג, א.א.ו.ו.

פֿאַקטיש איז דער מקור פֿון היינטיקן סדר פֿאַרוואָרצלט אין די איינצלהייטן, וויַ געשילדערט אין חומש, אין ספֿר שמות. יעדע משפּחה האָט זיך פֿאַרזאַמלט אין דער היים אָדן געפֿראָוועט אַ מאָלצייט, באַגלייט מיט די פּסח ריטואַלן, צום בישפּיל, ניט פּוהנים, נאָר געוויינטלעכע בני-ישׂראל, האָבן מקריב געווען אַ שעפּסל, אָדן אַלע פֿאַמיליע מיטגלידער אָדן אויך שכנים, האָבן באַדאַרפֿט אויפֿעסן דעם קרבן ביז סוף נאַכט. דאָס האָט געהייסן אָנטייל נעמען אין אַ פֿאַמיליע סדר.

אין חומש זאָגט זיך אויך, אז מען מוז עסן מצות, אָדן קיין חמץ טאָר זיך נישט געפֿינען אין ערגעץ אין משך פֿון זיבן טעג. אָדן די מצות דאַרף מען עסן מיט מרור אָדן ביטערע קרייטעכצער.

אין ספֿר שמות, קאַפּיטל צוועלף, ווערט אויך דערמאָנט וויַ משה גיט איבער גאָטס אַפּעל איינצושטעלן די אַלע מנהגים וויַ אַן אייביקע אינסטיטוציע. די זעלבע פּסוקים מאַכן אויך קלאָר, אז די אַלע סימ-באָלישע פֿירעכצן וועלן אַרויסרופֿן ביי קינדער פֿראָגעס, דאָס הייסט קשׂיאות. אָדן דו זאָלסט קלאָר מאַכן פֿאַר זיי, פֿאַרוואָס מיר עסן מצות אָדן ביטערע געווייקסן. אָדן אזוי האָבן יידן זיך געפֿירט ביז חורבן בית המקדש, אין יאָר זיבעציק.

מען געפֿינט דריי היסטאָרישע השפּעות, וואָס האָבן באאיינפֿלוסט די פֿאַרמען פֿונעם פּסח סדר, וויַ עס איז אונדז באַקאַנט. ערשטנס, האָט דער חומש פֿאַרגעשטעלט געהייסע מאָדעלן, לויט וויַ פֿרייַער באַשריבן; צווייטנס, נאָכן חורבן בית שני האָבן זיך די רבנים געמוזט צופּאַסן אָדן ענדיקן געוויסע מנהגים, וויַ דער קרבן פּסח אָדן אַנדערע צערעמאָניאַלע פֿירעכצן פֿון דער פֿאַרגאַנגענהייט.

די משנה, אין צענטן פּרק וואָס הייסט פּסחים, הייזט אָן אויף די דינים, וויַ אזוי זיך נוהג צו זיין ערב פּסח פֿאַרנאַכט אין די יאָרן נאָך דער פֿאַרניכטונג פֿון בית המקדש, למשל, נישט עסן קיין מצות ביזן סדר, אָדן אויף אַנדערע דינים וואָס זיינען דער יסוד פֿון אונדזער היינטיקן סדר: קידוש, כרפּס, הגדה זאָגן, מצה, מרור, חרוסת, אפּיקומן, הלל אָדן די נשמת תפּילה, אָדן אויך די פֿיר קשׂיאות, וואָס דער יינגסטער זון פֿרעגט זיין פֿאָטער, כדי ער זאָל לערנען מיטן קינד די אודזאַכן פֿאַרוואָס מען פֿאָלגט נאָך די אַלע מאָדנע מנהגים.

לויט די רבנים פֿון דער משנה זיינען די אַלע מנהגים אַ "זכר ליציאת מצרים", כדי ניט צו פֿאַרגעסן דעם גלות פֿון מצרים אָדן די נסים וואָס גאָט האָט באַוויזן בייַם ראָטעוודן דאָס יידישע פֿאָלק פֿון שקלאַפֿערייַ.

די תנאים, וויַ מען רופֿט די רבנים פֿון יענער צייַט, האָבן אנטוויקלט די דינים אָדן מנהגים פֿון סדר אין די ערשטע צוויַי הונדערט יאָר נאָכן חורבן פֿון צווייטן בית המקדש. דער ויכטיקסטער צווישן זיי איז עזרען רב יהודה הנשׂיא.

דער דריטער אינפֿלוס אויפֿן פֿאַרמאַט פֿונעם סדר שטאַמט פֿון די מנהגים פֿון די אַרומיקע פֿעלקער, וויַ די גריכן אָדן רוימער, צוישן וועלכע די יידן אין גלות האָבן געלעבט. צום בישפּיל, עסן לינגדיק אויף דער רעכטער זייַט; אויך דאָס וואָרט אפּיקומן איז פֿון גריכישן שורש.

דורך די הונדערטער יאָרן אין גלות, האָבן זיך אָנטוויקלט הגדות פֿאַרן סדר פֿון פֿאַרשיידענע קהלות, רעליגיעזע אָדן נישט-רעליגיעזע, וויַ עס פֿירט זיך אין השומר הצעיר קיבוצים, אָדן אַנדערע.

די זמירות צום סוף פֿון די אַשכנזישע הגדות שטאַמען פֿון אייראָפּעישע פֿאָלקסלידער אָדן גראַמען, דערביבער געפֿינט מען נישט איין הגדות פֿון ספֿרדישע לענדער נישט חד גדיא אָדן נישט אחד מי יודע.

אזוי האָט זיך אָנטוויקלט אונדזער היינטיקער סדר, אָנהייבנדיק פֿון ביבלישע געבאָטן, אָבער מערסטנס פֿון די רבנישע ביישפּילן פֿון נאָכן חורבן. אין לויף פֿון דער צייַט זיינען איבערגעבליבן נעוואָרן הונדערטער נוסחאות פֿון הגדות של פּסח, וואָס ווערן נעוונדט דורך יידן אין פֿאַרשיידענע לענדער איבער דער גאַנצער וועלט.

אַ גוטן פּסח אייך אַלעמען.

Tagar conference stresses need for Jewish unity

By DAVID ABBOU
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Regardless of any ideological differences, the Jewish people must unite.

This was the message driven home here at the recent North American conference of the student movement, Tagar, a youth wing of the Herut-Likud party.

The conference brought together 40 participants from the United States and Canada for a weekend of discussion, education and fun, with the aim of establishing goals for Tagar.

Students from universities in Cleveland, Columbus and Miami, joined Canadian members from the University of Toronto, Ryerson Polytechnic University, York University, Seneca College and the University of Winnipeg.

The conference began with Shabbat dinner and services, during which members were able to relax and get acquainted.

After dinner, conference participants began to talk about the future of the movement. It was immediately apparent that there were ideological differences among the members about what Tagar's goals should be.

Some members felt that Tagar needs to live up to the historical perspective it once had, as a movement fighting for the State of Israel. Others felt that this image was outdated, and Tagar must modify its image to represent the beliefs all Jews share, no matter where they fall on the political spectrum. This new, broader Tagar would increase membership and participation, they said.

However, the heated discussion clearly demonstrated the love and commitment shared by all the members for Judaism, Zionism and the State of Israel.

On Saturday, all participants worked to hammer out the goals of Tagar. After much deliberation and debate, the objective of the conference was achieved, as traditional ideology was integrated into a modern context, and the goals of Tagar were agreed upon.

The participants stressed that Tagar is an Israel-oriented movement and therefore will always be a Zionist group. The movement's main goal would be to work towards the unity of the Jewish people by advocating for the State of Israel. Priorities outlined to achieve this goal were:

• Though Tagar is not a religious movement by definition, it has a great respect for Jewish tradition, and realizes its importance for the existence of the Jewish people. Tagar will therefore work towards achieving unity with the religious sector.

• Tagar will be pro-active in promoting the State of Israel and the unity of the Jewish people.

• Tagar realizes the importance of the Hebrew language to the Jewish people, and will promote learning the Hebrew language.

The conference also featured three guest speakers, including Harry Wolle, the president of the Toronto Herut-Likud chapter.

Jerry Zeidenberg, who lectures on Ze'ev Jabotinsky, founder of Revisionist Zionism, described Jabotinsky's commitment to achieving his dream of a Jewish state in Israel.

On Sunday morning, the speaker was Mordechai Ronen, who was a member of the liberation group Etzel (Irgun Tzva'i Leumi) when it was instrumental in the fight for the establishment of the State of Israel. He was also on the ship *Altalena*, which in 1948 carried soldiers and arms to Israel to fight for the cause.

In an incident sparked by differences between Etzel and Haganah leaders, Ronen said, the *Altalena* was fired upon, and it sank off the coast of Tel Aviv beach. Nineteen Jewish soldiers were killed.

This was, Ronen said, his first time speaking publicly of the tragic event, and he was emotional in stressing that the incident underlines the need for Jewish unity.

COOKING UP A FUND RAISER

The Leo Baeck Day School Parents' Association will present A Culinary Extravaganza, on April 28 at Holy Blossom Temple. The fund raising event will launch the Parents' Association 25th anniversary cookbook, Back By Popular Demand...Your Family Cookbook. The evening will feature a cooking demonstration by Marc Thuet (back) of Centro Grill and Wine Bar. He will provide cooking tips and culinary insights as he demonstrates a Mother's Day menu. Seen discusssing plans with Thuet are (from left) parents Susan Lulka, Marilyn Gotfrid and Shelley Sobel.

Food Ideas for Passover

Tradition, reality and the dreams of our children

More than most, Pesach is a holiday for the generations, both those of the past and those of the future. The traditions of our grandparents meet the realities of our modern lives, and sometimes, collide with the needs and dreams of our children. Somehow, we must find a way to blend all three.

There is the joke told in different variations about the young bride who, when making her first brisket, cut off the tip. When her husband asked why she did that, she replied that that was what her mother and grandmother said the Halachah demanded. When she asked her great-grandmother, she was told it was "because my roasting pan was too small to hold the whole roast."

That is a lot like many of the Pesach rituals families follow – we follow them, not because there is any particular reason that we know of, but, well, because. My family doesn't eat cabbage because 200 years ago a farmer cut a cabbage with the same knife he had just used for bread. Others don't eat garlic, or insist that if gefilte fish isn't ground by hand, it is just not appropriate for seder use.

We sing the same tunes at the seder that we heard in our childhood, and if for some reason the tune changes, it is jarring, like taking a step and finding not sidewalk but empty space. We are angry at ourselves for feeling so disconcerted, but even angrier that our world has changed.

On the other hand, we may resent the pull of the old ways. It is so much easier to ignore all those seemingly silly customs that have neither a rational basis nor a rational point. It is so much easier to be modern.

We hesitate, often, to include our children. We shoo them out of the way when we prepare for Pesach, forgetting that it is the experience of working side by side with you, observing the mitzvah of removing the chametz, that they will carry with them through their growing up and grown-up years.

The hurrying and planning and shopping and cleaning and organizing, even the exhaustion that is so much a part of Pesach, show them that to us it is important to remember the Exodus from Egypt. It is important to us to share the realization that once we were slaves, once we were oppressed, but now we are free people.

Surely that is why we cling to memories from the past, and do our best to transmit them. We appreciate the fact that we are warm and safe in our homes, that an enemy won't batter down our door to interrupt the seder, that perhaps this year Elijah will come to redeem us all.

From all of us at *The CJN* a Chag Kosher v'Samayach.

–L.S.

STILL LIFE WITH BOWL OF PEPPERS
From a private European collection. **Avigdor Arikha (b. 1929)**

Enjoying vegetarian foods

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Longtime vegetarians Rachelle and David Bronfman have been exploring the health benefits of calcium-rich vegetarian foods.

After more than three years of research, writing, editing and testing recipes, the husband and wife authors published *CalciYum* (Bromedia Inc., 1998) which contains information on plant-based sources of bone-building calcium and recipes for everything from spreads and dips to desserts.

"Our goal is to teach people how to get their calcium through alternate sources to dairy," says Rachelle. "There are so many high-calcium ingredients in our grocery stores that we pass by simply because we don't realize they contain calcium and more often because people do not know how to cook with them."

CalciYum has a glossary which describes calcium-rich ingredients, numerous cooking tips, nutritional analysis, a calcium table, information on lifestyle factors, osteoporosis, and 120 everyday calcium-rich recipes including lasagna, shepherd's pie, chunky chili, tofu baked beans, spanakopita, and veggie burgers.

David, an investment specialist, says, "My interest in calcium arose through my lactose intolerance, in addition to my environmental, animal ethics and health research." He notes that one in five Caucasians lack the ability to properly digest dairy protein lactose. And for many, dairy products are a common source of allergies.

Rachel, an artist, a former computer skills trainer and entrepreneur, says that when she was pregnant with their first child (they now have two daughters), "I sought adequate plant-derived calcium for myself and the baby during gestation and nursing."

She says a baby uses a mother's calcium supply in utero and when nursing.

She says that "for cultures that observe dietary laws, *CalciYum* provides creative solutions to restrictions about the issue of mixing meat and dairy."

The Bronfmans have been guests on a number of radio and television shows, have done speaking engagements for groups, and Rachelle gives courses on calcium-rich, vegetarian cooking.

She says the book has become a bestseller in Canada "and we are on the verge of launching the book in the United States."

Continued on page 33

There's a Seder In Every Bottle.

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Israel ambassador David Sultan and his wife Adina enjoy a glass of Carmel Merlot private collection wine from Israel at their official residence in Ottawa.

Food fit for a Sultan

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

No one will dispute that being Israel's ambassador to Canada can be a challenging experience. David Sultan, who has held this post since 1996, when he moved here from a posting in Cairo, relaxes from his hectic schedule by cooking.

He and his wife Adina try to meld the cuisine of Israel with the foodstuffs of Canada.

Sultan told *The CJN* that he has liked to cook since his student days in Jerusalem.

"I lived in a flat with two other students (both of whom are now also ambassadors), and we were usually too poor to go out to eat," he said. "It was just more convenient to cook."

The household chores were divided up, he explained. One shopped, one cleaned, and he cooked.

He kept up his culinary skills over the years. In fact, he confided, when his two daughters didn't want to eat, "my wife told them that I had cooked, and then they would eat."

While Sultan said that he likes to cook all kinds of foods, his favorite is oriental, such as kubbeh, an elongated hamburger-like Middle Eastern favorite made with minced meat and semolina during the year and with rice during Pesach.

"I find cooking very relaxing when I am tired," he said. "Maybe other people don't, but for me it is."

Sultan has provided these recipes for Pesach. The stuffed vegetables are for Sephardim, who eat rice on Passover.

ISRAELI GARDEN SALAD

3 tomatoes, cubed
1 English cucumber, peeled and cubed
1 green pepper, seeded, top removed, cubed
3 green onions, chopped fine
3 tbsp. Passover olive oil
juice of ½ lemon
salt to taste

Combine all ingredients in a bowl. Serves 6.

ADINA SULTAN'S ALMOND CAKE

7 eggs
1½ cups sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 tsp. almond extract
14 oz. raw almonds, chopped
Passover icing sugar, to dust cake
Fresh strawberries, as garnish

In 2 bowls, separate egg whites from yolks. Beat whites, gradually adding sugar until stiff but not dry.

Beat yolks, add vanilla and almond extracts, beating until light in color.

Fold egg yolk mixture carefully into beaten egg whites. Once mixed thoroughly, add ground almonds gradually and carefully.

Grease a 10-in. round baking pan with margarine and pour cake mixture into pan. Bake in pre-heated oven at 300 for 40 min., until golden in color.

Remove cake from oven, cool and remove from baking pan. Dust with icing sugar. Garnish with

Continued on page 43

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Food Ideas for Passover

David and Rachelle Bronfman display their new book, *CalciYum.*

Bronfmans enjoy vegetarian food

Continued from page 31

There are a number of recipes which are acceptable for Passover. One of the special things about the book, Rachelle said, is that it contains recipes that make use of quinoa, the only grain that Ashkenazi Jews can eat on Passover.

The Kashruth Council notes that the quinoa must be made on dedicated production equipment; that is, the company must not produce anything else on the same lines.

QUINOA TABOULI

2 ½ cups cooked quinoa
¼ cup chopped mint
½ cup diced seedless cucumbers
2 cups finely chopped parsley
2 small tomatoes, diced
3 green onions, chopped

Dressing:
3 tbsp. lemon juice
1 tbsp. olive oil
½ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. black pepper

In a bowl, combine quinoa, mint, cucumbers, parsley, tomatoes and onions.

In a small bowl, whisk together the lemon juice, oil, salt and pepper. Pour over salad; toss.

Set aside for 5 to 10 minutes before serving to allow quinoa to absorb seasonings. Serve at room temperature, or refrigerate 1 hour and serve cold. Serves 4 to 6.

How to cook quinoa:

Measure 1¼ cups water for every cup quinoa. Place measured quinoa in a large bowl with plenty of fresh water. "Scrunch" the quinoa in your fingers by repeatedly "grabbing" and releasing it. Discard the discolored water through a fine strainer and repeat until the water comes clean.

Place measured water and quinoa into cooking pot. On stovetop, bring to a full boil, covered, then reduce heat to simmer. Continue simmering for 15 minutes.

Remove from heat, uncover, and allow to cool slightly before serving.

Correction

The photo credit for the picture of Elise Mecklinger on the front page of the March 18 Passover Food Supplement was inadvertently left off. The photographer was Michael Stavsky.

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Food Ideas for Passover

Soup is the perfect comfort food

There is something about soup that just makes you feel comforted. Foodland Ontario suggests these two recipes for soups filled with nourishing vegetables.

WINTER VEGETABLE SOUP

1 onion, chopped
2 carrots, peeled and diced
2 beets, peeled and diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
5 cups vegetable or chicken broth
3 medium parsnips, peeled and diced
3 cups chopped green cabbage
½ tsp. dried marjoram leaves
½ tsp. dried thyme leaves
salt and pepper
2 tbsp. chopped fresh parsley

In large saucepan, combine onion, carrots, beets, garlic and broth. Cover and bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer, covered, 10 minutes.

Add parsnips, cabbage, marjoram and thyme; cook until vegetables are tender, about 15 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Garnish with parsley. Makes 8 cups.

ONTARIO VEGETABLE BORSCHT

3 unpeeled beets
⅓ cup pareve Passover margarine
1½ cups coarsely chopped onions
1 can (28 oz.) whole tomatoes
4 cups beef stock
5 medium potatoes, peeled
1 tsp. caraway seeds
1 cup coarsely diced carrots
1 cup coarsely diced rutabaga
1 tsp. salt
3 cups finely sliced green cabbage
2 cups finely sliced red cabbage
2 tsp. dried dill weed
salt and pepper

Keeping roots and stems intact, rinse beets thoroughly under running water; set aside.

In Dutch oven or large saucepan, melt half of the margarine over medium heat; cook onions until softened and translucent. Add tomatoes, breaking up with fork. Add stock, beets, 4 of the potatoes and caraway seeds; bring to boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer until potatoes are tender, about 30 minutes. Remove potatoes to bowl; mash until smooth and set aside. Cook for 15 to 20 minutes longer or until beets are cooked through. Remove beets and place under cold running water; slip off skins. Grate into bowl and set aside.

Return mashed potatoes to pan, stirring until blended. Cut remaining potato into large dice; add to pan along with carrots, rutabaga, grated beets and 1 tsp. salt. Cover and simmer gently until diced vegetables are cooked through, 8 to 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, melt remaining margarine in large skillet. Add green cabbage and cook until color brightens; stir into soup and cook, uncovered, for 3 minutes. Add red cabbage and dill weed to sop; cook for 3 minutes or just until cabbage is tender crisp. Add more salt and pepper to taste if desired. Ladle into warmed soup bowl. Serves 12.

LCBO offers wide selection for Pesach

Customers can choose from the LCBO's largest-ever kosher product selection for Passover this year. The LCBO has doubled its kosher for Passover selection, offering consumers an assortment of more than 70 products at selected liquor stores and at its kosher outlet in Thornhill.

Available this Passover are red, white and rose table wines, as well as flavored, fortified, dessert and sparkling wines from Israel, France, Italy, Chile, California and New York State. There is also a wide selection of spirits including cognac, brandy, grappa, slivovitz, arrack, vodka and liqueurs. Prices for these products start at $6.50 for wines and $19.50 for spirits.

Recent additions to the LCBO's kosher selection include, from Chile: Alfasi Cabernet Sauvignon at $12.60; and from France, Abarbanel Merlot priced at $16.70 and Chardonnay at $17.70. The LCBO is also offering for the first time from Israel, Carmel Vermouth Italiano at $7.35 and Carmel Grapolla in a magnificent hand-blown glass bottle for $70.25.

"The variety and selection of high-quality kosher products offered this year by the LCBO reflect the changing tastes of a more sophisticated buying public," says Randi Landy, product manager responsible for purchasing kosher products for the LCBO. "We've seen new customers attracted to the LCBO's growing and diverse assortment of premium kosher products now available."

As a result, LCBO sales for kosher products have increased by more than 26 percent since the outlet specializing in kosher products opened last May.

Most kosher for Passover products are already on display at selected LCBO stores. In addition, gift baskets containing kosher products are available at selected LCBO stores, or can be made up on request.

In the Toronto area, the LCBO's complete kosher for Passover portfolio can be found at the Kosher outlet, 441 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill; the new Bayview Village store,

Continued on page 37

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Food Ideas for Passover

Vegetarian cooking can be highly creative

By NANCY WEISBROD
Special to The CJN

When I teach vegetarian cooking, I am inevitably asked by my students, "What do you eat during Passover?" The answer is simple: vegetables, vegetables and more vegetables!

Vegetables and fruits can easily assume the backbone of our Pesach meals. In fact, it can be a highly creative time in the kitchen (what little of it we may have), because the ingredients themselves provide the inspiration.

Imagine lightly steamed fresh asparagus spears drizzled with a little olive oil and a squeeze of lemon juice. Roast new potatoes, in their jackets, with a crumbling of rosemary, several unpeeled garlic cloves, a sprinkling of coarse salt and, again, a few teaspoons of olive oil in a 400 degree oven for around 45 minutes or until potatoes are lightly browned and softened.

Remember that, when you are changing your kitchen over from chometz, of all the items that need to be purchased for the enjoyment of your Passover meals, vegetables and fruits require no distinction. Armed with a bottle of olive oil, balsamic vinegar, coarse (or kosher) salt, and a bit of honey, you can enhance the ever-present splendid elegance and flavor of fresh, in season, produce.

I would like to offer some advice about kitchen equipment for your Pesach meals. Ensure that you have a steaming basket (I prefer metal as opposed to plastic) that opens to fit the bottom of any pot. A baking sheet or a large, low-sided casserole dish is indispensable for roasting a variety of vegetables that can live in your fridge for the eight days and become intentional leftovers. A good pot with a snug fitting lid is essential for soups. Having your cutting and chopping area defined by a small square of plastic or wood is visually limiting and inefficient. Make sure that you have a cutting board that is larger than a postage stamp. Finally, treat yourself to one or two comfortable knives, so that you don't find yourself facing a mound of vegetables to prepare, armed only with a 3-inch paring knife.

Try not to obsess over the absence of animal protein. The following recipes contain some eggs, and you can easily crumble in some feta cheese, grate a little parmesan or tuck in a few slices to make these dishes dairy through the week. The North American diet is referred to as SAD (standard American diet). This acronym is fitting because of our reliance on animal protein, dairy, sugars, and saturated fats. Capitalize on the theme of freedom that Passover offers and become liberated from certain dietary habits that may be destructive. You'll find yourself anticipating mealtime as opposed to grieving over the loss of chametz.

PICKLED TURNIPS

Make this pickle a week before the holiday. It is simple to prepare, requires only a glass jar in which to let the pickles ripen, and the beautiful pink tinge that the beets lend, is its own reward. Neither the turnip nor beet requires cooking.

2 lb. turnips (the smaller, the better)
1 beet, peeled, cut in half and thinly sliced
2 or 3 garlic cloves, peeled and thinly sliced
3½-4 cups water
3-4 tbsp. red or white Passover wine vinegar
1-2 tbsp. of sugar or honey
2½ tbsp. salt

Peel the turnips, cut them in half or quarter them, and put them in a jar layered with the beet and garlic slices. In a pan bring the water, vinegar, sugar or honey, and salt to a boil and stir to dissolve. Pour this pickling liquid over the turnips and let cool before closing the jar. Makes 1 quart.

ROASTED ARTICHOKES WITH GARLIC

This salad is good if made with large artichokes, but if you can find baby artichokes, it's less work to eat and each bite becomes a succulent morsel. I allow 2 halves of a large artichoke or 4-6 baby ones for each serving.

6-8 large or 16-20 baby artichokes
1 lemon or 2 tbsp. vinegar
2-3 tbsp. Passover olive oil
1 head of garlic, with a bit of the papery skin rubbed off but otherwise left intact
2 tsp. coarse salt

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and preheat the oven to 400 degrees.

To prepare the artichokes, have a large bowl filled with water and the juice of ½ the lemon or vinegar ready. To trim, pare the stalk down to its base and slice the tip end off by about 2 inches, or the thorny tips of the top 2 rows of leaves. With a scissor, cut the thorny tips off of the remaining leaves. Cut the artichoke in half, from base to tip and remove with a spoon the hairy choke and any inner leaves that appear to have a thorny tip. (In baby ones, you barely have to take out any choke.) If they are large, cut them in quarters or sixths and drop the pieces in the bowl or acidulated water. When all are trimmed, drain and scatter them on the baking sheet.

Place the garlic amongst them and drizzle with the oil and sprinkle with the salt. Cover with a sheet of parchment and tin foil and roast covered in the oven for 20 minutes. Remove the cover and finish roasting for a further 20 minutes or until the hearts are tender and the outer leaves are lightly browned and curled.

Serve warm or at room temperature, garnished with a bit of chopped parsley.

ROASTED PORTOBELLO MUSHROOMS

The texture and taste of this dish resembles meat. No matter how many I prepare, there are never any

Continued on page 37

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Food Ideas for Passover

Cooking with vegetables can be a creative process

Continued from page 35

that survive to the next meal. They can be served hot as part of the meal or at room temperature, as a salad.

6 portobello mushrooms
1-2 tbsp. Passover olive oil
1 tsp. coarse salt
1-2 tsp. Passover balsamic vinegar
Salt and pepper to taste
2 tbsp. chopped parsley (optional)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Wash the mushrooms well and trim off the earthy stem by about ½-inch. Slice the mushrooms thickly. Scatter over a parchment lined baking sheet. Drizzle with the oil and sprinkle with the coarse salt.

Roast in the oven for about 20-30 minutes. Sprinkle them with the vinegar, add pepper and a bit of salt, and if serving as a salad, garnish with the chopped parsley.

GREEN PASSOVER MINA

A mina (or maiena in Egypt) is a pie. For Passover, minas are made with matzahs softened with a little vegetable stock as the crust. The pie is delicious when the vegetable mixture is well prepared, plentiful and nicely seasoned. Add 1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese to the vegetable mixture to make this dairy.

4 tbsp. olive oil
2 medium onions, coarsely chopped
2 garlic cloves, peeled and minced
½ lb. mushrooms, washed, trimmed and sliced
1 lb. of spinach, washed and stemmed *or* 1 bunch of Swiss chard, washed, stems removed and chopped
1 bunch flat-leafed parsley, finely chopped
½ tsp. cinnamon
½ cup walnuts, toasted in a 375 oven for 12 minutes, if possible
1½ cups vegetable stock (or powdered equivalent)
5 eggs
8 matzah squares

To prepare the filling, fry the onions and garlic in 3 tablespoons of the oil. Add the mushrooms and saute over a medium high heat, until they are browned. Add the spinach (or if using Swiss chard, add stems, saute for 1-2 minutes, and then add the leaves) and cover the skillet with lid so that the greens will steam and soften, about 7 minutes.

Take the skillet off the heat, add the walnuts, parsley, and cinnamon, and season well with the salt and pepper. Add 3 of the beaten eggs and mix well.

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Oil a shallow 6-8 cup baking dish with the last tablespoon.

For the crust, briefly soak 4 of the matzahs in the stock until well moistened but not falling apart. Place them, in two layers in the baking dish, breaking pieces to fit. Spoon the filling over and top with the remaining 4 soaked matzahs.

Pour the remaining stock over the pie, then pour the last beaten egg over the top. Bake for 30 minutes or until the top is lightly browned. Serves 6.

Nancy Weisbrod teaches kosher vegetarian cooking in Toronto.

LCBO offers wide choice

Continued from page 34

2901 Bayview Ave.; and LCBO stores at 381 Wilson Ave., 221 Wilmington Ave. in Downsview; and 5995 Yonge St., south of Steeles. Based on availability, consumers can also order kosher products from any LCBO store across Ontario, at no extra cost.

For more information on LCBO products and services, including the kosher for Passover offerings, call the toll-free LCBO Infoline at 1-800-ONT-LCBO (668-5226); in Metro Toronto call (416) 365-5900.

Kosher for Passover products are now available at the following LCBO stores:

Other Toronto Locations — Crossroads Shopping Centre, 2625D Weston Rd. (at Hwy 401) 55 Bloor St. W. (Manulife Centre); 908 St. Clair Ave. West; 1121 Yonge St. (Summerhill Subway); 198 Dupont St.; 2512 Bayview Ave.; 2 Cooper St. at Queens Quay Blvd.; First Canadian Place, Lower Concourse Level; 87 Avenue. Rd., (Hazelton Lanes); 4763 Yonge St. (at Sheppard); 1717 Avenue Rd

Richmond Hill — 9737 Yonge St., Richmond Centre Plaza.

Thornhill — 8129 Yonge St.; Bayview Mews; 441 Clark Ave. W.

Dundas — 119 Osler Dr., University Plaza.

Hamilton — 233 Dundurn St. S.

London — 71 York St.; 109 Fanshawe Park Rd. E.

Kingston — 34 Barrack St.

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	Wed. March 31	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
	Mon. April 5	9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
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Food Ideas for Passover

Surviving Pesach in a matzah-free zone

BY EILEEN GOLTZ
Special to The CJN

For religious reasons, there are those who follow the custom of not combining matzah or matzah meal with any form of liquid for all of Passover. (This includes everything from not baking with matzah meal to not crumbling matzah into your soup, hence the Yiddish term *gebruks* or breaking).

I decided that this year, I was declaring my kitchen an almost matzah- free zone (with the exception of using enough matzah to say Hamotzi and a few other treats my family can't do without). I know that I'm going to have to do more than just serve meat, potatoes, and macaroons and fruit compote during chol hamo'ed if I want to avoid an all out culinary revolt from my family.

CONFETTI POTATOES
(A great pareve side dish)

12 to 14 small unpeeled red potatoes, boiled and sliced in quarters
12 radishes, sliced
2 bunches green onions, sliced
12 baby carrots, sliced
2 stalks celery, sliced
2 tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped coarsely
2 jalapeno peppers, minced (optional)
2 tbsp. Passover mayonnaise
2 tbsp. Passover Italian salad dressing
sugar or sweetener to taste
pepper and salt to taste

After the potatoes are cooked, and while they are still warm, slice them and place them in a large bowl. Toss the potato slices in the Italian dressing and let stand. In another bowl, mix together the radishes, green onions, carrots, celery, parsley, and peppers. Add the potatoes and the dressing to the bowl with the vegetables and toss gently. After all the vegetables are mixed add the mayonnaise, sugar and salt and pepper and toss to mix well. Serve warm or cold. Serves 4-6.

TUNA POTATO CHOWDER

2 ½ cup potatoes, diced
2 cups pareve chicken broth
½ cup onions, chopped
¼ tsp. sage
¼ tsp. paprika
¼ tsp. pepper
½ cup carrots, sliced
½ cup celery, sliced
½ cup green pepper, chopped
3 cups skim milk (you can use whole milk)
6 oz. tuna in water, drained and flaked

In a large saucepan, combine 1 cup potatoes, pareve chicken broth and onions. Bring the mixture to a boil. Reduce heat and cover. Simmer for 10 minutes or until the potatoes are tender. Add sage, paprika, and pepper. When the potatoes are soft, mash them very well. Add the remaining potatoes, carrots, green pepper, celery, and milk to mashed potatoes and broth. Bring just to a boil. Then reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Add tuna. Simmer 5 minutes more and serve. Serves 6 to 8.

(You can use a regular chicken broth instead of pareve and a non-dairy creamer instead of the milk if you prefer.)

PASSOVER SALMON QUICHE

15 oz. canned salmon, pink or red
3 eggs
1 cup sour cream
¼ cup Passover mayonnaise
1½ oz. shredded cheddar cheese
1 tbsp. grated onions
¼ tsp. dill
¼ cup almond slivers
¼ cup shredded cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 325. Prepare a quiche or pie pan with oil or baking spray. Drain the salmon and save the liquid in a measuring cup. Add water to the liquid to make ½ cup. Flake the salmon and remove skin and bones. Mix together the eggs, sour cream, mayonnaise, and salmon liquid. Stir in salmon, ½ cup cheese, onion, and dill. Transfer to baking pan. Sprinkle with ¼ cup cheese and almonds. Bake for 45 minutes, or until quiche is firm in centre. Serves: 6-8

POTATO-TOMATO CHEESE BAKE

2 lbs. russet, or new potatoes
6 tbsp.unsalted butter
½ tsp. salt or more to taste (potatoes absorb salt)
1½ lb. ripe plum tomatoes
ground black pepper to taste
1½ tsp. basil, crushed
⅔ lb. mozzarella cheese, sliced
4 eggs, hard cooked
⅔ cup chopped fresh parsley
½ cup fresh-grated Parmesan cheese
3 scallions, chopped

Take a 9 x 13 casserole and grease it with the 2 tbsp. of butter or non-stick spray. Boil (or microwave) the potatoes until they are just barely tender, drain them, peel them and cut them crosswise in fairly thick slices.

Melt the butter and pour 2 tbsp. in the bottom of a 9 x 13 pan. Arrange the potato slices in the casserole in one layer and salt them. Slice the tomatoes and arrange the tomato slices on top of the potatoes. Sprinkle the tomatoes with salt and pepper and the basil. Slice or shred the mozzarella, and arrange the cheese on top of the tomatoes. Peel and coarsely chop the eggs.

Combine them in a bowl with the remaining 4 tbsp. of melted butter, the chopped parsley, the chopped scallions, ½ tsp. salt and some pepper. Toss the mixture together until it is thoroughly mixed. Spread the egg mixture evenly over the cheese. Sprinkle the casserole with the Parmesan cheese and bake it in a preheated oven at 350 for 25-30 minutes (or until the mixture is bubbling and the cheese is lightly browned on top). Let set for 3-4 minutes and serve. Serves 6-8.

POTATO & EGGPLANT LASAGNA

4-5 large potatoes
2-3 cups tomato sauce
2 large eggplants
2 packages frozen spinach, defrosted
2 large onions
2 tsp. garlic, minced

Slice the eggplants thinly and lay them on a cookie sheet. Sprinkle the tops of the slices generously with salt and let sit a minimum of 45 minutes. Drain liquid (the liquid is very bitter and this will give you a sweeter end result). Rinse eggplants to get rid of salt. Slice the potatoes thinly into cold water (so they don't

Continued on page 42

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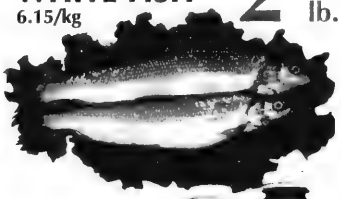

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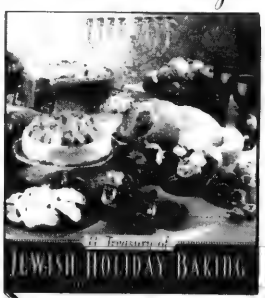
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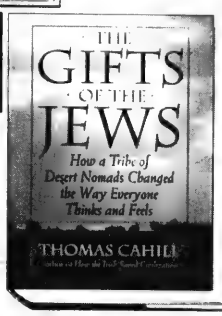
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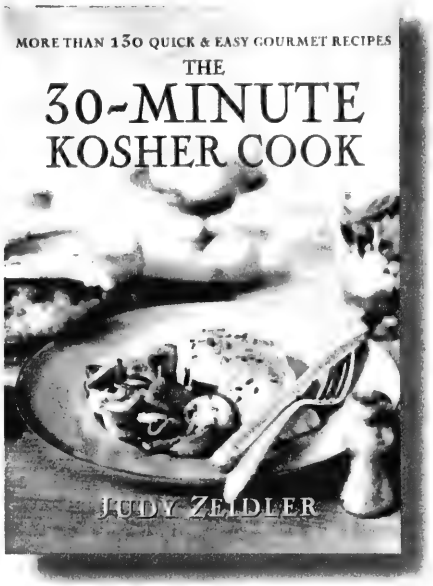
Kosher cookbook 'a lifesaver' for those with busy lifestyles

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter



You know what it's like. You spend all day either at a job, or running after the kids; you get the laundry at least half done, dash out for the tomato sauce you forgot to buy and the milk that you have to replace because the baby spilled it. You do your three car pools for the day, open the door – and you are greeted with "Well, what's for dinner?"

In her introduction to her latest cookbook *The 30-Minute Kosher Cook* (Morrow, 1999), author, chef and food columnist Judy Zeidler, says that her intention was to produce a cookbook that would be "a lifesaver for anyone who wants to make a delicious meal prepared from fresh ingredients in 30 minutes or less."

She might have added healthy to her goals, as the emphasis is on steaming, broiling and grilling.

Zeidler devotes a whole chapter to tips on organizing your kitchen, freezer and pantry so that you will be prepared for whatever contingencies pop up. These include labor-saving tools and a well stocked larder.

Especially helpful is a list of time-saving techniques, such as always cooking an extra portion of fresh vegetables, to be saved for tomorrow's salad, lining pans with foil, collecting and reading your recipes before starting to cook, and (an unnecessary suggestion for most mothers), learning to do several tasks at once.

All the recipes are kosher, and there is a special chapter at the end with recipes for Shabbat and holidays.

CAULIFLOWER SOUP

2 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
1 medium leek or yellow onion, peeled, quartered, and thinly sliced
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 celery stock, thinly sliced
2 carrots, peeled and thinly sliced
1 parsnip, peeled and thinly sliced
1 large cauliflower (1½ lb.), chopped (reserve a handful of florets)
5 cups boiling water
salt and black pepper to taste
fresh dill sprigs, for garnish

In a large saucepan over medium heat, heat the olive oil and saute the leek, garlic, celery, carrots and parsnip for 5 minutes, stirring constantly with a spoon to avoid browning. Add cauliflower and saute 5 minutes more. Add the boiling water, return to a boil. Cover and lightly simmer 15 minutes, or until the cauliflower is tender. Meanwhile, parboil the reserved florets in boiling water for 5 minutes, keeping them crunchy. Let them cool. Serve as is, or puree in small batches.

To serve, ladle into shallow heated soup bowls and garnish with the reserved whole florets and sprigs of dill. Serves 8.

CANDIED SWEET POTATOES

6 medium sweet potatoes (about 3 lb.)
1 cup apple juice
½ cup brown sugar (if not available for Passover, replace with an additional ½ cup honey)
½ cup honey

Preheat oven to 375. Peel the sweet potatoes and slice them into 1-inch rounds. Place the rounds in a single layer in an ovenproof glass baking dish. Pour in the apple juice; sprinkle evenly with brown sugar, and spoon the honey over the sweet potatoes. Cover with foil and bake for 20-30 minutes, turning after 15 minutes, until the potatoes are soft and glazed. Makes 8 servings.

Continued on page 42

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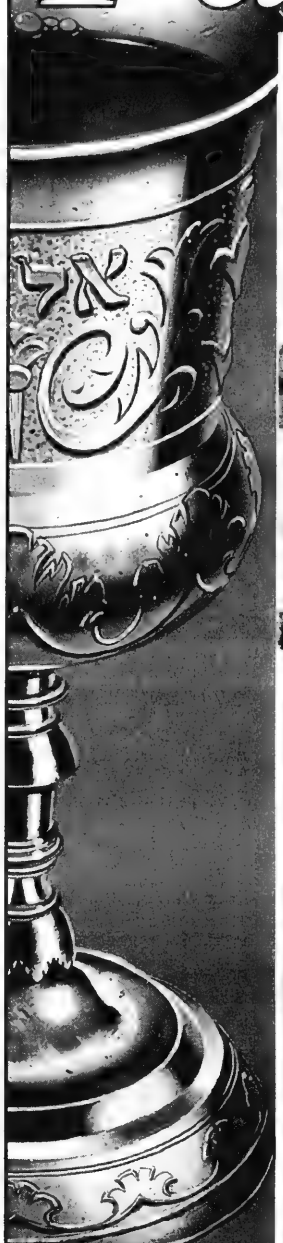

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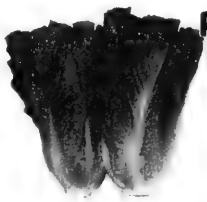

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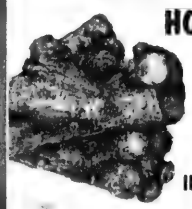

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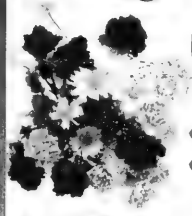

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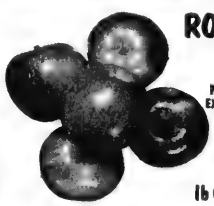

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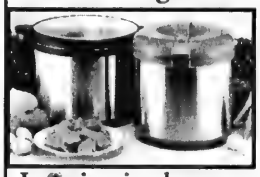

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Pesach without matzah

Continued from page 38

turn brown). When all the potatoes are sliced, dry them and place them on an oiled baking sheet; brush a light coat of oil over the top of the potato and bake at 400 until the potato slices are lightly crisped. Then, turn them over and cook other side (for low fat, use a cooking spray). Slice the onions and saute them with the garlic in a small amount of oil (or water) until soft. Add spinach and mix well.

Spread a small amount of tomato sauce in the bottom of a lasagna pan (12x9), place a layer of potatoes on top of the sauce then a layer of eggplant, a layer of spinach & onion, and then tomato sauce. Repeat. End with a layer of potato. Brush the top lightly with oil and cook at 350 about 1 hour or until eggplant is soft. Remove from oven and let set 5 minutes before serving. Serves 6 to 8.

PASSOVER CAULIFLOWER KUGEL WITH MUSHROOMS

1 large cauliflower
salt and pepper
3 to 4 tbsp. oil
1 medium onion, chopped
1½ cups mushrooms, quartered
2 large eggs
2 tbsp. crushed potato chips
½ tsp. paprika
⅓ cup coarsely chopped walnuts (optional)

Preheat oven to 375. Divide the cauliflower into medium florets. Cut peel from large stalk and slice stalk. Boil the cauliflower in large saucepan of boiling salted water 8-10 minutes or until stalks are very tender. Drain well and cool. Puree in food processor, leaving a few chunks then transfer everything to a large bowl and set aside.

Heat 2 to 3 tbsp. of oil in medium-sized skillet and add the onion. Saute for 5 minutes. Add mushrooms and saute together over medium heat about 5 minutes or until mushrooms and onions are light brown. Remove from heat.

Add the eggs and potato chips to the cauliflower mixture and mix well. Season the cauliflower mixture with the salt and pepper. Gently stir in the mushroom mixture and any oil in the pan. Oil a shallow 9-in. square baking dish. Spoon in the cauliflower mixture. Sprinkle 1 tbsp. of oil over top. Sprinkle the top with paprika, then with the walnuts. Bake 30 minutes or until set. To serve, cut carefully in squares and run knife around edges. Use spoon to remove portions. Serves 4.

SPAGHETTI SQUASH "NOODLE" KUGEL

oil for pan
1 large spaghetti squash (about 4 lbs.)
¼ cup raisins
¼ cup orange juice
2 tsp. grated orange rind
4 eggs
½ to ⅔ cup sugar (to taste)
½ tsp.salt
2 cups milk
1½ lb. cottage cheese

Preheat oven to 375 and grease a 9 x 13 pan. Boil the spaghetti squash for about 45 minutes, until a fork will pierce the flesh easily. Set aside to cool while preparing the cheese mixture.

In a small bowl, combine the raisins, orange juice and orange rind; set aside. In a large mixing bowl, beat the eggs well. Add the sugar, salt and milk. Stir in the cottage cheese and the plumped up raisins with the orange juice and rind. Beat until blended. Set aside.

Cut the squash in half. Discard the seeds and centre fibres. Gently pull out the strands of squash from half of the squash and arrange the strands to cover the bottom of the baking pan. Pour the cheese mixture over the squash. Arrange the squash strands from the remaining half on top of the cheese batter.

Bake for about 1 hour, until puffed and brown. Serve warm. A dollop of sour cream makes a nice accompaniment. Serves 6-8.

FRUIT SMOOTHIE

½ cup orange juice
1 banana
6-7 frozen strawberries
4-5 slices frozen peaches
5-6 frozen blueberries
6-7 ice cubes
fresh mint (optional)
dash of nutmeg (optional)

Place all the ingredients except ice cubes in a blender. Puree until smooth. Add ice, and puree again. Pour into a glass and sprinkle nutmeg on top and garnish the some fresh mint. Serves 2 or 3.

Vegetable stuffing

Continued from page 40

PASSOVER VEGETABLE STUFFING

¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
3 medium onions, peeled and finely chopped
3 garlic cloves, minced
4 stalks celery, finely diced
6 medium carrots, peeled and grated
1 parsnip, peeled and grated
2 medium zucchini, unpeeled and grated
½ cup raisins, plumped in 1 cup Passover Concord grape wine
½ cup minced fresh parsley
2-3 tbsp. matzah meal
2-3 tbsp. cake meal
2-3 tbsp. potato starch or Passover cereal
¼ cup dry red wine
salt and pepper to taste

In a large, heavy skillet, heat the oil and saute the onions and garlic until soft, about 3 minutes. Add celery, carrots, parsnip and zucchini, and toss well. Cook for 5 min. until the vegetables begin to soften. Drain the raisins and add them to the vegetables with the parsley. Stir in 1 tbsp. each of the matzah meal, cake meal and potato starch. Add the wine and mix well. Stir in the remaining dry ingredients, a little at a time, until the stuffing is moist and soft but firm in texture. Season with salt and pepper. Cool. Makes about 12 cups.

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Food Ideas for Passover

Breakfasts can become a real challenge

BY EILEEN GOLTZ
Special to The CJN

During Pesach, some chefs agonize over what to serve for seder. Others, less concerned with main meals, worry about how to make lunches and desserts interesting. I never stress out over that kind of stuff. It's a week's worth of breakfasts without bagels that gives me fits.

How will I prepare delicious, nutritious and fun breakfasts that don't take five hours and a dozen eggs? Simple, I'll use the following recipes I've been collecting since last year, and make sure that there is also plenty of yogurt and fresh fruit to round out the most important meal of the day.

PASSOVER BREAKFAST BANANA PANCAKES

3 large eggs
⅓ cup matzah meal
2 tbsp. matzah cake meal
¼ cup regular or low fat sour cream
¼ cup regular or low fat cottage cheese
dash of salt
2 very ripe banana chopped
1-2 tsp. vegetable oil (not olive oil)

In a medium bowl, whisk eggs. Whisk in matzah meal, cake meal, sour cream, cottage cheese and salt. Stir in banana. Batter will be very thick. Pour oil onto griddle or large skillet. Heat over moderate heat until hot. Make 3-inch pancakes using about ¼ cup batter for each. Cook until a few bubbles appear on top, and underside is golden, about 3 minutes. Turn and brown on the other side, about 2 minutes. Serve with butter, syrup, jam or anything you like on your pancakes. Yield: 10 pancakes.

PASSOVER CUPCAKE BLINTZES

1 lb. creamed cottage cheese
2 oz. melted butter
¼ cup sugar
½ cup cake meal
4 beaten eggs (can use egg substitute)

Mix together all the ingredients except eggs. Then add the eggs. Grease muffin tins or use paper muffin cups. Fill tins ¾ full; bake 350 for 40-45 minutes if using large muffin tins. Smaller muffin tins will require less time. Serve with sour cream or jelly or fresh sliced strawberries.

APPLE PANCAKES

2 medium apples, peeled and diced
1 large egg
3 tbsp. sugar
½ cup cake meal
¼ cup water
¼ cup oil
pinch salt

In a bowl, beat the eggs, sugar and water together. Add the peeled and diced apples. Add the cake meal and salt; mix well. Heat small amount of oil in pan. Drop mixture into frying pan by tablespoonfuls. Fry until browned on both sides. Makes 4 pancakes. This can be doubled or tripled.

PASSOVER WAFFLES

2 eggs separated
3 tbsp. oil
½ cup buttermilk
¼ cup sugar
⅓ cup cake meal
⅛ cup potato starch

Beat egg whites with an electric beater until soft peaks form. Gradually add sugar and continue beating until stiff peaks, but not dry. Using the same beaters but another bowl beat the egg yolks with the oil until light, about 5 minutes. Add milk, continue beating. Gradually add the dry ingredients. Batter will be thick. Fold in egg whites in two batches. This will make 4 waffles. Pour batter into prepared waffle iron. This batter can also be used for griddle pancakes.

APPLE-BOYSENBERRY BRUNCH CAKE

This is cut and served as you would a cake, but the texture is that of a pudding. Begin the cake a day ahead.

2 cups water
2 cups frozen unsweetened boysenberries or blackberries (about 8 oz.)
1 cup sugar
¼ cup Passover brandy
1 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
4½ lb. golden delicious apples (about 9 medium-large), peeled, cored, each cut into 12 wedges

1 13-ounce Passover sponge cake
2 cups sliced almonds, toasted
12 soft almond macaroons, finely crumbled (about 1 ½ cups)
6 tbsp. (¾ stick) unsalted margarine, melted, cooled
½ cup apricot preserves
2 tbsp. Passover brandy or sweet wine
1 ½ cups chilled whipping cream
3 tbsp. sugar
Additional toasted sliced almonds

Combine first 5 ingredients in heavy large saucepan. Stir over medium heat until sugar dissolves and syrup comes to simmer. Using slotted spoon, transfer berries to small bowl. Add half of apple slices to simmering syrup and cook until tender and just translucent, stirring occasionally, about 12 minutes. Using slotted spoon, transfer apples to sieve set over large bowl. Press apples to extract excess syrup. Reserve syrup. Transfer apples to another bowl. Repeat cooking and draining with remaining apples.

Return berries and drained syrup to same saucepan. Boil syrup until thickened and reduced to 1 ⅔ cups, about 5 minutes. Transfer boysenberry sauce to small bowl. Cover and refrigerate.

Position rack in centre of oven and preheat to 350. Coat 9-inch-diameter springform pan with 2¾-inch-high sides with margarine. Crumble cake onto large baking sheet. Bake until crumbs are dry and just beginning to color, about 15 minutes. Cool. Maintain oven temperature. Finely grind crumbled cake in processor.

Sprinkle ⅓ of cake crumbs in bottom of prepared pan. Sprinkle ⅔ cup almonds over. Sprinkle ⅓ of macaroons over. Top with half of apple slices. Mix apricot preserves and brandy in small bowl. Spread half of apricot mixture over apples. Repeat layering with half of remaining crumbs, almonds, macaroons and margarine. Press top firmly to compact cake.

Place cake on baking sheet. Bake until top is golden and cake just begins to shrink from sides of pan, covering loosely with foil for last 15 minutes if browning too quickly, about 45 minutes. Transfer cake to rack. Press top firmly to compact cake. Cool cake in pan on rack. Cover and chill overnight. (Can be prepared two days ahead.)

Run small sharp knife around sides of pan to loosen cake. Release pan sides. Whip cream and 3 tbsp. sugar to firm peaks. Spread cream over top and sides of cake. Press additional almond slices onto sides of cake. Refrigerate at least 1 hour and up to 4 hours.

Cut cake into wedges. Spoon reserved boysenberry sauce over. Serves 10-12.

Stuffed vegetables

Continued from page 32

strawberries.

STUFFED VEGETABLES
(For our Sephardi readers)

6 small zucchini
6 small tomatoes
6 small green peppers
1 lb. ground beef
6 oz. pearl rice
salt and pepper to taste
1 cup fresh dill, chopped

Sauce
4 cups chicken broth
5 garlic cloves, crushed
½ cup fresh mint, chopped
1 medium sized lemon, juice only

For zucchini, remove top at stem, and gently cut out centre, lengthwise, leaving about ¼ in. of flesh around the outside.

For tomatoes, remove top and scoop out pulp.

For green peppers, cut off top and remove all seeds.

Prepare stuffing by mixing ground beef with rice, salt, pepper and dill. Stuff vegetable shells with the meat mixture. Arrange stuffed vegetables in 2 layers (peppers and zucchini on bottom, tomatoes on top layer) in a large covered pot.

Pour broth on top of stuffed vegetables. Add garlic, chopped mint, lemon juice. Bring to boil on stovetop, cover and simmer about 40 minutes. Serves 6.

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at the age of 90

in Eilat, Israel on Feb. 28, 1999.

Burial took place in Netanya on March 1, 1999.

Survived by his wife, Irene (Toronto), daughter Dr. Rachel Karniol, son-in-law Dr. Yoram Tambour, grandchildren Karen and Orren Karniol-Tambour (all of Netanya) and brother John Karol (Toronto).

The family can be reached in Israel at 011-972-9-865-3053.

Donations in his memory to: Joseftal Hospital - Intensive Care Unit, P.O.B. 600, Eilat 88000 ISRAEL.

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New immigrants from different countries gather around a seder table to learn about and to celebrate the Jewish festival of freedom. [UJA Press Service Photo by Vladimir Godnik]

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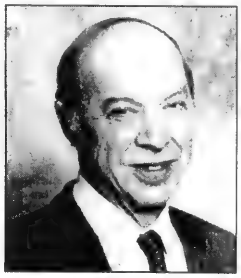

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Favorite Passover things

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Cleaning and cooking and so many dishes
Out with the chametz, no pasta, no knishes
Fish that's gefilted, horseradish that stings
These are a few of our Passover things.

Today, a few of my favorite Passover online things.

For an excellent overview of the holiday, start off at the massive Virtual Jerusalem site **[http://www.vjholidays.com/pessach/index.htm]**. There's the VJ Haggada, insights into freedom, and a large area for kids.

The Orthodox Union site **[http://www.ou.org/chagim/pesach/]** has an overview of holiday traditions, a selection of audio essays and a copy of OU's 1999 Kosher for Passover Directory.

For something unconventional and thought-provoking, I highly recommend HappyPassover.com **[http://happypassover.com]**. You will find articles such as Women's Passover Celebrations and Families, Divorce and Passover.

As the poem says, "no pasta, no knishes." Not only do people clean their homes for Passover, but they also sell their chametz to a non-Jew so that they don't own any leavened products during the holiday **[http://www.chabad.org/pesach/chomez.html]**. If your local synagogue doesn't provide this service, then visit Montreal's Beth Israel Beth Aaron **[http://www.shul.org/chometz.htm]**. You can fill out their online chametz contract and e-mail it directly to Rabbi Reuben Poupko who will act as your agent in this sale.

Matzah and karpas and chopped-up charoset
Shankbones and Kiddush and Yiddish neuroses
Tante who kvetches and uncle who sings
These are a few of our Passover things.

If you want to prepare gefilte fish and karpas and charoset like bubbie used to make, there's plenty of help online. And if you want to try something a bit daring, there's advice for that too. The Jewish-Food Recipe Archives has a massive Passover section with hundreds of suggestions **[http://www.eskimo.com/~jefffree/recipes/homepage.htm]**. How about Creole Pot Roast Piquant with Russian Potato and Mushroom Croquettes topped off by Very Fudgy Brownies?

When you've had your fill of chicken and turkey and brisket, you may want to go meatless. Vegetarian Fatfree Passover Recipes **[http://web.mit.edu/yaron/www/passover.html]** will help you out with Seven-vegetable Stew and Strawberry-rhubarb compote. And at Beit Chatulim **[http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/1259/pschrcpt.htm]** you'll find recipes for Baked Eggs in Zucchini with Hollandaise Sauce, Banana Nut Matzah Kugel and something called Not-Chicken Soup.

Motzi and maror and trouble with Pharaohs
Famines and locusts and slaves with wheelbarrows
Matzah balls floating and eggshell that clings
These are a few of our Passover things.

With Passover just days away, you might think it's too late to send greeting cards to friends and family around the world. Actually, you have more than enough time – if you send your card via the Jewish Highway. Electronic Postcards **[http://www.electronicpostcards.net/jewish.htm]** has links to several sites that let you send your own personal message along with a Pesach graphic to any e-mail address, free of charge. I particularly like the postcards from Greetz.com **[http://www.greetz.com/jewish/]** which even let you to attach tunes like Ma Nishtana and Dayenu to your postcard.

There are many more Passover Internet sites. Check out Maven's links **[http://www.maven.co.il/subjects/idx125.htm]**, the Mining Company **[http://judaism.miningco.com/msub48.htm?pid=2818&cob=home]** and Hareshima **[http://www.hareshima.com/holidays/pesach.asp]**.

When the plagues strike
When the lice bite
When we're feeling sad
We simply remember our Passover things
And then we don't feel so bad.

[http://mail.med.upenn.edu/~salem/passoversongs.html]

Have a kosher and happy Pesach.

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at [mdm@inforamp.net].

Rabbinic Reflections

Parents' responsibility

By RABBI MOSHE STERN

A middle-age man was standing outside the rabbi's office. His eyes were misty, and it appeared he would burst out crying any minute. He was not necessarily looking for advice. He merely wanted to unburden his heart. He approached the rabbi and told him the following tale:

His only child, a son, had married a non-Jewish girl. He seemed puzzled as to how this had occurred, for he had provided his son with a Hebrew school education, and even had a nice bar mitzvah celebration. When he learned that his son was about to marry, the father angrily ordered him out of the house. He had second thoughts, though, and relented, attending his son's wedding, which was performed by a justice of the peace.

The son never forgave his father, however, and deliberately avoided him afterwards. The boy's mother had a heart attack and the boy refused to visit her. When the man called his son to speak to him, his daughter-in-law answered the phone and hung up on him.

The pathetic man stood before the rabbi, wondering, "How did this happen? Didn't I always provide for my son?"

The words came bubbling out, as the man continued his account with a recital of how well he had taken care of his sick wife. "True," he said, "once in a while I cheated on my wife, but that's because she's been sick."

The father had obviously set a poor example for his son to follow, so what could he have expected? He readily admitted not observing any Jewish customs in the home, so when his son asked him, "What's the difference between her home and ours?" he could not answer.

Here is one thought that readily escapes parents: the responsibility of personal example. They feel that their obligation has been fulfilled when their children have been sent to school, even a religious school, but fail to realize that much of the effort of the teachers and rabbis is wasted when the parent sets a poor example at home.

Many of us realize how futile it is to preach to the children regarding the importance of putting on tfillin, for example, when their fathers and even grandfathers ignore this great mitzvah.

How can we tell the children that the much glorified Ten Commandments contain a certain clause which reads, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," when they notice the active business their parents indulge in on the Sabbath? It is useless work on the part of the teacher, and it means that a generation has been lost because of the poor example of the parents. Of course, they will become parents one day themselves and set a similar example for their children, and so on.

This means, in effect, that generations of Jews will be lost to the Torah unless a break occurs somewhere in the family.

Many of us parents must realize the tremendous responsibility we have for the future life of the child. "Do as I say, not as I do," is a commonly heard expression of parents to children. This is ridiculous, and parents should realize it, especially these parents who have become so liberal that they sanction interfaith dating with the hope that their child will not fall into an emotional trap and marry.

I will conclude with this saying, "Be careful how you live; you may be the only Bible some people will ever read. Be careful how you teach; you may be the only lesson some people will ever learn."

Rabbi Stern is the spiritual leader of Shaarei Tefillah Congregation in Toronto.

Female rabbis

Books
Bernard Baskin

***Women Who Would Be Rabbis*, by Pamela S. Nadell (Oxford, $48).**

For a long time women, have wanted to become rabbis. The first to achieve this distinction was Regina Jonas. She graduated from a Berlin Reform rabbinical seminary and was ordained in 1935 in a private ceremony. Although never formally installed as a congregational rabbi, she served as an esteemed religious teacher and carried out duties of "rabbinical spiritual" care in the community. Tragically, she perished in the Holocaust.

In the '20s and '30s, five determined women – learned and capable, and later leaders in the community – attended liberal seminaries but were refused ordination. Those who dared to presume they could overcome the barriers of gender confronted insurmountable obstacles. The men who held the keys to the rabbinate were adamant: Although there were no basic theological objections, the time for women rabbis had not yet arrived.

In 1972, Sally Priesand was ordained as the first woman rabbi from a recognized seminary. Her accomplishment, after many years of scholarly discussion and debate, symbolized the fulfilment of women's emancipation within Reform Judaism.

The Conservative movement was slower in accepting this revolutionary innovation. For several decades, a spirited, sometimes acrimonious, controversy ensued. But the ultimate decision seemed inexorable, despite the pressure of diehard antagonists. In 1985, Amy Eilberg was ordained and admitted into the fellowship of the Rabbinical Assembly.

It has been argued that women rabbis would discourage men from involvement in Jewish religious life. But a well-known Conservative rabbi has written, "History testifies that men did not leave medicine or law or politics when women entered these professions. Men did not lose interest in politics when women received their suffrage in 1920. The bat mitzvah did not eliminate the significance of the bar mitzvah. The admission of women to the boards of directors of congregations with voice and vote did not render those councils effete."

Indeed, many have emphasized the importance of wives and mothers in bringing husbands and children into the orbit and activities of the synagogue. Undoubtedly, the growing number of women rabbis adds a new dimension of interest, vitality and emphasis to congregational and communal life.

Pamela Nadell, director of the Jewish Studies program at American University in Washington, D.C., conveys much well-researched information in an articulate and precise manner.

***

***Voices of the Matriarchs*, by Chava Weissler (Oxford, $45.95).**

Tchines are Yiddish prayers of devotion or supplication. During the late Middle Ages and into relatively modern times they were recited by women in Russia, Poland, Germany and other Ashkenazi centres.

Often, they were published in small booklets for synagogue use, but actually they were much wider in their spiritual scope. They included prayers for honoring the dead, baking challah and performing other household duties, for infertility, pregnancy, children's safety, entering a mikvah.

Although many of these utterances were simple and naive, others were quite sophisticated and exhibited familiarity with biblical texts, Halachah, midrash, and various sorts of kabbalistic literature.

As they recited tchines, "generations of unknown Jewish women sanctified their daily acts and roles, and at the same time transcended them. In this way, Ashkenazi Jewish women, hampered perhaps by the constraints of their social roles and lack of education, managed nonetheless to create a rich array of visions of the religious life."

Through her study of this little known genre of literature, the author, a professor of religious studies at Lehigh University, opens a hitherto closed window into women's lives, beliefs, devotion and relationship to God.

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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HOLIDAY DEADLINES

Please note these What's New and About People deadline changes due to Passover holiday:

Thursday, March 25, is deadline for April 9 issue.

Monday, March 29, is deadline for April 15.

Monday, April 12, is deadline for April 22 issue (back to regular schedule).

I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Saturday, March 27

SHABBAT HAGADOL

Rabbi Moshe Stern delivers the Shabbat Hagadol Drasha. What Lessons Can We Learn from Tragedy – How Judaism Deals With Suffering. 5:15 p.m., Shaarei Tefillah Synagogue. Men and women cordially invited.

THORNHILL SYNAGOGUE

Thornhill Conservative Synagogue Shabbat morning services, 9:30 a.m., at Gallanough Library, Brook Street and Arnold Avenue. For information about this or other upcoming events, 905-764-8128 or 905-771-1815.

THE MINSKER CAFÉ

Hosted by Toronto folk musician **Noah Zacharin**, 9:30 p.m., The Minsker, 10 St. Andrew St., Kensington Market. Last chance for chametz. Torah, pizza, beer, coffee. $7 adults, $5 students. 595-5723.

MARDI GRAS BALL

A night of music, dancing, strolling entertainment, kosher Chinese buffet, casino, silent auction, live performance by Street Beat, special guests, sponsored by Reena Foundation. 8 p.m., Ontario Science Centre. $50 in advance, $65 at door. 905-889-6484, ext. 3034.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Singles scene, all welcome, 8 p.m. at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. $10 at door. **Rhonda** 905-731-9441.

Sunday, March 28

WINGATE BRANCH

General Wingate Branch 256, Royal Canadian Legion, general meeting, nosh at 9:15 a.m., meeting at 9:45 a.m., 788 Marlee Ave.

THE COMING ELECTIONS

Toronto lodges and institutions of United Jewish People's Order educational brunch, 11 a.m., Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Guest speaker **Garry Shaul**, Ontario Public Service Employees Union. Guests $3. RSVP 789-5502.

PASSOVER FOOD DRIVE

Drivers needed to deliver boxes at 9 a.m. Come to National Council of Jewish Women, 4700 Bathurst St. 633-5100.

PESACH CAR WASH

At Sephardic Kehila Centre, 7026 Bathurst St., 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., interior and exterior. $10 regular size car, $15 minivan. Book appointment. 905-669-7654, ext. 223.

GRAND SOCIETY

A support group for grandparents/seniors seeking access to their grandchildren meeting 1-4 p.m., North Toronto Memorial Community Centre, 200 Eglinton Ave. W. Question and answer period with mediator from Family Court. Non-members $5.

Monday, March 29

ASK THE RABBI

Danforth Jewish Circle program, 101 Questions to Ask a Rabbi, with **Rabbi Danny Gottlieb**, 7:30 p.m., Eastminster United Church Auditorium, 310 Danforth Ave. **Anna-Rae** 465-8949.

And What Else Is New

PESACH FREILACH

An evening of light entertainment, songs, humor, music, featuring the comedy guys **Norm Winkler** and **Sam Rosen**, Saturday, April 3, chol hamo'ed Pesach, 8:45 p.m., Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. $10. 633-3838.

Continued on page 47

Price Chopper
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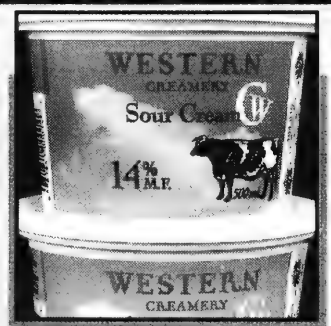

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What's New

Continued from page 46

SECULAR THIRD SEDER

Morris Winchevsky School community third seder – a secular celebration of Passover, Sunday, April 11, 6 p.m., Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave. Traditional Passover dinner, Passover songs by **Dave Wall** (of the Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band). Members $32/adults, $22/ children, non-members $35/adults, $25/children. Reserve by March 31. 789-5502.

THEATRE OUTINGS

Kinnereth Club of Na'amat theatre outings. To order tickets, **Rita Tobias** 783-1656.

Wednesday, July 21, bus trip to Port Dover to see *Bye Bye Broadway*, $45.

Wednesday, Aug. 18, day in Orillia, with one hour at Casino Rama (optional), buffet lunch at Sun Dial Inn, play *Wrong For Each Other*, $57.

TRADITIONAL MINYAN

Shomer Israel Congregation traditional heimish minyan welcomes all non-affiliated. No dues. Shabbat 9 a.m. Shabbat Minchah study class with **Rabbi Sheldon Schwartz**. Sunday morning minyan 8:30 a.m. 60 Rockford Rd. (behind Rockford School). **David** 256-1600.

ARTISTS TAKE NOTE!

Toronto Public Library invites artists to submit their work for exhibition in one of seven library branches during the October 1999 to May 2000 exhibit season. Framed works in all media, including photography, will be considered. Contact the Marketing and Communications Department before April 10. 395-5512.

THIRD SEDER

Workmen's Circle third seder, Sunday, April 4, 7 p.m., Workmen's Circle Auditorium, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Participating in the seder and leading in the singing of traditional Pesach songs will be **Lenka Lichtenberg**. $8/person, $15/couple, $5/children and students. Reserve. 787-2081.

PARENT GROUP

Learning Disabilities Association (LDA) of North York parent group for parents of a child with learning disabilities, Thursdays, April 8-May 13, 7:30-9:30 p.m., 121 Willowdale Ave. Suite 203. Group leader **Harriet Lampert**, child and family therapist. LDA members $60/person, $95/couple, non-members $80/person, $115/couple. Register. 229-1680.

LEARN TO SPEAK YIDDISH

New adult Yiddish conversation classes, beginners, intermediate and advanced levels, spring and summer. Locations all across Toronto including new downtown location and Thornhill. Evening and day classes, Sunday to Thursday, for 10 weeks, beginning week of April 11. Yiddish Hotline 635-2883, ext. 150. Children's beginners Yiddish classes also offered.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups. **Pat Lieberman** 638-7800, ext. 215.

Today's Woman: Making It Happen, April 20; Looking Ahead: After Separation/Divorce, begins April 14; The Challenge of Anger: For Women, begins April 15; Widows/Widowers, April 13.

FOR SENIORS

LZA Seniors Club in the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave., is open for socializing Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ladies Folkdancing classes Thursdays 1:30 p.m., Cultural Discussion Group Tuesdays 10 a.m. Register now to see *My Fair Lady* at Stage West, Wednesday, June 16. **Libby** 782-2059 or LZA office 630-9444.

Association of Jewish Seniors general meeting Thursday, March 25, 9:30 a.m. Topic – We Care About Long Term Care: Let's Work Together to Make it Work. Speaker **Lianne Carnwath**, regional director, Long Term Care. Everyone welcome. **Goldie** 635-2860.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club: Aug. 25, morning cruise, then matinee performance of *Move Over Mrs. Markham* at Gryphon Theatre; Oct. 12, *West Side Story* at Stratford. **Lena** 785-5773. Golden Book donations go to Laniado Hospital in Israel. **Dorothy Bloomfield** 787-1526.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). March 25, video, **Ehuram Gaon**, *Toledo to Jerusalem*; April 1 and 8, no activities (Passover); April 15, bingo; April 22, video; April 29, members meeting; May 8, Yom Ha'atzmaut dance, for tickets call **Malka Colla** 630-5771. All activities in Hebrew, English and Yiddish. **Jerry Bengall**, president, 905-707-7334.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: March 28, dance with live band; April 14 and 28, Casino Rama; May 4, Bata Shoe Museum, Manning Cookie Factory; May 5, *My Fair Lady* at Stage West; May 23-25, Ottawa; phone regarding Atlantic City and Las Vegas trips. 395-7881.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

Bridging the Gap: The Communication Workshop with **Batya Hazenbalk** starts Monday, April 5, 1:15 p.m. for six weekly meetings aimed at improving the role grandparents play in their grandchildren's lives. **Bookie Kwart.**

Israeli Club Etrog: Do you speak Hebrew? Join in every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the auditorium for movies, lectures, dances, sing-alongs, bingo, and picnics. All programs are based on topics of special interest to Israelis and are conducted in Hebrew. Closed April 6. **Anna** ext. 110.

Movie, *Mrs. Doubtfire*, Sunday, March 28, 2:30 p.m.

Place your order for kosher meals for Passover by March 26. **Sonia Krass** ext. 114.

BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

Books and Bagels reading series hosts a reunion of participants in the 1996 Jewish feminist conference, From Memory to Transformation: Jewish Women's Voices, Sunday, March 28, 11 a.m. Readings by **Susan G. Cole, Greta Hofmann Nemiroff, Sarah Silberstein Swartz**. Non-members $8.

Registration starting for summer camps.

Seniors Club welcomes **Rabbi Ronnie Cahana** of Lodzer Synagogue who speaks about Discovering the True Meaning of Freedom: The Experience of Spending Passover in the Soviet Union, Thursday, March 25. **Judy**.

BATHURST JC

Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 636-1880.

My Jewish Discovery Place Children's Museum Great Passover Event, Sunday, March 28, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sing a Seder, 1:30 p.m.; Passover Alive pantomime, 12:30 p.m.; Our Mock Seder, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Free with museum admission. Ages 2-10. ext. 390.

CHAT PRESENTATION

Pictured above is Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto's (CHAT) new president, Baila Lubek, making a presentation to Norman Grill, the outgoing president. CHAT's current enrolment is 900 students, and continued student growth is expected as CHAT finalizes its building plans.

EMUNAH RECEPTION

Emunah Women of Toronto recently held a reception at the home of Dr. Avi and Symee Citron, culminating the completion of a successful fundraising project. The Frank and Eva Silverberg Day Care Centre was recently dedicated in Beit Shemesh, Israel. Pictured (from left) are Rita and Meir Weinberger, Eldon Moses, Sarah Perlis, Ann Tollinsky, and Aggie and Jack Deutsch.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

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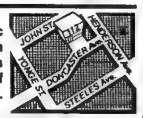

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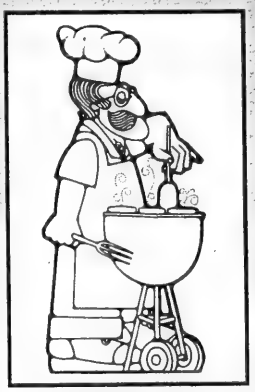

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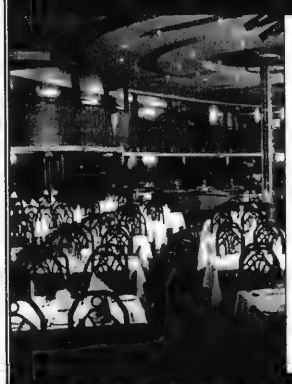
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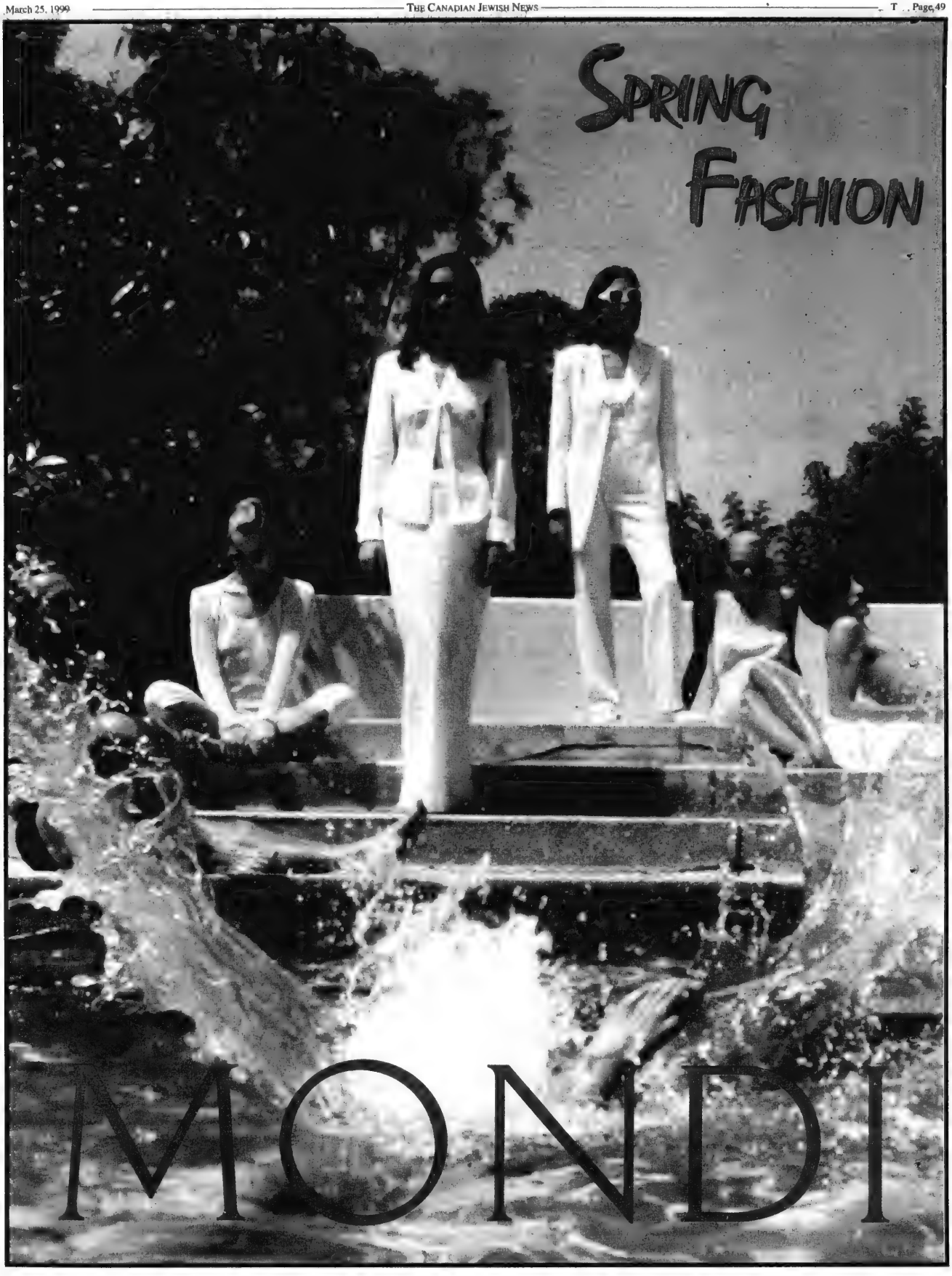
SPRING
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Spring Fashion

Don't buy cosmetics without reading this book

By ANITA SZABADI-GOTTESMAN

When I got the call from author and makeup guru Paula Begoun's Canadian press agent telling me I could sit down with her and hear the straight talk on makeup, I was really excited.

I have followed Begoun's advice from one of her previous books, *Blue Eyeshadow Should Absolutely Be Illegal*, and I had the chance to preview her newest book, *Don't Go to the Cosmetics Counter Without Me*, newly packaged and updated in it's fourth edition.

I skipped the introduction and acknowledgment sections and flipped to the meat of the book. Over 180 lines of makeup are rated in alphabetical order by manufacturer and category of product. Each product is described by function (i.e., foundation, moisturizer, mascara) and listed with its price. A brief description of each product is included and then an easy rating system of a happy face for a highly rated product that is a good buy, an expressionless happy face for a product that's just okay and a frowning happy face for a product to stay away from.

"Price still has nothing to do with quality," Begoun writes, "and this is more true now than ever before."

With a sigh of relief, I find that all the products I use have come up with a happy face except for one (my favorite) which has a stoic happy face beside it. I think I'm okay to sit down with Begoun.

The reviews in the book are clear and concise, cut to the chase through the many mediocre products available in the marketplace, and define the ones that actually perform and are worth the money. The reviews help make sense of the vague language used by most companies and teach consumers how to read and understand the only regulated part of a cosmetic, the ingredient list (not yet compulsory in Canada, a point of contention for Begoun).

"Any woman who has ever been disappointed at the cosmetic counter should refer to my book," says Begoun unabashedly, "Women tend to blame themselves when a product doesn't do what it says it will do, and they tell me all the time that they thought it was them before they read the book."

I challenge her claims and say that with a little common sense, a woman should be able to make the right choices.

Begoun says a consumer cannot possibly sort through all the combinations of ingredients that make up every product, understand their meaning and make sure the product's claims will be fulfilled.

With a background in chemistry, Begoun works with documentation from government agencies such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Health Canada, and she and the three members of her research staff test every one of the thousands of products evaluated.

She interprets the formulations on the ingredient list of each product and then, she says, "I tell you things you might want to know."

For example, when a company claims their mascara doesn't smear, it shouldn't; if they say their lipstick lasts all day, it should; if a wrinkle cream is supposed to remove wrinkles, then it better remove them.

Happy face

Begoun stresses that the worst place to go for advice on makeup is to the salesgirl standing behind the counter. Begoun says they don't know what they are talking about.

"Cosmetics salespeople have been taught how to sell," she stresses. "They are not familiar with the ingredients of their product lines and constantly give out misinformation."

She also says women are seduced by fashion magazines and the information they give out. How magazines address makeup issues is directly related to the product advertising in their pages.

"It is important to get good information that is not generated by the cosmetics industry itself," says Begoun.

As for trends in makeup for this season, Begoun feels that too many women waste their time and money following trends.

"It is not a problem to stay current and classic," she says. "Makeup should be applied properly and not by following trends – makeup must empower women, not make them look silly."

To keep women as current as possible, Begoun has launched a monthly newsletter now in circulation to 10,000 readers. She welcomes e-mail and letters from consumers and answers all her mail personally. She is constantly updating her Web site at www.cosmeticscop.com.

Don't go to the Cosmetics Counter Without Me (4th Edition) Paula Begoun, $26.95 is available at all major bookstores.

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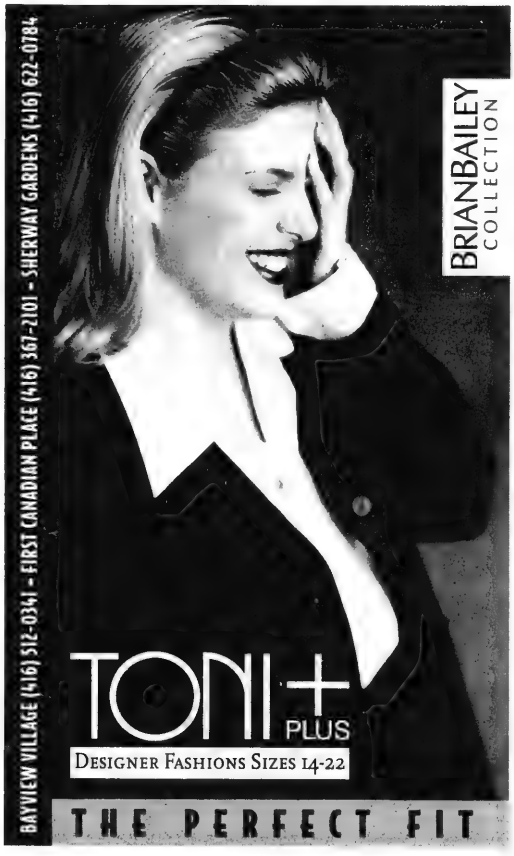
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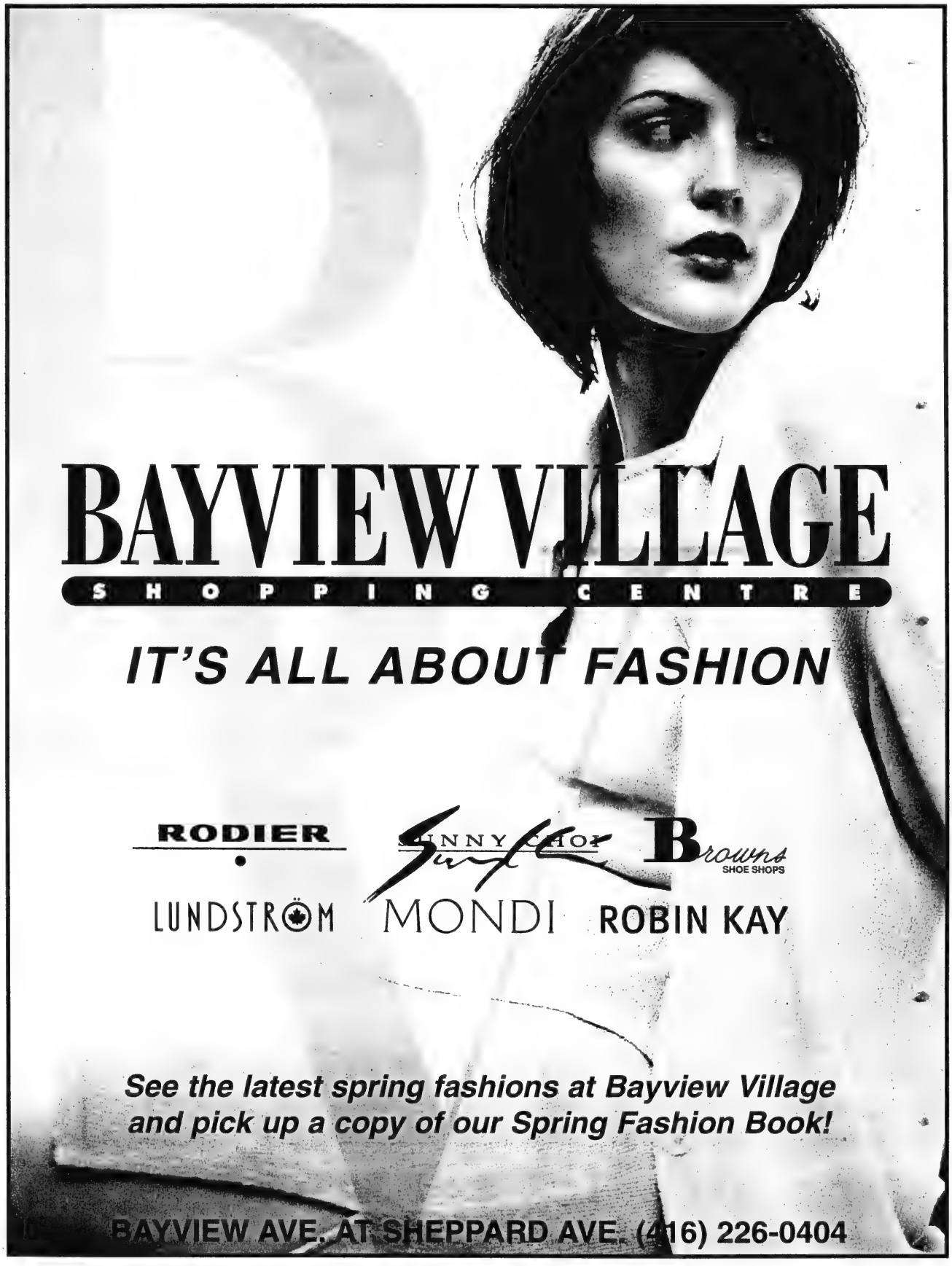
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Permanent makeup is a painless procedure

By CAROL WISE
Special to The CJN

Aside from the purely cosmetic aspect, micro-pigment implantation is a procedure that corrects flaws in the skin. These include port wine stains, discoloration and scar tissue, just to name a few.

It is great for alopecia (a condition that causes loss of hair) sufferers and is considered a fashion diva's new best friend.

Working as a makeup artist myself, applying makeup to over 10,000 faces over the past few decades, this concept totally intrigued me.

When I began my inquiry, I had the good fortune to meet Dorothy Kiroff, proprietor of Permanent Makeup Artistry (113 Yorkville Ave.). Kiroff's years of experience and great reputation have propelled her into the forefront of the permanent makeup industry.

Noted also for her excellent camouflage procedure, she is no stranger to the medical community. Her diploma certificates and achievement awards blanket the wall of her procedure room and attest to her expertise in the arena of micro-pigmentation.

The permanent makeup choices are usually for lips, eyeliner and eyebrows, with the latter being the most popular choice. I decided that, indeed, it might be great to say goodbye to my eyebrow pencil forever. Being a little skeptical, and having a pain tolerance that reads zero, I set forth to find out everything about this procedure.

What is this? I asked, and Kiroff explained that micro-pigment implantation involves implanting colored mineral pigment under the top layer of skin. Sterilized disposable needles implant hundreds of tiny dots to achieve the desired results. "The art really lies in the mathematics," says Kiroff, who actually measures the face before she begins the art work.

It all sounded so easy, but I still had the prime question to ask. "Does it hurt?"

"No," she answered. "I freeze the area with a local anesthetic used frequently by dentists, and most clients are quite comfortable."

How long does it take and how long does it last?

"Most procedures take two-to-three hours and last five years or longer," she said.

She's careful that no problems occur during the procedure."I work closely with my client, trying to understand the results they are looking for. I spot test for allergies, and generally everything goes perfectly."

I decided to book an appointment and pencil in my brows for the last time. She immediately began measuring my forehead, and drew lines and Xs around my eye area to create a new balance. It became clearly apparent there was more than the art of makeup involved; this technique was, in fact, very scientific.

The art work began when Kiroff sketched my brows into a perfect shape and I immediately agreed they did give my face a better balance.

We discussed color, and in minutes, a gorgeous shade was created. The freezing was injected around my brows, and I must admit that it did hurt, but just for a few seconds, after which it was clear sailing.

"It's not just implanting color into the skin – achieving a natural look is what is essential," she said. As promised, the procedure was over in two-and-a-half hours.

It took about a week to completely heal and my brows have never looked better; they are perfectly shaped, a great color and look really natural.

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The Canadian Jewish news
Please be sure to see our Passover greetings section in our issue of March 31.

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Spring Fashion

Beauty Shop

By Carol Wise

The spring collection depicts a new age of ultra-femininity. Romance is in the air and feminist changes to feminine.

A halo of shimmer covers eyeshades of purple, pink and nursery blue. Fashion is sheer and worn in slinky layers of chiffon and mesh. Lips are painted in mischievous shades like Cupid and Passionate Rose from Dior and nails shine with a naked freshness.

Lighten up your skin care regime – change rich creams to lotions. Treat yourself to a professional facial to rid your skin of dead cells from the cold winter months. Actually, turning your bathroom into a spa for a night can bring similar results. Invite a girlfriend or special guy and have some fun.

To help you achieve your beauty goal this spring, begin an exercise routine, eat a low fat, low sugar diet, and supplement with a multiple vitamin. Remember the essence of looking good is being healthy.

CAROL'S TIPS

Skin Care: Nothing is more important than your skin. If you're on a budget, spend your money here, and if you have no budget, go for the Crisco. *Biotherm's* Aquasource is a hydrating, skin-quenching experience. This icy gel claims to provide the revitalizing benefits of 5,000 litres of spa water. I keep mine in the fridge for extra oomph.

Protect skin from free radical damage with *Clinique's* latest cream, New Weather Everything SPF15; it's as rich as Crisco, but penetrates and feels much better.

Research in neuro-cosmetics has resulted in *Lancome* offering HydraZen, a skin de-stressing moisturizer containing an exclusive complex called Acticalm. It soothes and deeply moisturizes skin. Two textures are available, a soft cream and a cool lotion.

La Prairie introduces a lifting and firming cream called Skin Caviar Luxe. Made from rare Caviar Extracts, AHAs and unique Sea Proteins, it's a decadent blend with a decadent price – my advice is get a sample.

The star of the vitamin cream this season is Vitalmine, from *Christian Dior*; it claims that the dynamic duo of Vitamin C and ATP (Adenosine Triphosphate – a combustible used by all cells) is energy boosting and creates increased vitality for cells.

Biotherm Homme has developed two new products to give your man healthier skin: a detoxifying cleanser with five fruit acids to remove dead skin cells and impurities, as well as an oil-free moisturizing gel which contains two active detoxifiers and AHAs to encourage cell growth. Treat your special guy; he'll love it and let's face it – what feels better than a fellow with soft skin?

Foundation: If foundation is too sheer, what is the point? We all need a little coverage. Try Amazing Lasting Sheer Makeup by *Almay*; it's a light cover and waterproof, and comes in four made-for-you shades.

Baby Boomers, listen up, *Lancome's* new anti-aging Teint Optimage is a silky liquid that glides over the fine lines without accentuating them and smooths out skin tone.

Also from *Lancome*, Palette Mix includes light, medium and dark hues in one handy compact. It's fabulous for a touch up, cover up and full coverage – and the best travel companion.

SmartWear Makeup SPF 15 by *Elizabeth Arden*, not only delivers radiant, lasting all day coverage, but sun and environmental protection as well.

Chanel unveils a gorgeous silky powder in a shaker bottle; the surprise is an integrated brush – imagine, loose powder that travels.

Sweet Cheeks: Never mind these bland, pale faced people we see all too often in our treasured fashion mags; put on a little blush, we all need it. *Lancome's* Blush Duo provides color in two textures, a cream that turns to powder and a silky powder with an iridescent glow – a great combo for day or night.

Estee Lauder's Minute Blush is a cream stick blush resembling a thick lipstick. It's so natural the color becomes one with your cheeks, and the best is, it's so easy to apply, you don't even need a mirror.

Eyes: Color is what's happening this spring, so set those boring brown shades aside and have some fun. Try *L'Oreal* eye Highlighter – use as a liner or a shadow. The flirtiest lashes in town are yours from *Maybelline's* Wonder Curl mascara. You girls on the run, put your name on *Lancome's* Eyeshadow pencil and artliner – colors are dreamy and so simple to apply. Also from *Lancome* this season are triple shadow compacts with not only three shades but three textures.

Have fun with *Elizabeth Arden's* Color Jumpers, a unique two-sided product with a matte cream shadow for shading and the "jump" side for sparkle. Colors like Jumping Bean and Jump Shot Slate are hot.

Stormy eyes smolder with neutral shadows from *Revlon's* Sand Storm series contrasted by *Estee Lauder's* exotic Go Tropic collection. Luscious shadow shades like amesthyst and bold pink are available in handy two-in-one compacts. Check out the DuoSticks – two-sided thick pencils in yummy colors like pale pink and cool lilac. Add a splash of color with *Lauder's* turquoise eye defining pencil.

Dior's lids are adorned with bold candy shades of Pinkmania, Blue Aqua and Dizzy Green. *Chanel's* spring shadows are softly muted hues of green, pale pink and peachy orange – sheer elegance!

Lips: *L'Oreal* has invented weightless lip color: Rouge Virtuale – great coverage, no caking and long wear. Exceptional lipsticks, from *Elizabeth Arden* are sheer, see-through and hot off the runways of Paris and Milan. It seems like Dior-ever lipstick from *Dior* does stay on forever, and the colors are divine.

Continued on page 58

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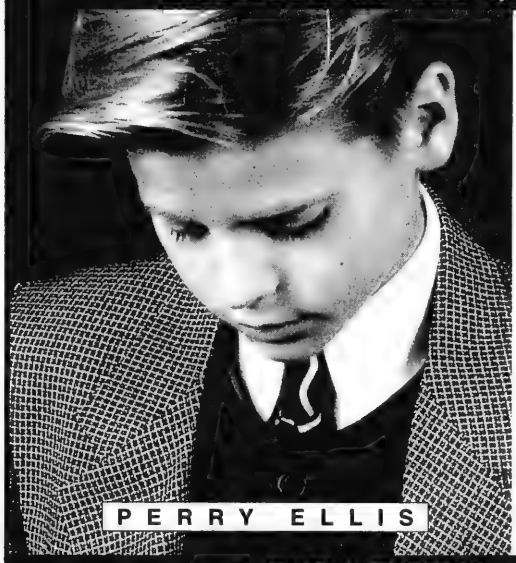

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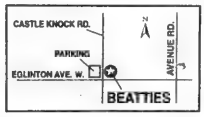

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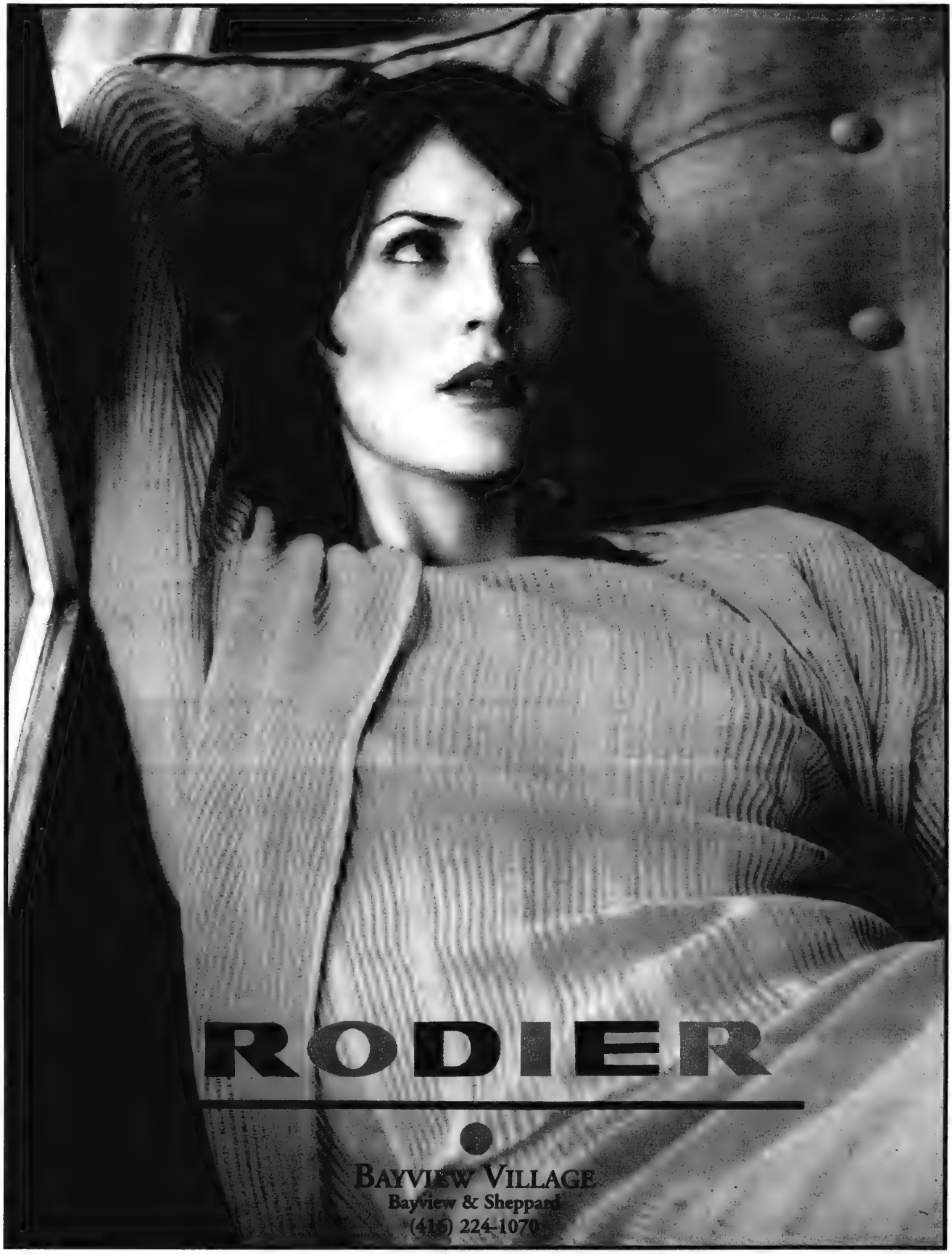
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Spring Fashion

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These outfits designed by Israeli Yarou Minkowski were recently paraded at Minkowski's Autumn/Winter 1999 fashion collection in Tel Aviv. [RNS Reuters]

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Images host is an ordinary mom

Taping schedule doesn't interfere with family or religious life

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Adrienne Gold, chases Jackson, her 3-year-son, down the corridor of the Toronto Heschel School. She has just finished car pool and she wants to attend morning services at the school.

But Jackson is running in the opposite direction of the sanctuary. Morning prayers are clearly not on his list of things to do this Monday morning.

As for Gold, her other plans for the day figure more in the realm of the mundane – grocery shopping, laundry, dinner preparations and back to school for car pool – with Jackson in tow of course.

Sounds like the typical routine of a stay-at-home mother…but there's a twist. Gold, 40, is the host of a national television show broadcast twice a day on the Life Network.

Images with Adrienne Gold, a show about fashion and beauty, airs Monday to Friday, 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. in Toronto, and at different times in other parts of the country.

The show, which debuted in September, is garnering 240,000 viewers a week, which by Canadian standards is a hit, Gold notes in a recent telephone interview held in the evening, after Tyler, 7, and Jackson are tucked into bed.

So how does this mother of two get to parent full time most days and host a daily show?

Three days a week, you'll find Gold at home with Jackson. But on Thursday and Friday she takes him to nursery school and heads downtown to the studio. The five weekly episodes of *Images* are all taped over two days.

When Gold was first offered the show last summer she instantly turned it down, because she thought it would interfere with her family life. She had been at home with her older son and wanted to do the same with Jackson, she explains.

"I was not prepared to compromise my family life to do this show because it's my number 1 priority."

Gold, who describes herself as a "serious Jew," also told producers she could not work on Shabbat or the holidays.

Not only did the producers come up with a two-day shooting schedule, they also guaranteed that Gold would be out of the studio two hours before sundown on Fridays.

"I'm probably the only person on TV with a shomer Shabbat clause in the contract," she says with a laugh.

Her congeniality, loquaciousness and quick humor, hallmarks of her style as television host, are easily detectable over the phone. But she insists there's no television persona. "I get paid to be myself. I am totally and utterly myself."

Adrienne Gold gets ready for her show.

And while *Images* features the usual fashion and beauty items like makeovers, beauty advice, interviews with Canadian designers and fashion shows, it is permeated with Gold's playful banter with guests and her direct style peppered with Yiddishisms and humor.

"I am saying things that the viewers are thinking, but that are unsaid in Television Land," Gold says. "The mail I get is always the same thing. 'You're a breath of fresh air. It's like being at a girlfriend's house.'"

She says her "mandate is to help women define their own style," but she stresses that inner beauty is an important element of the show.

"If you're dealing with fashion and beauty as I am, the key is to empower women…Image is based on things other than their weight, their clothes and their makeup.

Adrienne Gold models a vintage faux leopard jacket.

"For every time we show a dress or every beauty makeover, I try to balance that representation with a rant that I do at the end of every show, which tries to make these things relevant on a social and spiritual level."

She describes *Images* as "extremely proactive…We consistently have plus-size models, so that women of all sizes are represented, as well as models of all ethnic backgrounds." This is her vision and that of her producer, Krysta Look, who, she says is "phenomenal."

She says her looks are "a real advantage" to hosting *Images*. "I'm not terribly beautiful…I look like everyone else," and that makes her "less intimidating" and more credible to the viewer.

Indeed, Gold says that when she first went on the air as stylist for *CityLine*, her unconventional looks and honest approach made her stand out. "Suddenly there was this straight-shooting, straight-talking Jewish girl. I was a novelty."

And while she says she recognizes the limitations of fashion and beauty, she has always enjoyed them, working as a management consultant in the fashion industry for many years before going into television, which, she says, was purely accidental.

She replaced somebody on a *CityLine* fashion segment eight years ago. "I loved it. And I was good at it. I believe I was good at it because I have never defined myself by my appearance. I am strictly a verbal person. I'm all about language."

CityLine asked her to come back and she became a regular guest; later she did weekly segments on *Eye on Toronto* and the *Dini Petty Show*.

Gold says she is thrilled to be hosting *Images*. "I'm really blessed. You cannot imagine what it's like to turn 40 with two children, happily married, with a fulfilling spiritual life. And to have the show happen, it's a *mechayeh*."

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Spring Fashion

Throw away your glasses

By CAROL WISE
Special to the CJN

After wearing glasses for many years, I never imagined, not even in my dreams, I would be able to see without them.

On Feb. 13, 1999, I had a procedure called LASIK performed by Dr. Sheldon Herzig at the Herzig Eye Institute. Having clear vision again is like a wonderment – a freedom I never thought possible.

Before making this decision, I wanted to find out every detail about this controversial refractive eye surgery. Most vision problems like nearsightedness (myopia), and farsightedness (hyperopia), are caused by your eyes' inability to bend or refract light.

Imagine your eye is like a camera. The cornea and crystalline lens at the front of the eye act as the focusing system, sending light to the retina which acts as the film. When your eye is not focusing light precisely on the retina, blurred vision occurs.

Traditional methods of correcting these problems are, of course, glasses and contact lenses to help your eyes focus light. Refractive eye surgery basically takes the curve from your contact or glasses prescription, and puts it onto the surface of your cornea.

The most popular methods of surgery are PRK (photo-refractive keratectomy) and LASIK (laser-in-situ keratomileusis). PRK removes the outer protective layer of the cornea (epithelium). Cool laser light is then applied to the surface of the cornea to reshape it, a soft bandage is applied, and after three to five days is removed, as a new epithelium grows.

LASIK creates a microscopic flap (as slender as a strand of hair), to lift the outer layer of the cornea. Computer-controlled pulses of cool laser light are applied to the inner layers of the cornea to reshape it. The flap is closed, and heals naturally within 48 hours.

Both procedures are done with local anesthetic and take less then 10 minutes. There is no pain during surgery, but there is some discomfort following.

Some surgeons still prefer to do PRK because the technique is easier to perform. However LASIK, the newer and more advanced method, has a few advantages. There is less pain afterwards (because the epithelium is not removed), less post-op care, less risk of infection and vision returns to normal faster.

The first laser refractive surgery was done in 1987 and it is reported that the patient is still enjoying excellent vision. However, slight regression can occur in the short term, but can usually be corrected with a minor enhancement procedure.

Although recently LASIK has had some bad press, fewer than one percent of cases have resulted in complications. Corneal scarring can occur from severe eye infection, but this can usually be corrected. Night glare is also a problem but improves in most patients.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia recently reported about "the sands of Sahara syndrome," which is an inflammation underneath the flap of the cornea raised in the LASIK procedure.

The cause is strongly suspected to be a toxin from deposits that can form on the lining of pipes in sterilization systems. Herzig said that in the 8,000 LASIK procedures he has done, he has seen this occur once and the symptoms were alleviated with the simple administration of drops.

From my own experience, I can say that within 24 hours, my vision was better than it had ever been. The surgery was painless and the recovery easy.

The most important decision you will make is choosing the doctor. Be careful; there are many clinics popping up with bargain basement prices. The general price is between $2,000 and $2,700 per eye. If ever there was credence to the saying "You get what you pay for," it is here.

Remember, to a great extent, the quality of your life depends on your vision; just imagine skiing, swimming or simply setting your alarm clock without your glasses – it is a miracle.

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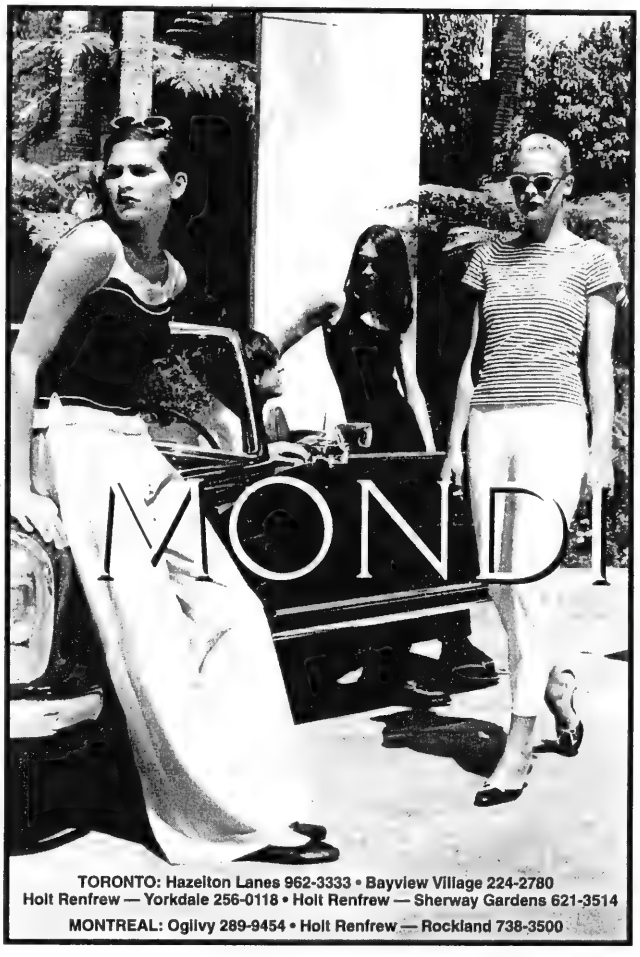

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Spring Fashion

Continued from page 53

The color orange is definitely making a comeback. The star product of *Chanel's* spring/summer ready-to-wear fashion shows was – Quatuor Levres Moirees. This compact encases shimmering lip colors of orange, mauve, yellow and red – simply exquisite. For extra shine on all your favorite shades, HighShine LipGloss SPF 15 from *Estee Lauder* is stellar.

Nails: Check out *Dior's* two new shades of nail enamel, Iridescent Lilac and Vanilla. Don't miss *Chanel's* polish – Impetueux – hard to visualize, but it is the most gorgeous soft orange – a definite – must have.

Hair: Be bold with *Redskin's* Hardwear – a new super strong gel that gives your hair style you can count on all day.

Revlon launches the latest technology in professional hair care – Interactive Basics and Interactive Design. The Basics provide hair with structure and support, while Design inspires creativity and softness.

Longer hair is most popular this spring, says hair designer, Daniel Fiorio, from Salon Daniel (25 Bellair). Fiorio has devised an innovative haircut for medium-length hair to create an illusion of long hair. The hair is then enhanced with well-placed color by his superb color team.

Joanne Skillen, color manager, says hair can actually look thicker with the right placement of color.

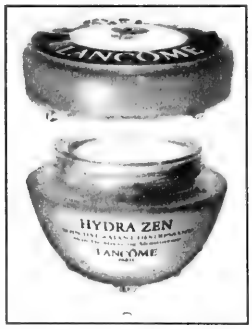
Fragrance: *Chanel* captivates our senses with Allure Homme. Its sensuality and freshness indicate fun and passion – check it out, it might be perfect for your honey. Remember, usually a man who smells good feels good too. To delight our senses, *Chanel 19* pops up this spring with a youthfulness and sophistication that will remind you of a bouquet of spring flowers.

Don't miss Splendor from *Elizabeth Arden*; it's fresh, clean and very sexy.

Chanel captivates our senses with Allure Homme. Its sensuality and freshness indicate fun and passion – check it out, it might be perfect for your honey.

The name *Davidoff* became widely recognized as emboding all that is elegant and pleasurable (cigars, cognac) – the good life. Not surprising, their newest men's fragrance is called Davidoff Good Life, which is a liquid in a bottle shaped like a row of cigars. The scent is laced with fig leaves and aromatics to combine an uplifting overture. Men that smell good, feel good too – don't you think.

Chanel 19 pops up this spring with a youthfulness and sophistication that will remind you of a bouquet of spring flowers. Don't miss Splendor from *Elizabeth Arden*; its garland is fresh, clean and very sexy. *Lancaster* introduces a scent that will not only perk your senses, but watch out for your man, mine went wild – its name is Sunwater – totally magical.



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Israel warns Lebanon after bombs found in village

By AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Military Correspondent

JERUSALEM — Israel warned the Lebanese government last week that its refusal to recognize recent violations of the Grapes of Wrath understandings "could bring the system of understandings to an end."

The international committee assigned to monitor the 1996 U.S.-brokered understandings plans to meet again today in Nakura, after failing to make any progress last Friday.

Israel asked that the monitoring committee be convened after IDF and South Labanon Army (SLA) troops last week discovered six bombs planted by the Hezbollah in the village of Arnoun on the eastern border of the security zone.

According to the understandings, Israel and the Hezbollah are to refrain from attacking civilians and from using civilian areas to attack military targets.

After discovering the explosives in Arnoun, Israel charged that Hezbollah was exploiting the situation in the village to smuggle weapons and mount attacks against the IDF. Defence sources in Israel view Arnoun as a test case proving that the Hezbollah continues to operate in areas under the control of the Lebanese government.

The controversy over Arnoun erupted last month after Israel erected a fence that blocked access to the village from outside the security zone.

Lebanon complained that Israel's action was an attempt to annex the village, while Israel countered that the village has always been part of its security zone. Hundreds of Lebanese students mounted a demonstration in the village and broke through the fence. The IDF chose not to interfere.

Following the successful demonstration, Lebanese citizens returned and took up residence in the village after an absence of many years. Lebanese Prime Minister Salim El-Hoss paid a visit to the liberated village. As a result, the status of the village is not clear, but the IDF still enters Arnoun when escorting convoys to the Beaufort outpost.

During the meetings in Nakura on Friday, the Lebanese delegation refused to accept the documented evidence of the bombs that Israel presented.

According to Israeli defence sources: "Lebanon's behavior seriously damages the committee's function. It threatens to turn the Arnoun incident into an episode marking the end of the Grapes of Wrath understandings. If this happens, the full responsibility will lie on the shoulders of the Lebanese government."

Defence Minister Moshe Arens has expressed reservations about the Grapes of Wrath understandings on several occasions, citing their "serious limitations, which restrict the capabilities of the IDF." He noted, however, that "abandoning the understandings, which is an agreement with an international connotation, is not a simple matter."

The IDF bombed Hezbollah targets in the Sujud region north of the security zone on Friday. Two SLA soldiers were slightly injured Friday night when a bomb exploded near Jezzine.

Iraq seeks suicide pilots

By DOUGLAS DAVIS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LONDON — Plans by Saddam Hussein to assemble a group of 60 suicide pilots to attack U.S. and British military targets are being hampered by the Iraqi leader's inability to trust the volunteers to carry out their missions, according to reports from western intelligence sources in London.

Saddam has appealed for volunteers from the Iraqi armed forces to form a suicide air attack force that would be intended both to lure American and British warplanes into Iraq's air defence traps and also to launch direct attacks on western targets in the Gulf region, the reports say.

In effect, Saddam wants the pilots to offer themselves as bait, tempting U.S. and British aircraft patrolling the no-fly zones to give chase.

The Iraqi planes have little chance of evading the superior western aircraft, but their purpose is to entice their pursuers into the air-defence traps, several of which have been set up inside Iraq with the assistance of Russian experts.

Although it has not achieved much success so far, the Iraqi air-defence capability is regarded as substantial, having a battery of some 150 Russian-made surface-to-air missiles.

Israel Election Notebook
May 17

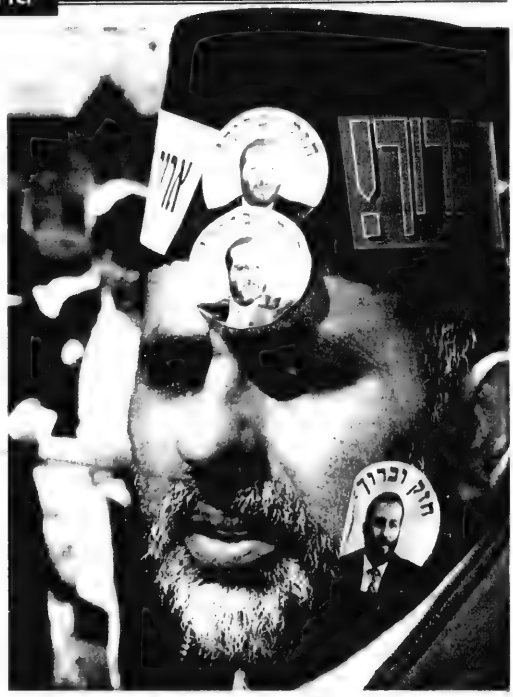
• A clear-cut right-wing ideological coalition has emerged for the electorate as a result of the decision to join forces by Benny Begin, who split from the Likud party, Rehavam Ze'evi of the Moledet party and Zvi Hendel and Hanan Porat of the T'kumah party, both formerly of the National Religious Party.

• Labor party leader Ehud Barak lashed out at his accusers after a state report cleared him of any blame stemming from a 1992 army training accident that killed five army commandos. "I have no use for apologies from cynical politicians who think the blood of Israeli soldiers" can be used for "political mud-slinging," Barak said. During the election campaign, political opponents have accused Barak, the army chief of staff at the time of the accident, of leaving the scene without attempting to help the wounded.

• The centrist party unveiled its line-up for the elections. Uri Savir, one of the architects of the Oslo accords, received the fifth spot behind party founders, Yitzhak Mordechai, Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Dan Meridor and Roni Milo. Yitzhak Rabin's daughter Dalia Rabin-Philosof was given the sixth slot followed by Nechama Ronen, a former Environment Ministry official linked to the right-wing party Tsomet.

• *Ha'aretz* reported that after the Jerusalem District Court pronounced Shas leader, Aryeh Deri, guilty of bribery and fraud, Interior and Religious Affairs Minister Eliyahu Suissa vowed to make the trial a centre-piece of the party's election campaign. "If we are suffering, at least we can benefit from it."

Suissa also charged that the timing of the judgment, two months prior to the election, was intentionally aimed at hurting Shas.



NO DOUBT ON DERI

Shas Party leader Arye Deri has the backing of this supporter, despite a recent court judgment against Deri. [RNS/Reuters photo]

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Israel, Ukraine sign pact

Continued from page 1

hatred of Jews will never stop at only Jews," he was quoted by the Interfax agency as saying.

Earlier in Kiev, Netanyahu attended a memorial ceremony for Jewish victims of the Holocaust. "I swear here, on the earth of Babi Yar, that our people shall never be defenceless again," the prime minister said. "The memory of the victims lives in Jerusalem forever."

Surrounded by hundreds of Ukrainian Jews, Netanyahu laid a wreath at the base of a menorah-shaped monument at snow-covered Babi Yar, a ravine where Nazi forces killed more than 33,000 Jews during a two-day period in 1941. Overall, about 100,000 people, most of them Jews, were killed at Babi Yar during World War II.

Kuchma promised Netanyahu that Ukraine would continue to guarantee the rights of its Jewish minority. About 500,000 Jews currently live in Ukraine.

Meanwhile, two Israeli Jewish Agency emissaries have been expelled by the Ukrainian authorities. One emissary was accused of organizing a group of Jewish scientists to emigrate to Israel. Some of the scientists hold positions involving classified or sensitive work, and the authorities viewed the Israeli activity as an attempt to smuggle information from Ukraine to Israel.

The Week in Israel

March 15

• Hundreds of Bedouin fled into Israel from Egypt to escape a tribal feud, according to the IDF. The IDF is providing humanitarian aid to the Bedouin, who want to remain in Israel. *(The Supreme Court ruled later in the week that the Bedouin can remain in Israel until a court hears their request for asylum. The Negev regional council had asked the army to send the Bedouin back to Egypt, citing lack of resources to care for them.)*

March 16

• Israeli officials informed their Jordanian counterparts that they are reducing water supplies to Jordan by 60 percent due to a regional drought. Jordan criticized the decision. *(Jordan's parliament rejected a motion later in the week to cancel its 1994 peace treaty with Israel to protest Israel's water decision.)*

March 17

• U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross told Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat that the United States opposes Arafat's threat to unilaterally declare statehood after May 4. Ross made his comments in Madrid where he met with Arafat.

March 18

• Walid Mansour, Israel's consul general in Bombay was named ambassador to Vietnam. Mansour is the first Druze to hold such a position. The first Arab to hold an ambassadorial post, Ali Yihye, recently concluded his tenure in Finland.

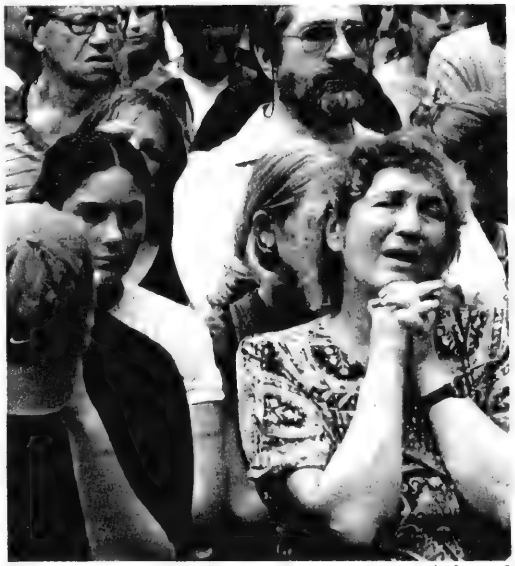
• Police arrested a Beersheva man, Yehonatan Ben Yishai, suspected of planning to bomb the mosques on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Ben Yishai was said not to be linked to any extremist groups.

March 19

• In a rare move, El Al announced it had cancelled a flight to Turkey because of a credible warning about a possible terrorist attack on the passengers.

• Water commissioner Meir Ben Meir has recommended to the government that water for farmers be cut by 40 percent due to the shortfall in rain that fell this past winter.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz



Members of the Argentine Jewish community congregate in front of the old Israeli embassy site to mark the seventh anniversary of the unsolved bombing that killed 29 people. [RNS/Reuters photo]

Argentine bombing victims remembered

By SERGIO KIERNAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BUENOS AIRES — The ceremony has become all too familiar: Kaddish was intoned, bells were tolled and the list of victims' names was read aloud.

For the seventh time, relatives of the victims joined local Jewish officials to mark the anniversary of the March 17, 1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in the Argentine capital.

And in another familiar act each anniversary, calls came from Jewish officials in Israel and abroad to find those responsible for the bombing.

The commemoration took place as the Argentine Supreme Court, which is in charge of the investigation into the blast and has been the target of repeated criticisms for its slow handling of the case, was preparing to announce that it is going to exonerate four suspects.

According to sources close to the tribunal, the court will clear four Pakistanis who were briefly arrested days after the bombing, but were freed more than six years ago after undergoing interrogation.

The court also plans to revise the bombing's death toll to 22 from the 29 reported in the immediate aftermath of the bombing.

As he has done in the past, Israel's ambassador to Argentina blasted the court, along with local police, at last week's commemoration.

Surrounded by some of the heaviest security this city has ever seen, Ambassador Itzhak Aviran addressed a crowd of 800 who gathered at the site of the bombing.

The ambassador said the Argentine Supreme Court "kept the case paralyzed for six years" and "never interrogated the Iranian diplomats" who were thought to be involved in the blast, but "were allowed to leave Argentina unmolested."

Aviran then turned his ire on the police.

"The day of the bombing, the police assigned to our security were gone. A patrol car noticed [their absence] minutes before the explosion, but did not report it to command. This is extremely grave, but the Argentine police never investigated what really happened."

Aviran reiterated the accusation that Hezbollah operatives were behind the bombing and were also responsible for the July 18, 1994 bombing of the AMIA community centre in Buenos Aires, which killed 86 people.

As with the embassy attack, no suspects have been charged in connection with the AMIA blast and the crime remains unsolved.

Aviran concluded by asking "all Argentinians" to demand justice and by demanding that "the Argentine government, in this, its 50th year of friendship with Israel, do everything to capture those who destroyed a part of Israel and a part of Argentina."

In Israel, Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon called on the government of Argentina, "despite the difficulties and the time which has passed, to take every possible measure to find those guilty of this crime."

Sharon linked the embassy bombing to the "protracted struggle of over 100 years against Arab and Palestinian extremist terrorism," which "continues to strike at us in Israel, the Middle East and throughout the world."

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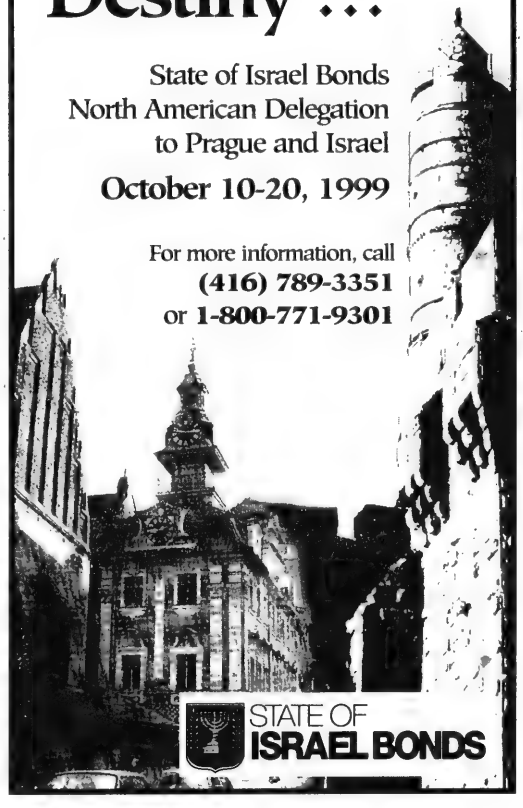

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Haredi soldier shows friend a piece of military equipment he has mastered. **[Israel photo]**

30 Haredim join IDF

By AVI MACHLIS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

TEL AVIV — At a lonely base in the northern Jordan Valley, a group of young devout men have replaced their black coats and Talmuds with army green and M-16 rifles.

Unlike the average Israeli trainee, they pray after the morning jog, have a daily Torah study session, eat in the army's only glatt kosher mess hall and serve on an all-male base. But since January, these young men – like all other Israeli draftees their age – are heeding the orders barked by their drill sergeants.

By choosing to serve instead of study the Torah full-time, they have broken a taboo in the haredi, community on an issue that has been at the heart of religious-secular tensions for decades. And when their five-month training course ends, the haredi infantrymen will be deployed on active duty.

"This group will become the flag-bearers for their entire community," says Yehuda Duvdevani, head of the Defence Ministry's Nahal and national missions division, who founded the program.

"They will show the community that those who are studying should study in yeshiva, but those who don't should join the army."

Since the haredi draftees prefer to remain anonymous, the Israel Defence Force does not allow journalists to visit the training camp. But in an interview with JTA, Duvdevani, 54, shared the story of how this historic group of soldiers was established.

He says the army is making a serious effort to understand the special needs of potential haredi soldiers and to create a framework that could bridge the widening religious-secular gulf.

The issue dates back to Israel's independence. Believing the haredi community would wither away, David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, agreed to exempt 400 yeshiva students from military service.

In subsequent decades, yeshivas have grown and now boast more than 72,000 students. Angry secular Israelis say they have become a haven for draft-dodgers.

In 1996, Yitzhak Mordechai, then-defence minister, appointed Duvdevani, a former senior officer, to head the Nahal division and refocus it to confront challenges facing Israeli society.

For Duvdevani, a secular Jew, this mission was personal as well. In the battle of Latrun in the 1948 War of Independence, Duvdevani's father commanded hundreds of religious and secular new immigrants who arrived in the newly established Jewish state just days before being sent to the front.

Scores were killed in the battle, including Duvdevani's father, who was missing in action until last year.

"My father laid out the path for me," says Duvdevani. "In the army, we are one nation, with one destiny and one mission."

After meeting haredi rabbis, Knesset members and yeshiva students, Duvdevani realized that hundreds of young fervently Orthodox men were not studying in yeshivas, but were hanging out on the streets. "I told the haredi leaders that at least, they should let those boys who don't study enlist in the army," said Duvdevani.

After months of recruiting, a group of 30 young men recently agreed to enlist. The army chose a base, kashered the kitchen and barred women soldiers. Most of the staff who volunteered to train the Haredim were modern Orthodox Jews who understood the group's special needs.

Still, a few problems arose. One soldier complained that it was difficult to concentrate on morning prayers after the morning run. Since some soldiers' parents don't even know they have volunteered, some of the recruits take off their uniforms before returning home for weekend leave.

Yet according to Duvdevani, the fervently Orthodox soldiers salute the Israeli flag – a symbol of the secular Jewish state scorned by their community – during morning and evening roll calls.

Despite this symbol of allegiance, the rabbis' worst fears have not materialized. "The rabbis were afraid" the recruits would "lose their religion if they join the army," says Duvdevani.

"The irony is that some of them had stopped putting on tefillin before they were drafted, and now they are coming back to religion."

The army is also helping the recruits improve their math and English skills. "We want to give them something to go out to the world with," says Duvdevani.

It is still too early to say whether the program will have a lasting impact on the haredi community, but Duvdevani is confident that it will slowly usher in an acceptance of the army as a legitimate alternative for young haredi men.

"Not all of the rabbis agree with this initiative. But I'm sure that if this works, those that don't agree will start to realize that this is good for their community," says Duvdevani. "I want to build a bridge between the religious and secular worlds. What is at stake is the unity of Israel."

Is Arafat losing control of the streets?

By GIL SEDAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Is Yasser Arafat losing his grip on power? The sight of Palestinians protesting against Palestinians two weeks ago in the streets of Gaza – where police shot and killed two protesters and the air hung thick with the smoke of burning tires – prompted some to wonder whether Arafat had a full-blown intifada on his hands.

Analysis

But while most observers believe that Arafat's grip remains intact for now, the protests provided a dramatic reminder of the deep frustrations that periodically boil to the surface of Palestinian society.

"This is not yet an intifada against Arafat," Res. Col. Shalom Harari, a former Arab affairs adviser at Israel's Defense Ministry, said, using the term for uprising.

"But it means that if Arafat goes, the street may be ripe for a military coup against the present ruling establishment."

Along with the frustrations among his people over the lack of progress in the peace process, Arafat has to contend with the frequently violent internecine strife involving local clans.

But perhaps most dangerous of all is the deep resentment felt by the Palestinian masses regarding what they perceive as a corrupt judicial system.

It was this sense – that an arrogant ruling elite is regularly dispensing injustice in the Palestinian courts – which brought the crowds into the streets last week for two consecutive days of violent demonstrations.

The protests erupted after a Palestinian court handed down a death sentence in a politically charged murder case.

The March 10 sentence had been imposed on Raed Attar for the slaying last month of policeman Rifat Joudeh.

To protest the verdict, members of Attar's family marched in the southern Gaza town of Rafah, where they protested outside the local headquarters of the Palestinian police.

The police opened fire to disperse the crowd – and when the smoke cleared, two Arab teenagers lay dead on the streets.

Arafat, who has the final say on death sentences, subsequently bowed to public pressure and agreed to review Attar's case. He also ordered the release of all those involved in the protests.

Raed al-Attar, 25, screams out in a Palestinian court as he is restrained by Palestinian security officials after being sentenced to die on March 10 for the killing of a Palestinian policeman in February. [RNS/Reuters]

Some observers said Arafat had no choice in the matter.

"I would regard this as an act of submission," Palestinian human rights activist Bassem Id said in an interview. "Arafat is giving in to the street.

"He simply runs the business without a proper legal system," he said, echoing a familiar Palestinian complaint that the legal system is totally dependent on Arafat's executive powers.

"We don't need a revolution," he added. "The laws are all there, they only need to be executed properly and consistently."

To accomplish this, Id called for the appointment of a respected independent judge to head the Palestinian judicial system.

Palestinians have long been complaining about the swift, summary sentences dispensed by the Palestinian courts.

Last year, two Palestinian security officials who killed two agents of another agency – and who belonged to a different clan – were executed, with Arafat's approval, after a trial that lasted only a few hours.

And last month, a Palestinian colonel who had been convicted of rape was executed by a firing squad on the night the sentence was issued.

Palestinians have long complained that security officials act as if they are above the law, that they treat the local population as they please. Police officers enter homes without court orders and carry out searches without any legal authority, critics charge.

In addition, critics complain, the judicial system is subservient to political expediency.

According to Id, some 400 political prisoners have been languishing in Palestinian jails for more than two years without trial.

Critics further charge that the absence of the rule of law goes far beyond political differences, noting that even tax offenders are frequently jailed without trial.

Compounding the situation are the large number of security agencies operating without any clear-cut distinctions regarding mission or responsibility.

There are at least eight different security agencies working for the Palestinian Authority, with members often belonging to rival clans.

What emerged from Attar's trial is that the two co-defendants, who were convicted but not sentenced to death, were members of one of the security agencies. But there were also claims that they were members of Hamas. In any event, all three were on Israel's wanted list.

Some observers believe that Arafat is devoting too much time to the peace process – particularly whether to declare Palestinian statehood in May – at the expense of pressing domestic social issues.

"Arafat spends most of his time trying to revive the peace process, or thinking about May 4," said Id, who charged that the Palestinian leader "lacks the proper infrastructure to create a state."

The Palestine Liberation Organization's governing bodies are expected to meet next month in the self-rule areas to decide whether Arafat should unilaterally declare Palestinian statehood in May.

The 125-member central committee and the 18-member executive committee are expected to review the recommendations from American and European leaders that Arafat postpone the declaration past May 4, the end of the interim period in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations under the terms of the Oslo accords.

Meanwhile, Arafat finds himself not only contending with the resentments of the Palestinian public, but also engaging in an ongoing sparring match with human-rights groups and Palestinian legislators.

Earlier this month, a human rights group based in the West Bank town of Ramallah said complaints by Palestinian citizens against the Palestinian Authority nearly doubled last year.

The Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens Rights dealt with 825 complaints last year, an increase of 97 percent from 1997, according to its annual report.

Haidar Abdel Shafi, the group's commissioner, blamed the increase on the absence of checks on the Palestinian Authority's power.

A similar criticism has repeatedly been sounded by the Palestinian legislative council, which has often complained about its lack of real power.

Since its establishment three years ago, the Palestinian legislature has enacted 59 laws, but only nine have received Arafat's necessary signature.

Relations between Arafat and the legislature further eroded when Palestinian lawmakers revealed two years ago the presence of widespread corruption among some of Arafat's ministers.

Arafat, who had not been personally linked to the allegations, promised at the time to clean up shop, but little was done and some of the same corrupt ministers remain in power.

Critics of the Palestinian leader say Arafat should act soon to deal with the many criticisms confronting his government, warning that the continued frustrations coming from so many sectors of Palestinian society constitute a ticking time bomb.

The critics warn, that with Hamas and other rejectionist groups waiting in the wings, a failure to confront the sources of social tension could one day explode in Arafat's face.

The body of teenager Ala al-Hams is carried through the streets of Rafah in the Gaza Strip during his funeral March 10, shortly after he was shot dead by Palestinian police. [RNS/Reuters photo]

Yasser Arafat

Travel, Arts & Business

Actress wedded to her part

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — Sarah Meltzer is getting married today...and tomorrow. On the weekend she'll be tying the knot three more times and then she'll be at alter again next week and the week after that.

The Toronto-born actress is starring in *Tony n' Tina's Wedding*, an interactive comedy about an Italian wedding that goes disastrously wrong. It opened on Feb. 10 for an indefinite run at Vinnie Black's Chapel of Love at 56 Blue Jay Way.

Meltzer said that she told her mother that she was getting married "over and over and over again," when she got the part of Tina. "She was thrilled...It was really funny.

"I'm 26. I'm not married. And of course my mother would like for me to get married. So when I got the part she said she hoped that wasn't the only time she was going to see me as a bride."

Ironically, she landed the lead, her first role in professional theatre, a week after she made a full commitment to acting; she had decided against going to graduate school for psychology, she said.

Acting was always her first love, but she had studied psychology "to have something to fall back on," she explained. "I decided to concentrate on a full-time acting career.

"I didn't want anything else to fall back on...I committed myself to what I truly wanted to do. I think that's why I got the part."

Meltzer said that there are many parallels between herself and Tina: they are both strong willed, they each have one brother, both women had lost their fathers, and although Tina is Italian, Meltzer feels that there is an affinity between Jewish and Italian families.

Meltzer described the play as interactive dinner theatre; the audience members are the guests at the wedding. They attend the ceremony, pass through the reception line to congratulate the wedding party and they attend the reception where they dance and dine at a buffet dinner.

All the while, they have the opportunity to interact with the actors and become part of the show.

"The more the audience participates, the more fun everyone else has because you're working off them," Meltzer said.

"They allow themselves to enter the world of your wedding. You pull them or some volunteer to come up on stage. Some people really get into it.

"You have to do what happens in the night with the audience and that makes it different every night."

And that entails a lot of improvisational work, experience Meltzer accumulated during her university years.

Sarah Meltzer will have plenty of experience when she gets married.

At the University of Western Ontario, she organized her own improv troupe in second year and when she later transferred to York University where more theatre courses were available, she continued to hone her improvisational skills.

Meltzer, who grew up in North York, said she had wanted to act since the age of six. She got her start during elementary school through dramatic productions at the Beth Emeth Synagogue.

In high school, she studied drama and was involved in school productions. At 17 she had a small speaking part on *ENG*, a drama on CTV. She was also auditioning for commercials and had two national spots when she was 20.

When the opportunity to try out for *Tina'n Tony's Wedding* came up, Meltzer said she was determined to get the part of Tina.

After auditioning, she called the director and creator – U.S. comedien Jay Leggett, who starred in *In living Color* – but she ended up speaking with producer Andrew Alexander, head honcho of Second City.

"I said I really think I can do this part. If I didn't show my potential of doing this part, then call me in again to audition. I didn't realize I'd be saying it in person [instead of an answering machine].

"I wanted to set myself apart from the others. I wanted to stand out. Next day I got a call back. I re-auditioned. I was nervous, but I was committed.

She said her agent called her with the good news the following day. "He said, "How would you like to play Tina in Second City?' I yelled and my mother came running in."

Neither of them "realized the magnitude of the part and how much publicity it would get," Meltzer said. "Now when I go down to the Eaton Centre there are posters of the play everywhere.

"It's really interesting seeing my picture appear all the time...I feel really proud of myself."

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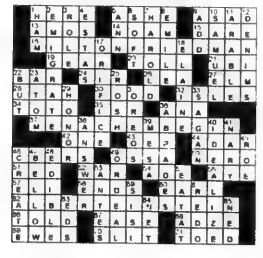

Hungarian Holocaust documented

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The Nazis left Hungary's Jews for last. On March 19, 1944, the German army marched into Hungary, and on May 15, the first transport of Hungarian Jews rolled into Auschwitz. Within about six weeks, more than 400,000 Hungarian Jews were murdered.

The Last Days, the first feature documentary from Steven Spielberg's Shoah Visual History Foundation, chronicles this tragedy primarily through the eyes of five survivors of the Holocaust in Hungary. It opens on March 26 at the Cineplex Odeon chain

Directed by James Moll, *The Last Days* is an impressive cinematic achievement. The testimonies are stark, the narrative flows and the file footage, some never seen before, is indelibly haunting.

The witnesses are Tom Lantos, the first Holocaust survivor to be elected to the United States Congress; Alice Lok Cahana, who for decades searched for information about her sister's fate; Renee Firestone, whose inspiring spirit lights up the screen; Bill Basch, who had no alternative but to sacrifice a friend to save himself; and Irene Zisblatt, who repeatedly risked her life to preserve a family keepsake.

Lantos, born in Budapest, managed to evade his tormentors because of his "Aryan" coloring. The ordeal took a heavy toll on him. "I was 16, but I was very old," he observes.

Lok Cahana, from Budapest as well, was separated from her older sister, Edith, when they arrived in Auschwitz. The story of Lok Cahana's search for her sister rivets a viewer.

Firestone, from the town of Uzhorod, which is now in Ukraine, lost her childhood in Auschwitz.

Basch, who was raised in a village in the Carpathian Mountains, was herded into a cattle car bound for Buchenwald.

Zisblatt, whose Czech town of Poleno was annexed by Hungary, was the subject of a medical experiment in Auschwitz.

Remarkably enough, one of the German doctors who performed these ghastly experiments, Hans Munch, appears on screen. He comes across as distant and evasive.

Another person whose heartbreaking story we hear is that of a Greek Jew who witnessed the Final Solution in Auschwitz "from A to Z." This man, a worker in the crematoriums, warned a friend how to best prepare himself for death in the gas chamber. After the victim was gassed, he washed the body, then placed it in an oven to be burned. In the kingdom of death, this might have been considered a kindness!

Renee Firestone

As *The Last Days* unfolds, Randolph Braham, a historian who specializes in the Hungarian Holocaust, provides telling details about its implementation.

Continued on page 67

Concert features Burl's work

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The music of the late Gershon Burl, a pioneer violinist with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, (TSO) came alive recently at Holy Blossom Temple.

His Russian-themed *Solove* (Nightingale Fantasy), completed by his son Bill Berle, highlighted a Chai Tea sponsored by the Friends of Yiddish, attended by 120 in the Phillip Smith Hall.

Berle, 74, who led a 16-piece orchestra in playing the three-part number, told *The CJN* that his lifelong ambition was to complete the work based on Russian folk songs that his father heard in Odessa.

Gershon Burl, who taught music to a large number of Jewish young people in Toronto, joined the TSO in 1925 as one of its first Jewish musicians.

The soloist was violinist Lance Ouellette, 20, a New Brunswick native, born of a Filipino mother and a French-Canadian father. In the final part of *Solove*, Ouellette's instrument mimicked the song and actions of a nightingale.

Among the musicians, all of whom volunteered their time for five weeks of rehearsal for the concert, were veteran violinists Samuel Barsh, Julius Goodman and Dave Colpitts, all Berle contemporaries.

Another guest artist was Berle's son, pianist Paul Mathew, who played a medley of numbers by well-known composers.

The concert included original compositions from Berle's album *Winds of the Negev*.

The same orchestra will play *Solove* at Pride of Israel Synagogue on April 4 at 2 p.m.

In the past few years, Berle has led a four-piece klezmer band which plays music during the cocktail hour and dinner at bnei/bnot mitzvah and weddings, which, he says, "adults can enjoy." He leaves the rest of the evening to the disc jockeys.

Berle, who also has three daughters and 19 grandchildren, still plays violin with the 80-piece York Symphony Orchestra which is playing an evening of music dedicated to Jewish composers May 31 at Leah Posluns Theatre.

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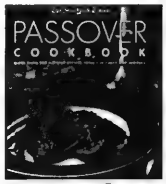

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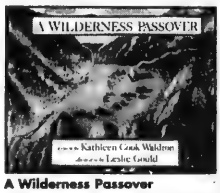

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Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

YOU SAW THE MOVIE, NOW BUY THE HAGADDAH

Dreamworks, the Hollywood studio that recently produced *The Prince of Egypt*, an animated musical about the Exodus, has published an 88-page full-color Haggadah with more than 100 vivid illustrations from the cinematic epic.

A highlight of the book is a centre spread of the parting of the sea "that makes you feel as if you are in the middle of the movie," said 73-year-old artist **Michel Schwartz**, who adds that the book offers many intriguing questions designed to pique the curiosity and interest of modern readers.

According to **Robin Bergart** of Israel's Books & Gift on Eglinton Avenue, the Dreamworks Haggadah is one of several new commercial publishing ventures into the Passover market. There is also a Haggadah featuring characters from the movie *Rugrats*, and a Passover comic book involving characters from *The Adventures of Mendy*, a Canadian-drawn comic strip featured in the Kids pages of *The CJN*.

Roll over Moses and Aaron!

* * *

Music and Theatre Notes

• Singers **Stella Walker** and **Dave Wall** and pianist **Sageev Oore** join together to present *Nu? A Concert of New Songs in Yiddish*, March 27, 8 p.m. at the Music Gallery, 179 Richmond St. W., Toronto $10. 204-1080.

• **The York Symphony Orchestra** performs Great Romantics, including **Grieg's** *Peer Gynt*, **Strauss'** *Horn concerto No. 1* and the majestic *Brahms Symphony No. 2*. Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. at the Newmarket Theatre (905-953-5122) and Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m. at the Markham Theatre (905-305-7469).

• **Lachan Jewish Chamber Choir** and the **Beth Tikvah Choir** present a Gala Passover/Spring Concert with the **Festival String Quartet**, conducted by **Benjamin Maissner** and **Srul Irving Glick**. Leah Posluns Theatre, April 4, 8 p.m. $15. 787-0393 or 221-3433.

• Belmont Theatre Productions presents *Cabaret*, starring **Sylvia Lennick**, at the Ford Studio Theatre, 5040 Yonge St., April 7 to 17. $18-$16. 870-8000.

• **Toronto Senior Strings**, with conductor **Victor Feldbrill** and concertmaster **Jascha Milkis**, performs works by **Arne**, **Tartini**, **Glick** and others. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, King and Simcoe Streets, April 15, 2 p.m. Wheelchair accessible. $12 at the door. 769-5971.

* * *

Art from Terezin: The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, along with the Centre for Russian and East European studies and the Embassy of the Czech Republic presents *Motyli tady neziji (Butterflies Don't Live Here Anymore)*, an exhibition of children's drawings from the Terezin ghetto. Until March 31. Robarts Library, 130 St. George St., first floor.

* * *

Books and Bagels: From Memory to Transformation – Jewish Women's Voices is the literary program unfolding at the Bloor JCC on March 28, 11 a.m. The series of three readings features highlights from an anthology of articles first presented in a 1996 Jewish feminist conference.

Presenters are **Susan G. Cole** on Another Four Questions: Nurturing a Jewish Lesbian Family, **Greta Hofmann Nemiroff** on A Feminist, First: Speculations of a Secular Jew, and **Sarah Silberstein Swartz** on Return to Poland: In Search of My Parents' Memories.

This literary brunch, featuring coffee and bagels, is free for members and costs $8 for non-members. 924-6211.

* * *

Israel Notes

• Her Mouth is Full of Wisdom – Women, Religion and Learning, an exhibition highlighting the changing status of Jewish women in religious practice and learning, is on view in the Floersheim Museum of Jewish Art and Judaica, on the campus of Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel, until June.

• The first official cultural loan from an Islamic country to a museum in Israel opened recently at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. Magical Looms: Ottoman carpets from the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts, Istanbul, features 51 carpets from Turkey, from the 13th century to the present. The exhibit highlights the importance and history of carpet weaving in Islamic culture. Until mid-June.

Rescuers' stories told

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

A few years ago Barbra Streisand decided to undertake a series of one hour dramas based on the powerful book, *Rescuers: Portraits of Moral Courage in the Holocaust.*

With her partner, Cis Corman, Streisand produced this series of films specifically for broadcast on the Showtime cable network in the United States.

Six of these films are now available on video and they all deal with Righteous Gentiles. Each cassette contains two films.

The first video, titled *Rescuers: Stories of Courage — Two Women*, opens the series with powerful stories about two courageous women.

Both films were directed by noted filmmaker Peter Bogdanovich. His mother, a Jew, was saved by her Greek Orthodox husband who arranged visas to bring her to America in 1939. As a result, Bogdanovich felt a personal responsibility in seeing these stories brought to the screen.

The first film, *Mamusha*, focuses on Gertruda Babilinska (played by Elizabeth Perkins), a Polish nanny employed by the Stolowitsky family.

When the war breaks out, Mr. Stolowitsky disappears and the mother decides to take her young son to another city for greater safety. Gertruda insists on accompanying the family, and when the mother dies, Gertruda follows the mother's wishes, and raises the boy as a Jew.

Woman on a Bicycle, the second film on this cassette, tells the story of Marie-Rose Gineste (Sela Ward), a single woman employed by her church in a small town in France. She helps counterfeit identity papers for Jewish refugees and even hides some of them in her own home.

The second casette in the series, *Rescuers: Stories of Courage – Two Couples*, begins with *Aart ad Hoht Je Vos*, a newly-wed couple (played by Dana Delany and Martin Donovan) who turn their house in the Dutch countryside into a hideaway for fleeing Jewish refugees.

Marie Taquet (Linda Hamilton) and her husband (Alfred Molina) run a Catholic school for children of Belgian prisoners of war and use this school to hide young Jewish boys.

The final cassette in this series is called *Rescuers: Stories of Courage – Two Families*. *Malka Csizmadia* (Robin Tunney) is a teenager who enlists her mother and two sisters in a mission to help a group of Jewish refugees escape the prison camp behind their home.

In *We Are Circus*, a husband and wife team of circus owners in Germany (played by Tim Matheson and Daryl Hannah) use their operation to hide a family of Jewish circus performers.

All of these stories are touching tales about compassionate people who risked their own lives and the lives of their families to save Jewish lives.

Many of these films were produced in the Toronto area and a number of well-known-Canadian actors can be spotted in supporting roles, including Al Waxman and Theresa Tova.

These three videos were released by Paramount Home Video and should be available in video stores throughout the country. If your video retailer does not have any copies, ask him to order them from his distributor.

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E-Commerce mission to Israel opens eyes

By JAMES PASTERNAK
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Although no deals were signed, the recent Canadian E-Commerce trade mission to Israel met the expectations of participants.

Canadian companies looking to develop and enhance new technologies in Internet business applications, recently returned from an intensive trade mission to Israel.

E-Commerce involved seven Canadian companies who confirmed the view that to profit in cyber commerce, doing business in Israel is essential.

The seven participants were Cebra Inc., Insurance Information Centre, EC-Gate, The Xenox Group Inc., Canada Post Systems Management, Ericsson and Unican.

"The trade mission was so successful that we are looking to do five or six more of them in the next year and a half," said Renah Persofsky, president of Cebra Inc.

The five-day mission provided little time for sightseeing and relaxing around the hotel pool. Israeli organizers had set up a rigorous regime of meetings between Canadian and Israeli firms. Canadians also attended related seminars organized by the Israel Export Institute (a mission organizer and sponsor) and visited the trade fair, Internet World '99.

Israeli trade officials arranged industry specific meetings between the Canadian participants and Israeli firms. The discussions involved companies interested in the latest advances in Internet and Intranet applications.

Included were speaker authentication applications, video-conference technology, e-mail security systems, illustration software for the life insurance industry and new advances in virtual sales applications. There were also discussions about resolving the psychological block of many consumers in conducting electronic commerce.

While no deals have been announced, signs indicate that the mission will produce results.

"I think it's premature to have deals signed," said Persofsky. "But I believe there will be deals signed. Xenox was working on some specific deals. We found some technology that we're negotiating with a company right now."

Persofsky was particularly impressed with many of the advances made by Israeli companies.

"We had a belief that the technology in Israel was good. What we found out was that it was better than we thought, especially in security systems on the Internet. We were extremely impressed. It was comparable to the best in the world," said Persofsky.

Yael Varsano-Barzilay.

The size of the delegation is reflective of the new approach Israeli officials are taking in enhancing commerce between Israel and Canada.

Yael Varsano-Barzilay, Israel trade commissioner to Canada, said large trade delegations with businesses in several industries are impressive; however, a more focused approach could in fact produce better results and provide more opportunities for trade mission sponsorship and funding.

"We feel that it is best to concentrate on a sector-oriented approach. This has been encouraged, and sectoral approaches receive better funding. While more general approaches are good public relations, if you really want to do business it should be on a sectoral approach. People don't have time for generalities," said Varsano-Barzilay.

Israel is known in the industry for its expertise. The country "is on the verge of becoming one of the leading lights in the high tech age." Malcolm S.Forbes, Jr., editor-in-chief of *Forbes* magazine, has written.

Israeli companies, either in joint ventures or on their own, have developed leading edge technologies in interactive multimedia display on the Internet, modem technology and Internet programming languages, among others.

Hungary's *Last Days*

Continued from page 65

Two American soldiers who liberated Dachau, where some Hungarian Jews ended up, also recall their experiences. The first was shaken profoundly by the sight of 40 box cars stuffed with corpses. The second shot a German soldier after he spat in his face.

Their stories are powerful and viewers will not likely forget them. But *The Last Days* really belongs to Lantos, Lok Cahana, Firestone, Basch and Zisblatt, whose affecting and succinct observations endow it with depth, passion and continuity.

Judging by their reminiscences, the vast majority of Hungarian Jews were intensely patriotic and never imagined that such atrocities would occur in Hungary. Yet when the crunch came, supposed neighbors turned hostile and Jews were "hunted like animals."

Cattle cars, bursting at the seams with Jewish deportees, reeking of feces and resounding with the screams of terrified children, rattled into Auschwitz, disgorging the hapless victims. Often, one of the witnesses recalls, Jews were sent straight from the trains to the gas chambers, with no official records of their deaths being compiled.

Certain vignettes are unforgettable: a frightened girl catches a last glimpse of her father as tears roll down his cheeks; a brutal guard slams a child against a truck, instantly killing him or her.

Yet *The Last Days* is not uniformly grim. Lantos and the others, having triumphantly rebuilt their lives in America, return to the scenes of the crime to gain a sense of closure. But one wonders whether closure is possible when the blood has barely dried.

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Current *Parchment* dedicated to Israel's 50th

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

With all the visibility of the prophet Eliyahu, the literary journal *Parchment* slips quietly each year into the homes and minds of hundreds of readers across Canada, as well as to a smaller number in the United States and Israel.

At 165 pages, the seventh annual (1998-99) issue of the only journal devoted to Canadian Jewish writing is roughly one-third larger than in previous years. Featuring the colors of the Israeli flag on its cover, the current *Parchment* is dedicated to the state of Israel on its 50th anniversary.

In keeping with previous issues, a significant portion of the content focuses on the Jewish state, past and present, sometimes from a uniquely Canadian perspective. Other central themes of the nine stories and roughly 30 poems in the current issue include Jewish religious life and society, and the Holocaust.

Despite the presence in the current issue of several well-known contributors, such as Canadians Chava Rosenfarb and Jack Kuper, and Polish Nobel Prize winner Wislawa Szymborska, *Parchment* still maintains a muted, steadfast existence in the world of Canadian Jewish letters.

The publication has somewhere between 350 and 400 subscribers, which is considered respectable for a literary journal but seems paltry when compared to Canada's Jewish population of some 300,000.

Editor Adam Fuerstenberg says he has hopes of increasing the circulation into the 700 to 1,000 range.

"Unless you're a famous Jewish writer like Mordecai Richler or Matt Cohen, it's hard to get writing on Jewish themes published in this country," Fuerstenberg said. "Right now, *Parchment* is the only game in town. It's the only journal of contemporary Canadian Jewish writing; so the community should nurture it."

Previous issues of *Parchment* have contained many diamonds in the rough.

The 1997-98 issue, for example, included a segment by Toronto author Morley Torgov from his novel-in-progress, *The War to End All Wars*, recently published by Malcolm Lester Books. The same issue also featured the story by Ottawa scribe Gabriella Goliger that shared the $10,000 Journey Prize. And it presented a story by Toronto writer Lilian Nattel, whose first novel, *The River Midnight*, is now winning international critical acclaim.

The latest *Parchment* also carries contributions from J.J. Steinfeld, Robin McGrath, Emil Sher, Kenneth Sherman, Ruth Panofsky and Jay Brodbar, and numerous others.

The pieces range from ordinary to surprisingly excellent. The journal also features two other important lists of names – its impressive advisory board, and the equally impressive list of benefactors, patrons, sponsors and donors who help keep *Parchment* alive.

"We depend primarily on subscribers and on the generosity of donors," Fuerstenberg said. "I'm hoping that anyone who cares about and wants to support Jewish writing in Canada should become a subscriber."

Subscription rates are $12 for one year, $20 for two years. Subscriptions, as well as manuscript submissions, should be sent to Parchment, Centre for Jewish Studies, Vanier 260, York University, 4700 Keele St., North York, Ont. M3J 1P3.

Star Shine for kids

TORONTO — Star Shine Production's first season focuses on children's musical theatre. Leading the program is the dynamic, original production *Star Shine*.

This youthful and innovative work was written by newcomer Avishai Adiv with music by Paul Kates. It deals with issues like coming of age, racism and self-acceptance.

The play will run March 24 to March 27 at 7 p.m., with special matinees followed by a question and answer period on March 26 to 29 at 1 p.m.

Star Shine is produced independently as a thesis project for the technical production program at Ryerson Polytechnic University. The creative team for the project includes hot upcoming choreographers, directors, producers, actors, singers and dancers graduating this spring.

All involved are dedicated and committed to producing a high-quality children's play accessible to all ages who want to support a team ready to emerge into Toronto's entertainment scene.

Star Shine runs at the Poor Alex Theatre at 296 Brunswick Ave. at Bloor and Bathurst. Tickets are $8 for students and children and $12 for adults. Groups of 15 or more are $6 a ticket.

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To be considered for this challenging role, please forward your resume quoting **File #99-030** by **March 31, 1999**, to *The City of Vaughan, Human Resources Department, 2141 Major Mackenzie Dr., Vaughan, Ontario L6A 1T1. Fax: (905) 832-8575. We thank all applicants, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.*

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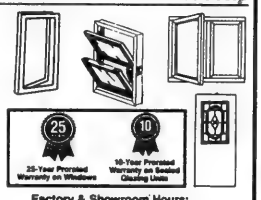

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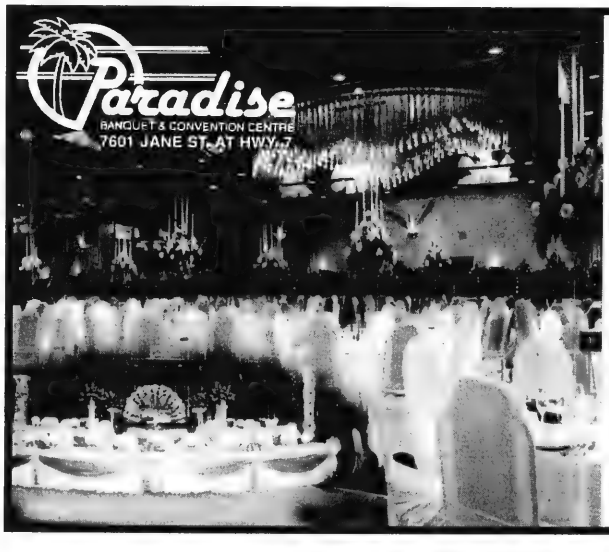

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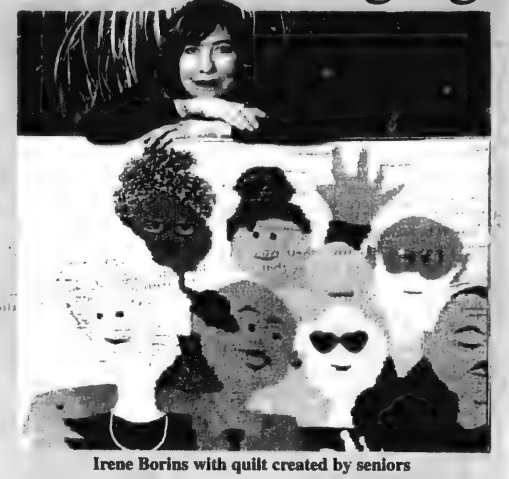
Geriatric social worker explores richness of aging

By IRENE BORINS
Special to The CJN



Irene Borins with quilt created by seniors

In honor of the 1999 global celebration of the United Nations International Year of Older Persons, as well as the 25th anniversary of St. Clair West Services for Seniors, where I work, I began to reflect on my professional life.

I am a geriatric social worker, and since graduating from Yeshiva University 12 years ago, I have spent most of my time working with the elderly.

In return for any help I may have given the seniors, they have taught me an overwhelming amount and have certainly enriched my professional and personal life.

So much literature focuses on the losses that seniors experience – the physical, as well as the psychological. But I prefer to look at the richness and beauty of aging. The potential of an older adult is unlimited, if a healthy attitude is nurtured.

I have asked myself over and over why some seniors have incredibly positive attitudes, even if they have had difficult lives, while others wallow in self pity about every loss, ache and pain they experience.

There are seniors who are filled with joy and love. They have a sense of purpose. Their lives are rich, and they are fulfilled. But others waste precious years, withdrawing inward, instead of reaching out to the world around them.

People who have confronted their own losses in the life cycle are able to see beyond their own needs. They are capable of being sensitive to the needs of others – family members, friends, acquaintances their community.

Some aging people remain stuck in the narrow ethics of self-centred individualism, but the challenge of aging can become an opportunity for personal and spiritual growth.

I will cite one example, a woman who was able to grow spiritually, in spite of having lost her family in the Holocaust. She was able to cope with the death of her husband and her daughter-in-law, who died a short while before he did.

This woman was a joy to be with. I asked her how she could have such a healthy attitude, after suffering such loss and pain in her life.

She said she had found personal meaning for herself. She focused on helping other people without looking for praise or recognition for her deeds. Out of this she received a tremendous amount of joy, inner peace and self-satisfaction. She always shared what she had and what she knew with others. She said she was never jealous and she had no regrets in her life. She was in touch with her inner spirit and was able to find inner peace, despite the pain she had suffered in her life.

As people age, it is important for them to become aware of how they will be remembered. What will family and friends say about who a person was in his or her lifetime? Will their legacy be one of love, or one of self-centred individualism?

What can we do to create a meaningful journey in the time we have left to us? Time is precious. It is a gift when it used well. People often have more time in their senior years than during their youth.

Imagine having time to share with family or friends. Imagine being able to nurture relationships with grandchildren. Many seniors have resolved their anger over the years and developed insight and awareness. It is important to take time to share this wisdom with others.

Imagine having the time to develop a hobby. I had the opportunity last winter to visit South Africa with my 75-year-old mother. I met a woman who is 74, and she is now teaching me photography. She improves her photography skills as she ages, and she is eager to share her knowledge and skills with others.

Having the time to take courses is another gift. Teaching younger people skills can also be a gift to the student, one that will enrich the life of the senior as well.

Reminiscing can be important too — sharing thoughts and memories with children and grandchildren. Often these memories will endure beyond the life of the senior.

Volunteering is a way seniors can share their wisdom with others. I once met a man at a volunteer recognition reception, whose face was covered with bandages. His nose had been eaten away by cancer, but this did not stop him from helping others. While outwardly he was visibly deformed, his inner core – his heart and soul – were intact. He still had strength and compassion for others.

I believe every older person needs a project. It can be a longstanding interest or something completely new. It should be one that is challenging, but not so big as to be disheartening. Create a purpose for yourself, and share it with others.

I admire men and women who accept age as a series of challenges. Each problem can be seen as an obstacle to overcome. Each obstacle can be seen as a victory worth rejoicing over.

So let's all — old and young – celebrate the International Year of Older Persons.

BIRTHING CENTRE

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recently praised the work of Shaare Zedek Medical Centre's Woman and Infant Centre, which opened last year. The new facility expects to cater to up to 750 births each month. Among the many woman at the centre was Levana, 40, who gave birth to her first baby after 22 years of trying. She is seen here with her daughter.

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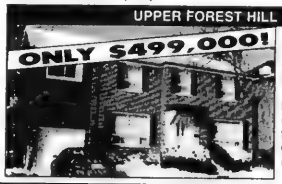

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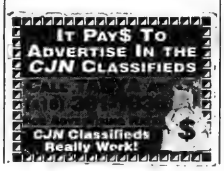

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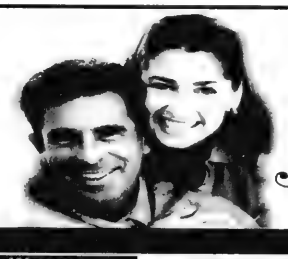

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Single female, 40's, Orthodox, kind, caring, friendly, helpful, outgoing, enjoy travelling, dining out, movies. Seeking an Orthodox male, educated, intelligent, kind, caring, easy going, honest, outgoing, attractive, employed, with a good sense of humour. AD#1930

BRIGHT
Single female, 57, slim, non smoker, enjoy life theater, walks, movies, travelling, dining out, good conversations. Seeking a bright male, 50's, honest, financially secure, non smoker, with similar interests. AD#1934

LIVELY
Single Jewish female, attractive, 31, brown hair & eyes, enjoy music, dining out, theater, long walks. Seeking a kind hearted male, 35-45, who loves life, lives life to the fullest, a positive person, likes to travel. AD#1938

LOVES LIFE
Single female, professional, 29, 5'3", attractive, enjoy live, movies, theater, outdoors. Seeking a male, 28-37, financially and emotionally stable. AD#1951

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single female, retired, professional, attractive, kind, intelligent, traditional values, seeking a male, 68+, kind, educated, for lasting relationship and companionship. AD#1950

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single female, 35, 5'4", slim, attractive, brunette, true romantic, enjoy movies, theater, reading, dining & dancing, ethnic foods, weekend getaways. Seeking a male, 35-44, romantic, sensitive, intelligent, handsome, attractive, inside and out. AD#1916

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single Jewish female, 36, slime, cute, petite, confident, enjoy dining & dancing, music, movies, long walks, good conversation. Seeking a single Jewish male, 35-40, spontaneous, down to earth, ambitious, for serious relationship leading to marriage and children. AD#1917

HEART OF GOLD
Single Jewish female, 58, speak only Yiddish and Russian, brown eyes and hair. Seeking a single Jewish male, 60-70, kind, and well established. AD#1919

LIFE LONG PARTNER
Single female, 35, slim, attractive, a true romantic, enjoy theater, movies, and weekend getaways. Seeking a male, 35-43, who is intelligent, and attractive, inside and out. AD#1902

FRIEND OR LOVER
Single female, 38, dark hair, blue eyes, nice smile, a real people person. Kindergarten teacher, family oriented, down to earth, enjoy movies, live theater. Seeking a male, down to earth, with similar interests for serious relationship. AD#1887

WEEKEND GET AWAYS
Single female, 35, 5'4", brunette, slim, attractive, sensitive, romantic, intelligent, enjoy dining out, movies, reading, theater, weekend getaways. Seeking a sensitive, romantic male, 35-43, intelligent, attractive on the inside and out. AD#1888

SEEKING LIFE PARTNER
Single Jewish female, 39, petite, non smoker, never been married, down to earth, quiet, have a laid back lifestyle. Seeking a good hearted male, 37-42, who enjoys oldies music and Bingo. AD#1863

FUNNY AND WARM
Divorced female, 52, intelligent, financially independent, warm, funny, enjoy dining in & out, long walks, sports, movies, baseball. Seeking a male, 55+, with similar interests. AD#1879

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single female, 35, 5'4", slim, brunette, attractive, enjoy movies, theater, travelling, ethnic foods, cottage and country life. Seeking a male, 35-43, professional, intelligent, handsome inside and out, a good communicator. AD#1881

LOVES NATURE
Single Jewish female, 42, blue eyes, intelligent, unique, enjoy art, theater, nature, travelling. Seeking a male, between 45-50 yrs, non-smoker, unique and caring. AD#1882

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single female, radiant, smart, sophisticated, compassionate, fun, open, loving, enjoy good food, good conversation, long walks, quiet romantic times. Seeking a male, who is romantic, professional, with traditional values, emotionally and financially stable, and is ready to explore life. AD#1866

DEVELOPING NEW INTEREST
Professional Jewish female, non-smoker, warm, pretty, enjoy dancing, long walks, movies, playing Bridge. Seeking a male, 55+, who is easy going, with similar interests. AD#1867

CANDLE LIGHT DINNERS
Single female, caring, loving, romantic, affectionate, enjoy working out, travelling, candle light dinners. Seeking a male, 45-55, with similar interest. AD#1869

Men seeking Women

GOING OUT FOR COFFEE
Single Jewish male, 5'8", 180lbs, easy to get along with, healthy, down to earth, old fashioned, kind, man of many talents, enjoy art, sports. Seeking a single Jewish female with similar interests. AD#1937

WARM AND CARING
Single white male, 56, self employed, romantic, enjoy travelling, movies, quiet times, good conversations. Seeking a female with similar interests. AD#1933

EASY GOING
Single Jewish male, 41, fun loving, easy going, great sense of humour, enjoy movies, theater, long walks, skiing, skating. Seeking a female, 34-43, with similar interests. AD#1939

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP
Single male, Jewish, professional, late 40's, handsome, intelligent, good sense of humour, caring, sincere, enjoy dining & dancing, movies, good conversation. Seeking a warm hearted female for serious relationship. AD#1945

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single white male, professional, Jewish, computer engineer, good sense of humour, outgoing, gourmet cook, enjoy outdoor activities. Seeking a female for long term, lasting relationship. AD#1944

SENSE OF VALUES
Single Jewish male, smart, intelligent, strong, outgoing, with strong sense of values. Seeking a female, who is fun, trustworthy, 25-32. AD#1921

COLLEGE STUDENT
Single Jewish male, 22, 6'2", college student, enjoy sports, especially golf and baseball, movies, dining out, dancing. Seeking a female, 18-23, with similar interests. AD#1922

LOVING
Single male, 5'10", black hair, green eyes, non smoker or drinker, happy going person, enjoy cooking, dancing, dining out, movies, caring, loving. Seeking a very nice and sincere female with similar interests. AD#1923

LATIN MUSIC
Single Jewish male, 5'6", 147lbs, healthy in body and mind, enjoy Latin music, great outdoors, tennis and fine dining. Seeking an attractive, slim female, with similar interests AD#1906

ATTENTION LADIES!
Single male, professional, mid 50's, Israeli-European background, enjoy walks, movies, dining and dancing. Seeking a female, attractive, petite, down to earth. AD#1470

LONG DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 36, tall, fit, professional, easy going, down to earth, live in Western Canada, enjoy travelling, movies, weekends at the lake. Seeking a Jewish female, active, sincere, outgoing, 25-40, willing to relocate or have a long distance relationship. AD#1886

LASTING LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 46, physically fit, easy going, sincere, hard working, enjoy movies, books, art, dining out. Seeking a female, 30-40, for a lasting relationship. AD#1892

CONSIDERATE
Single Jewish male, strong, fit, athletic, great sense of humour. Seeking a female, 30-40, who is nice and considerate. AD#1895

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single male, 36, slim, blue-green eyes, brown hair, enjoy movies, dining and dancing, travelling, good conversationalist, financially secure. Seeking an attractive, outgoing, cheerful female, who is a good conversationalist, for relationship leading to marriage. AD#1898

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 34, 5'7", athletic built, Bachelor of Science, caring, honest, reliable, romantic, enjoy movies, cooking, 60's dancing. Seeking a single Jewish female, intelligent, professional, open, and friendly. AD#1877

SPONTANEOUS
Single Jewish male, outgoing, spontaneous, adventurous, enjoy working out, swimming, scuba diving, skiing, music. Seeking a female, who is passionate, with inner and outer beauty. AD#1878

OUTSPOKEN
Single male, 34, educated, outspoken, enjoy country life, outdoor activities, dining out, animals. Seeking a female with similar interests. AD#1880

ATTENTION LADIES!
Single male, 47, warm, romantic, intelligent, 5'9", medium built, good sense of humour, enjoy movies, dining out, good conversation. Seeking a female, who is warm hearted and sincere. AD#1885

CASUAL GET TOGETHERS
Divorced Jewish male, 40's, 5'8", 136lbs, enjoy culture, art, ballet, travelling. Seeking a female who is independent, for casual get togethers. AD#1870

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Single Jewish male, 5'5", handsome, secure, athletic, enjoy tennis, swimming, jogging, cycling, skiing, theater, dancing, socializing. Seeking a female, 38-50, with similar interests. AD#1871

SOULMATE
Divorced Jewish male, 6', 240lbs, easy going, great sense of humour, enjoy sports, movies, and love to laugh. Seeking a female, 26-31, with similar interests. AD#1818

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single male, Goldsmith and an artist, enjoy music, fine arts, sports, writing. Seeking a female, attractive, single moms OK, 28-38, with similar interests. AD#1907

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• CJN Boxes for Personal Companions Wanted ads are valid for 30 (thirty) days only (from 1st publication date). Replies must be received within this time frame in order to be forwarded to the correct CJN Box #.

330 OBITUARIES

SHAPIRO, Irene - on March 4, 1999, late of 736 Bay St., #1503.
SHAPIRO, Sippy - on March 4, 1999, late of 20 Seneca Hill Dr.
SNIDER, Anne - on March 4, 1999, late of 550 Cummer Ave.
DRUTZ, Philip - on March 5, 1999, late of 1035 Eglinton Ave. W.
BLACKMAN, Sol - on March 6, 1999, late of 18 Prince Charles Dr.
LUBIN, Freda - on March 6, 1999, late of 81 Tavistock Rd.
EREIRA, Nettie - on March 7, 1999, late of 320 Lonsdale Rd., #1.
GREEN, Morris - on March 7, 1999, late of 55 Ameer Ave., #911.
MARKS, Rose Marder - on March 7, 1999, late of 55 Skymark Dr., #2705.
SKOLNICK, Bella - on March 7, 1999, late of 106 Queen St.
ALEXANDER, John - on March 8, 1999, late of 125 Bedford Rd.
SHAINHOUSE, Oscar - on March 9, 1999, late of 11 Manitou Blvd.
BARAK, Harry - on March 10, 1999, late of 755 Steeles Ave. W., #504.
BORDO, Betty - on March 10, 1999, late of 54 Foxbar Rd.
PULLAN, Vivian - on March 11, 1999, late of 92 Coldstream Ave.
SZOLD, Victor - on March 11, 1999, late of 55 Ameer Ave.
ZABITSKY, Ralph - on March 11, 1999, late of 330 Spadina Rd., #1102.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Israel & the Jewish World

Missionary activity Down Under

By JEREMY JONES
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

SYDNEY — Leaders of Sydney's Jewish community, responding to a dramatic increase in missionary activity aimed at converting Jews to Christianity, have called on the hierarchy of the Anglican Church to stop a practice they say Jews regard with abhorrence.

Until the 1970s, Anglicanism, previously known as the Church of England, was Australia's largest religion, and one in four Australians still belong to the church. Jewish-Anglican dialogue began for the first time in 1997.

At the second dialogue, held here recently, Jewish Board of Deputies president Peter Wertheim told the five-person Anglican delegation that there is an "urgent need for the Anglican Church to promulgate guidelines on acceptable and unacceptable missionizing methods."

Of particular concern to Jews in Sydney are the activities of Jews for Jesus and Kehillat ha-Moshiach, which are led by ministers with Jewish backgrounds.

The literature of the groups, which is often phrased to appeal to schoolchildren, includes insulting caricatures of Judaism as a religion that requires "fulfilment" through Christianity.

Rabbi Raymond Apple, spiritual leader at the Great Synagogue in Sydney, said the Anglican paper on missionizing delivered at the dialogue was "diplomatic," but that it was "unambiguous in its presentation of the Anglican view" that a core Christian belief is that Jews should be converted to Christianity.

Although not discussed at the meeting, the Jewish community has also recently lodged complaints with the Anglican Church that textbooks in church schools teach that Jews killed Jesus, and the pupils are taught that Jews who do not accept Jesus as the messiah will go to hell.

330 OBITUARIES

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KAY, Jack - Suddenly on Feb. 24, 1999. Jack will be lovingly remembered by his wife Marjorie and by his children Lynn and Barb (Sid Nightingale) of Toronto, Joel and David of Winnipeg; His adored grandchildren, Adam and Leah, his sister Anne (Harry Asowitch) of Palm Springs and brother in law Harvey Hoffman, as well as by his loving nieces and their families. Jack was predeceased by his sister Sadie and brother in law Michael Levi. Services were held in Winnipeg on Feb. 28. Donations may be made to the St. Boniface Hospital Research Foundation at 204-237-2067.

GLATTER, Leon - Passed away peacefully, aged 88, at Branson Hospital on Thursday, March 11, 1999, after succumbing while at work in his printing shop, which is exactly what he would have chosen. To his beloved children Hannah, Sara, Faye and Anthony, Len and Charles, as well as his grandchildren, Howie & Staci, Trevor & Sherry, Tracey & Nathan, Sean, Alyssa, Joelle, Ariella and Noam, and his great-granddaughter, Taylor, Leon leaves a legacy of love and the courage which saw him escape the holocaust and bring his family to Canada where he built a life for them with his loving wife Toba, who died far too soon. Leon will be deeply missed and long remembered.

335 UNVEILING

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ENG. ALEC CASPI ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, March 28, 11:00 a.m.
Mt. Sinai Memorial Park
Jewish War Veterans Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

338 SHIVA CATERING

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330 OBITUARIES

CSONTOS, Ellen Susan - on March 14, 1999, late of 205 Rosemary Rd.
GOODMAN, Elaine - on March 14, 1999, late of 107 Royal Chapin Cres.
MARSHALL, Mena - on March 14, 1999, late of 130 Dunn Ave.
WOLMAN, Rose - on March 15, 1999, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
ZARETSKY, Morris - on March 15, 1999, late of 601 Finch Ave. W.
MERCOVITCH, Tillie - on March 16, 1999, late of 175 Cummer Ave.
TOVIEVITCH, Bounia - on March 16, 1999, late of 175 Cummer Ave.
KADOSH, Isaac - on March 17, 1999.
SOSNOWSKI, Meyer - on March 18, 1999.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

BERG, Joseph - on March 11, 1999, late of 429 Walmer Rd.
GAMS, Irene - on March 11, 1999, late of 321 Chaplin Ave.
GLATTER, Leon - on March 11, 1999, late of 4110 Bathurst St.
RAHIM-SAYYAH, Rahim - on March 11, 1999, late of 135 Galt Ave.
REINSTEIN, Minnie - on March 11, 1999, late of 25 Maxwell St.
ROSENHOLTZ, Judith - on March 11, 1999, late of 133 Cactus Ave.
FERBER, Toby - on March 12, 1999.
KARP, Jerry - on March 12, 1999, late of 37 Clifton Ave.
SCHAIER, Abraham - on March 13, 1999, late of 10 Tangreen Crt.
SILBURT, Beth - on March 13, 1999, late of 1121 Steeles Ave. W.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

The Canadian Jewish news

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APRIL 9th
Deadline
Monday, March 29, 12 noon

APRIL 15th
Deadline
Monday, April 5, 12 noon

The office of The Canadian Jewish News will be closed on the following days:

Thursday, April 1st & Friday, April 2nd and

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Sports

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The Canadian Jewish news

Canadian junior champion

Soo skier wins gold at national competition

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Like a finely-tuned athletic machine, cross-country skier Adam Kates has to click on all eight cylinders if he wants to win a race.

Over the course of a 30- or even a 10-kilometre contest, every little technical imperfection is magnified into lost time and increased energy expenditure.

But two weekends ago in Smithers, B.C., all systems were operating smoothly as the 18-year-old cross-country skier from Sault Ste. Marie finished first overall at the Canadian Junior National Championships.

Kates finished third in the 10-km "classic," second in the 15-km "freestyle" (aka "skate") and fifth in the 30-km skate, to earn 83 out of a possible 90 points and take home the gold medal. A bronze medal in the 3 by 7.5 km relay race rounded out his weekend.

Going into the last day of competition in Smithers, Kates sat in second place. But a strong performance, coupled with an inexplicably bad day for the second-round leader, vaulted him into first.

In cross-country skiing, particularly in a 30-km race, efficient technique is vital, he said. "Every motion has to maximize effort."

In classic style, skiers slide their legs in a forward and back motion, while in the freestyle (skate) technique, they propel themselves forward much like an ice skater, pushing to the side with one leg and gliding forward on the other.

"If you waste too much energy, you create more resistance and it takes more energy to drive forward," Kates said.

Champion skiers, Kates has learned, have to combine excellent cardiovascular fitness with "the ability to stay focused. You have to concentrate on skiing efficiently. Technique is so important."

Kates' gold in Smithers, his best finish at the national level since 1996 when he won gold as a juvenile, didn't come easy. A member of the Soo Finnish Ski Club, Kates logs lots of hours to help move him to the top of the class among cross-country skiers in his age group.

During the summer, Kates works out on skis fitted with wheels, designed to emulate the feel of the winter, snowbound sport. Once the snow hits the tundra, he moves outdoors for twice-a-day workouts, six or seven days a week. Cold temperatures don't dissuade him from his appointed tasks, although once the thermometer hits minus 20, he eases up a little.

"It isn't good for the lungs to breath too much cold air," he explained.

Kates supplements his training regimen with summer sports like mountain biking, track and field, cross-country running and golf.

Highly motivated and goal-oriented, Kates credits his coach, Helen Lindfors, a former nationally ranked skier herself, with designing his training program and with helping him develop successful race strategies.

Adam Kates

Shortly after he began skiing competitively five years ago, his hard work began paying off. By the end of his first season of competitive skiing in 1995, he managed a first in freestyle and a fifth in classic at the Ontario Provincials in New Liskeard.

He continued to improve the next year, with several first and second place finishes in events in Timmins, the Soo and Thunder Bay. The season culminated with his juvenile win at the Canadian Junior Nationals in 100 Mile House, B.C.

In '97, he slipped a little bit, finishing out of the medals at the Junior championships in Cornerbrook, Nfld., but in 1998, at the Nationals in Val Cartier, Que., he finished 13th in the 10-km freestyle, first in the 15-km classic and second in the 7.5-km classic. In December 1998 at the Canadian World Junior Trials in Canmore, Alta., he finished eighth in the 10-km classic and 18th in the 20-km freestyle after his skis were taken by another athlete and he had to borrow another pair.

Kates qualified for the Canada Winter Games thanks to seventh (10-km classic) and third (15-km freestyle) place finishes. Competing again in Corner Brook at the Winter Games in February 1999, he finished fourth overall but won a relay gold.

An event in Idaho later this month will close out his season while providing him with international competition.

Looking ahead, Kates is eyeing a spot on the senior Canadian national team and a shot at the Olympics. Next year, he plans to attend Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, one of the headquarters for the national team and a school that will provide him with top notch coaching.

Kates recognizes that cross-country skiers don't hit their peak until they're around 27 or 28, so in the meantime he plans to study English and political science.

His future in skiing depends on where his employment career takes him, but with gold medals already under his belt, "the Olympics are a realistic goal," he said.

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The Inside Back

Terrorist Abu Nidal is in Cairo, says biographer of Syria's Assad

By DOUGLAS DAVIS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LONDON — Top international terrorist Abu Nidal is alive and well and living in Cairo, according to an article in the London-based daily *Al-Hayat* last week.

Abu Nidal

Noted Arabist Patrick Seale, a biographer of Syrian President Hafez Assad and reportedly close to the Syrian regime, said Abu Nidal – the nom de guerre of Jaffa-born Sabri al-Banna – left his safe haven in Libya after falling out with Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi.

Seale flatly denied reports in both the Arabic and western media that Abu Nidal was dying of leukemia and had been moved to Iraq.

Such reports, said Seale, were probably a concoction of Egyptian intelligence "to conceal his presence in Cairo and give themselves time to decide what to do with him."

Abu Nidal is reportedly now seeking to trade his extensive knowledge of radical Islamic groups, and of the inner workings of the regimes in Sudan, Yemen and Libya, for Egyptian protection.

"In particular, he is trying to sell his services to Egyptian state security in its war against militant Islamic networks such as Gihad and Gama'a al-Islamiya, which have been responsible for numerous attacks in Egypt against tourists and other targets," wrote Seale. "There is no suggestion that Egypt has taken up Abu Nidal's offer."

Although some Egyptian – and perhaps American – intelligence officers might be tempted to use Abu Nidal, Seale noted, western diplomats believe that the revelation of his presence in Cairo could prove a grave embarrassment to Egypt and damage its international standing.

"But Abu Nidal is clearly hoping to relaunch his dormant terrorist career under the protection of a new state patron."

In another startling revelation, Seale claimed that Israel had comprehensively penetrated Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council.

He said top Abu Nidal defectors who renounced terrorism and recently settled in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with the permission of the Israeli authorities, include two former terrorists who were involved in high-profile atrocities against Israeli targets.

Among those named by Seale as having settled in the Palestinian-controlled areas are Ali al-Farra and Hisham Harb.

Al-Farra, according to Seale, is a former head of external intelligence for the Fatah Revolutionary Council and was involved in planning the attempted assassination of former ambassador to London, Shlomo Argov, on June 3, 1982, an event that provided a pretext for Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

Harb is described as having been a key member of Abu Nidal's Special Missions department and played a major role in the simultaneous attacks on El Al ticket counters at the Rome and Vienna airports in December 1985.

Abu Nidal was the PLO's chief representative in Iraq when he broke with Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement in 1974 to protest the PLO's flirtation with diplomacy rather than violence.

His Fatah Revolutionary Council claimed hundreds of lives and was regarded as one of the most dangerous and savage of international terrorist organizations.

But while he attacked Israeli and Jewish targets throughout the world, Abu Nidal is believed to have been responsible for even more killings of Palestinians.

He ordered the assassinations of the PLO's most dovish diplomats, including Sa'id Hammami in London, Ali Yassin in Kuwait and Izzeddin Khalak in Paris, all three in 1978. He was also responsible for the killings of Naim Khodr in Brussels in 1981 and Issam Sartawi in Lisbon in 1983.

One of his more recent Palestinian victims was Abu Iyad, the nom de guerre of Salah Khalaf, Arafat's intelligence chief and one of the closest confidants of the Palestinian leader, who was assassinated in January 1991, just before the start of the Persian Gulf War.

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2 1/2 cups matzo farfel	3 tblsp oil	2 egg yolks
2 cup apple juice	1 pk vanilla sugar	1/4 tsp salt
1 tblsp lemon juice	1/4 cup sugar	1/2 cup nuts, chopped
2 tblsp lemon rind, grated	1 egg, whole	1/2 cup sliced apples or bananas
Meringue:	2 egg whites	1/4 cup sugar

Soak farfel in apple juice for 15 minutes. Add lemon juice, lemon rind, oil, vanilla sugar, sugar, whole egg, yolks and salt. Mix well. Spoon into greased 1 1/2 quart baking dish. Top with sliced fruit and nuts. (If using bananas, brush them with lemon juice.) Bake at 350°F for 25 minutes.

Make meringue by beating egg whites until foamy; gradually beat in 1/4 cup sugar until soft peaks form. Cover fruit mixture with meringue; bake another 15 minutes. Serve warm.

About Seniors

Dear Jesse,

Please help me. I am in trouble. The police are threatening to arrest me. I am 80 years old. My neighbors are very noisy. It has become so bad it is making me sick! Sometimes they bang on the walls. In order to drown out this noise I play music in my house. This has helped because I do not hear the noise anymore

My neighbors called the police. The police told me that they would arrest me if I did not lower the music. I am a Holocaust survivor and deserve better than this at my stage of life. When I lower the music I hear the noise. I receive a lot of services at home. The local agency helps me with bathing. My son does the shopping. Nobody wants to hear about the problems with my tenants. Please help me. I don't want to go with the police. I need a lawyer!

BJ

Dear BJ,

You are in a terribly frightening situation. Your solution to the problem with your neighbors has created other problems for you. Nobody wants to be involved with the police, especially at your age.

Many survivors have great concerns when involved with the police. It sounds like you do need help from a lawyer.

A social worker may be necessary as well, to support you at this terrible time and to help you to resolve your housing situation. Most agencies can refer you to a sympathetic lawyer. Some agencies have access to emergency assistance funds that may be used to help you through your legal troubles and perhaps help you to relocate into better quality housing.

Readers are invited to send any questions they have for Jesse to The CJN. *Jesse is the executive director of Jewish Support Services for the Elderly (JSSE) in Montreal.*

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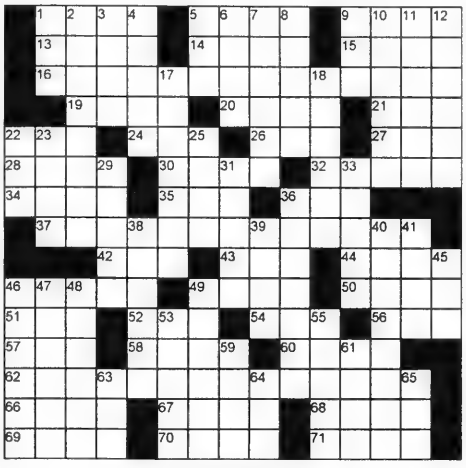

The Canadian Jewish news

Visits to Scandinavia

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco
(QSyndicate@aol.com)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across
1 Roll call response
5 Wimbledon Winner of 1975
9 "It's ____ state of affairs"
13 Late Israeli director Guttman
14 Linguist Chomsky
15 Truth's counterpart
16 Economics Nobelist, 1976
19 Equipment
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21 Where: Latin
22 Part of a Jewish rite of passage
24 English title
26 Meadow
27 Common street name
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30 Kugel or latkes
32 Wight and Man
34 Dorothy's dog
35 Home country of 37-across: abbr.
36 Get ____ for effort
37 Peace Nobelist of 1978
42 In Yiddish it's ein
43 "_____ the ramparts..."
44 Month following Shevat
46 Truckers, often
49 Greek peak
50 Fiddling Roman emperor
51 Sea parted by Moses
52 Yom Kippur, for one
54 Fruit drink
56 Reply at sea
57 Actor Wallach
58 Odds and ____
60 Certain nobleman
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66 Ratted (on)
67 Simplicity
68 Woodworking tool
69 Some sheep
70 Narrow opening
71 _____ the line (followed rules)

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1 Un-kosher food
2 Leave one's homeland
3 Part for Streisand
4 "Como ____?"
5 Advice columnist Landers
6 Plush
7 "Caddyshack" director Ramis
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9 Tack on
10 Movie mogul Goldwyn
11 Like 17% of 35-across
12 Materials associated with Levi Strauss
17 Opening
18 "Seinfeld" character
22 Although
23 Concern of 62-across
25 _____ Hashana
29 The International Jerusalem Prize, for one
31 Popular cookies
33 "Cosmos" author
36 Rubs the wrong way
38 Field questions
39 Arizona sight
40 Make perfect in one's mind
41 Not any
45 Richard ____ (anonymous courtroom name)
46 Make
47 Literature Nobelist of 1976
48 Fit to be swallowed
49 Tough experience
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59 Enthusiastic assent from Pablo
61 Make over
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64 It's not gross
65 Actor Beatty

(This week's answers are on page 64.)

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HAPPY PASSOVER

ELTVALTNI

PM's remarks queried

BEDOUINS SENT HOME

An IDF soldier escorts two Bedouin women to a bus which will take them back to Egypt. More than 800 Bedouin members fled to Israel recently from Egypt to escape a tribal feud in the Sinai. The Supreme Court ruled against the Bedouin plea for asylum. [RNS/Reuters Photo]

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

OTTAWA — The Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) wants an explanation from Prime Minister Jean Chrétien for statements it says seem at odds with long-standing Canadian policy on the Middle East peace process.

Following last week's one-day visit to Ottawa by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, the CIC wrote to the Prime Minister's Office asking for clarification of one of Chrétien's comments made following his 40-minute meeting with Arafat.

While the prime minister told reporters that Canada cannot support Palestinian independence unless it was negotiated, he also said the following: "We believe that, through negotiations, we should result with the creation of a state for the Palestinians."

The CIC concedes it may have been a slip of the tongue, but the lobby group wants an explanation because it says the statement stands in contrast to established

Continued on page22

This Week

National

Report documents human rights progress in 1998. ***Page 5***

Celebrating Pesach with local celebrities. ***Page 6***

Zareinu 'dollars' help children with special needs. ***Page 17***

Literary Supplement

Once again *The CJN* presents the best of its readers' literary talents. ***Inside***

Arts

Debra Kirshenbaum loves the candidness of acting on stage. ***Page 41***

Sylvia Lennick has unusual birthday gift for daughter Julie. ***Page 43***

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Like a loving old friend

Editorial

And so the calendar brings us again to the festival of freedom. Wafting in on the warm breezes of a dawning spring, Pesach arrives like a loving old friend who visits every year. And because her visit lasts eight days, the house must be prepared with hard work and punctilious regard for the unique accommodations that this very special occasion demands.

Although the primary burden of preparation falls on the mother/wife/matriarch of the house, everyone in the family usually tries to assist to some extent. For example, in the accompanying photo, we see Lauren Farkash, left, and Elyssa Frohlich, senior nursery students at Hebrew Foundation School in Dollard Des Ormeaux, Que., preparing matzah covers to be used during the holiday. The expressions on their faces tell us clearly that they are committed to making the most beautiful of all matzah covers for the decorative display on their respective seder tables.

In the details of this photo are the holiday's two key components: the matzah and the children.

The matzah, the bread of affliction, the bread of poverty, the bread fashioned in the tumult of a slave nation's hasty, early morning departure from the place of their enslavement, symbolizes the religious, theological, historic and ethical substance of the holiday. The children are the present and future custodians of that symbol. They are the inheritors and the transmitters of the religion, the theology, the history and the ethics that this humble and lowly bread has embodied for more than 3,000 years.

And so, as the calendar brings us again to the festival of freedom, and our focus necessarily settles on the mystery and miracle of our traditions and on the great gift of life renewed, our hearts ache with gratitude.

That is why our plea at the end of the seder is always and ever meaningful: "As we have lived to celebrate [the Passover seder]/ So may we live to celebrate it again." Blessed are you O Lord, our God, King of the universe for granting us life, sustaining us and for bringing us to this day once again.

INSIDE

The scandal of homelessness. Please see pages 3, 8, 30, 31.

To all our readers and advertisers, a happy and healthy Passover

Passover Greetings

Freedom celebrated

Passover Message from Israel Ambassador David Sultan

As we approach Pesach I would like to wish the entire Jewish community of Canada a happy and kosher Chag Samayach. It is not only the celebration of our freedom and redemption, but also of our unity as it was, and is, our collective experience. It is the time that we get together to mark what we share and what we have in common, which are stronger than any differences that we may have.

I would like to use this opportunity to update you on the relations between Israel and Canada. I believe we have reasons for satisfaction. The recent visits to Israel of ministers John Manley and Sergio Marchi highlighted the growth of the economic relations between the two countries, as the figures can attest to. In the framework of these visits, we signed a protocol on cooperation in telecommunications, and after a long period of preparations, last month we signed an agreement on cultural cooperation.

This month in Jerusalem, we had periodical political consultations in which we exchanged views on a host of subjects of interest to the two sides. We also explored the possibilities of adding new areas of cooperation between our countries. The feeling is that there is a lot that should be done and achieved.

In Israel, we are in an election period. True, we have a large number of parties running, reflecting the pluralistic nature of our society. But there is a growing acceptance to form a national unity government after the election, to better face the challenges that lie ahead.

Meanwhile, my best wishes for a Happy Passover to each and every one of you.

Passover unity

Passover message from Canadian Jewish Congress National President, Moshe Ronen

On the eve of Passover, and as Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) marks its 80th anniversary, it is perhaps fitting to look back on just how far we have come as a community in this country.

As you all sit down at the table for the Passover seders and retell the story of the Festival of Freedom, the Exodus of Jews from Egypt, consider as well how less than 60 years ago we had a federal government with a policy of "none is too many" with regard to accepting immigrant Jews fleeing the Holocaust.

Fast forward to 1999, where the prime minister of Canada, Jean Chrétien, visited the grounds of the former Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp in the company of me and my father, a survivor of this terrible place where 1.3 million Jews met their deaths. We look forward to a government announcement following on this historic pilgrimage regarding the establishment of a national Holocaust memorial museum in Ottawa.

Today, Canada is bringing Nazi war criminals to justice and vigorously combatting those who spread hatred against identifiable groups. In Ontario, the legislature has adopted a bill marking Yom Hashoah as a permanent fixture on the provincial calendar, beginning April 13 this year.

Over the years, CJC has made every effort to assist fellow Jews and others in need in Canada and around the world. We participated at home in emergency relief efforts for victims of the Quebec and Manitoba floods and the Quebec-Ontario ice storm, to provide recent examples.

Abroad, likewise, we have distributed humanitarian aid on a non-sectarian basis in such disparate places as Honduras, the Caribbean, the Balkans, Ukraine, Romania and Rwanda. This includes everything from supplying Cuba's Jewish community with Passover food to raising funds to help Central American victims of last fall's Hurricane Mitch.

At the seder, we must also recognize that Israel is one of the most spectacular achievements of the 20th century. The Jewish people, beginning more than 50 years ago while on the brink of destruction and against all odds, established an independent state in their historic homeland, revived an ancient language, and produced one of the most prosperous and technologically advanced economies in the world.

It also is projected that Israel, early in the new millennium, will be home to the majority of the world's Jews, thus fulfilling the dream of in-gathering the exiles. Just as we wonder about the generation of the exodus from Egypt, historians looking back on our times will wonder about, and will be in awe of, the generations that reconquered the land and came home in a modern-day redemption.

On this Passover, let us not dwell on what divides us but coalesce around that which unites us. The Jewish community desperately needs bridge-building of its own. We see it as an important role for Canadian Jewish Congress to foster such unity.

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The scandal of homelessness

There's been a flurry of activity on homelessness over the past few weeks. Last week, Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman convened a national symposium on the problem, involving politicians from all levels of government. Earlier this month, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien appointed Labor Minister Claudette Bradshaw responsible for the homeless. And social action groups continue to speak out. In that vein, Ve'ahavta – the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee launched its Mobile Jewish Response to the Homeless, which delivers direct aid to Toronto's homeless. CJN reporter Ron Csillag last week went along on one of the organization's evenings, and filed the following report.

By **RON CSILLAG**
Staff Reporter

"The homeless are not crazy," I kept repeating to myself. "Relax. No one will pull a knife. I won't catch a disease."

Odd, these hoary stereotypes which persist. Some experts believe we cling to prejudices as a self-protection mechanism. Whatever the case, I tried to dispel every myth I had about the homeless prior to my assignment: going out with the newly created Mobile Jewish Response to the Homeless, another project of Ve'ahavta, the protean group dedicated to tikkun olam – making the world a better place.

Special Report

Other Jewish groups do a lot for the homeless. Mazon raises money to buy food for shelters and food banks, while several synagogues take part in the Out of the Cold program, which takes in and feeds the homeless for one night. But Ve'ahavta is the first Canadian Jewish organization to go directly to the frontlines, delivering donated food, blankets and other essentials right to the streets.

Over 30 volunteers have signed up so far. Every Wednesday night, rotating teams of three or four go out in a van loaded with soup, sandwiches, hot chocolate, coats, sleeping bags and tobacco. So many have expressed interest that Monday nights were recently added to the 13-week pilot project, which is being underwritten by the Edward Bronfman Family Foundation.

Ve'ahavta has teamed with the Native Men's Residence on Vaughan Road in the long-established program known as Street Help. Every homeless person, it seems, recognizes the burgundy van emblazoned with the words, Street Help, in large white letters.

A training session held at the residence last month addressed volunteers' fears and concerns. We were assured that the homeless are rarely if ever dangerous, and that in fact, we would encounter polite, even dignified people. Our approach should be non-judgmental and friendly, but never patronizing.

My teammates this night were Avrum Rosensweig, Ve'avhata's inspired executive director; his girlfriend, Roz Gelade, who works for UJA Federation; and Rabbi Daniel Gottlieb, spiritual leader of Temple Kol Ami in Thornhill.

We meet at the Native Men's Residence at around seven o'clock, and begin loading the van with clothes and supplies procured by Ve'ahavta, and with soup and sandwiches prepared by the residence. Ken, our good-natured driver, says the brand new sleeping bags are sometimes used as currency on the streets, traded for drugs or booze. But most of them, he assures us, are kept.

The night is bone-chilling; a frigid, damp wind cuts through my ski jacket and two pairs of sweat pants. The van loaded, Ken leads us in a native ceremony called smudging, in which smoke from burning sage is cupped in the hands and passed over the body and head. Rabbi Gottlieb then recites a blessing, asking God to help us in our mission.

The first thing we do is search for a man who has lived in a vacant lot in the Bathurst-Lawrence area for some 10 years. We find his makeshift tent, but there's no sign of him, and Ken says there hasn't been

Continued on page 31

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from this Century into the next with
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Tragedy Has Struck

An extraordinary woman in our community—a 50 year old, single mother of 10 children, has tragically passed away after a serious illness.

Her modest salary as a secretary for one of our local Jewish Day Schools, allowed her to barely cover the basic family expenses, let alone the cost of expensive medical treatment and nursing care.

The children have been left with about $200k in debts and no further means of financial support. Funds are required for basic necessities such as food, clothing, housing and Jewish education.

The family desperately wants to stay together, with the older children taking on the responsibility of raising and ultimately marrying off the younger ones and themselves.

We appeal to you to support our community's efforts to establish a trust fund for these children. All cheques over $10 will receive charitable tax receipts. In the spirit of Jewish compassion and generosity at this holiday time, please open your hearts and donate generously. Thank you.

Rabbi Menachem Adler
Zale Newman
Campaign Chairmen

CK Trust Fund
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From the editor's desk

Desultory Haggadic notes

The Passover seder ties into one remarkably strong, tightly woven, sustaining cord, many of the elementary "strands" necessary for the trans-generational transmission of customs and traditions.

In the first place, the occasion itself is happy, celebratory and festive. In most homes, the table is extended to accommodate a wider than normal circle of family and friends.

The centrepiece of the evening is the meal, usually resplendent with varied and generous offerings. Indeed, all of the "action," religious and gustatory, takes place around the dining room table.

Sandwiched on either side of the meal is the recitation and "re-enactment" of the Exodus from Egypt, in its own right, an entertaining, compelling, thrill-a-minute story.

Our great and sage rabbis deliberately designed the recitation and re-enactment of that story with the maximum participation of young children in mind. This means that the evening is usually fun for the youngsters. And if the children are having fun, so too are their parents and their grandparents.

Thus, the Passover seder, a happy, family-oriented experience for young and old, creates in us a reservoir of positive associations and poignant memories. These memories are the building blocks of the structure we call tradition.

For thousands of years, literally, each generation has fashioned, held onto, and then transmitted those memories to the next generation, adding its part to the super-structure of the Jewish tradition.

Because of the special enjoyment that the seder evokes, many of us nurture our own private seder customs. For example, one of my idiosyncratic seder customs is to try to acquire a new Haggadah each year.

The Haggadah is a unique text in the corpus of Jewish literature. Whereas originally, in Mishnaic times, it did not appear as its own textbook, it evolved over the ages into a discrete text, one of the most decorated, most illuminated and most commented upon of all Hebrew manuscripts.

In these current times, as bombs fall on Yugoslavia, it is interesting to note that one of the earliest and most important of the illuminated haggadot is the Sarajevo Haggadah.

The variety of haggadot available to the readers is endless, quite a rich vein for the curious reader to mine, and it is constantly increasing.

For the devotees of art and illustration, there are countless beautifully illuminated haggadot such as the Shalom of Safed Haggadah, or the popular Passover Haggadah Legends and Customs from Adama Publishing House, featuring the artistry of Haim Ron; or the recently released, colorful Seelig Art Haggadah. There is even now a Prince of Egypt Haggadah featuring the breathtaking cinematic art from the recent movie.

For the devotee of the more traditional Haggadah, there is of course, an inexhaustible supply. Each offers a mini-portrait of the intellectual idiosyncrasies and scholarly approaches of the respective commentator.

For example, the Haggadah of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz provides a great deal of commentary that highlights his penchant for historic and etymological explanations. Thus, the Steinsaltz commentary includes the following observation: "Some people used to say *Hay* Lachma (rather than *Hah* Lachma) to hint, among other things, that the letter hay in the word matzah itself, is also suggestive of the letter hay in God's name." (Our translation)

Dry Bones

Rabbi Reuven Bulka, the spiritual leader of Machzikei Hadas Congregation in Ottawa is also a psychologist. Not surprisingly, therefore, his commentary on the Haggadah offers psychological insights. For example, in discussing the child who does not know, Bulka observes: "Though the general pedagogic pattern at the seder, as a paradigm of all education, is that the child be encouraged to ask, and for the parent to respond to the unique situation and capacity of each child, that pattern is hardly possible with the child who does not know enough to ask. The parent-teacher must know when to encourage questions and also when to teach...".

The Yeshiva University Haggadah, compiled and edited by Steven Cohen and Kenneth Brander, emphasizes the intellectual excellence and rigor of the Yeshiva University community.

In addition to a running commentary on the text of the seder, it also provides nine essays, each written by a different scholar, including the late Rav J.B. Soloveitchik.

The Schocken Passover Haggadah edited by Nahum Glatzer, provides less commentary; but it does contain a veritable mini-library of related Passover readings written by modern authors such as Martin Buber, Leonard Fein, Michael Walzer and Marge Piercy.

Thus, it is important that we choose an "appropriate" Haggadah; nurture positive associations; and grasp tight the cord of common history and of common traditions.

MBD

SEE JN

A JOYOUS OCCASION FOR SIMCHA
Rabbi Amram Assayag looks on as Simcha (Simy) Benquesus cuts the ribbon at the official opening of the Mikveh Ma'ayan Hasimcha in the Sephardic Kehila Centre of Thornhill.

Greater Toronto Area

Report documents human rights progress in 1998

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Advances in employment equity, pay equity and employers' willingness to accommodate minority groups were key developments in the field of human rights in 1998, according to an annual report released recently by the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC).

Hundreds of corporations have taken steps to implement guidelines on employment equity, though much work remains to be done to ensure that minorities are proportionally represented in various fields of work, the report stated.

The CHRC reported that by the end of December 1998, the Employment Equity Act covered 412 federally regulated private and Crown corporations and government departments.

The commission planned to audit all employers within five years to ensure they had implemented a 12-part program on employment equity. Changes in the Employment Equity Act of 1997 "require the CHRC to determine whether four designated groups – women, members of visible minorities, people with disabilities and Aboriginal people – are equitably represent in an employers' workforce."

Turning to pay equity, the report suggested that "stalling" of cases has "postponed justice for many female employees despite a July 1998 decision of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal mandating pay equity for federal public servants."

That "landmark" decision established a formula "for correcting wage discrimination whose existence had been made clear," the report stated. "Tens of thousands of current or former public servants, most of them women in low-paying jobs, stood to benefit."

Despite the planned appeal by the Minister of Justice and the President of the Treasury Board, the CHRC believes the pay equity decision "offered a reasonable, balanced approach to redressing unfair wage gaps in the federal public service."

The year was also marked by important changes in federal hate propaganda provisions. "Victims specifically identified in hate messages may now receive compensation and those responsible for disseminating such propaganda face penalties of up to $10,000," the annual report stated.

In the area of race relations, the report indicated "racially motivated violence still takes place in our country, as the killing of a Sikh caretaker at a temple in British Columbia reminded us."

The report quoted data collected by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre that showed hate sites on the Internet increased from 50 to more than 800 in three years. One case arising in that area involves neo-Nazi propagandist Ernst Zundel, who is alleged to have posted material on an Internet site that could expose Jews to hatred or contempt. That case is ongoing.

In February 1998, the Commission asked a human rights tribunal to examine a case involving Mark Harding, who allegedly offered telephone hate messages that targeted Muslims. (In 1998, Harding was convicted under the Criminal Code of promoting hatred against Muslims.)

The CHRC reported that it completed work on 378 complaints of discrimination in 1998. Of that number, 28 were resolved, 77 were referred to alternative grievance mechanisms and five cases were referred to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal for a hearing.

The annual report also examined changes that allowed gay men and women to "receive full rights under the law."

In the case of Vriend v. Alberta, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that Alberta legislation violated the Charter of Rights and Freedoms because it did not include sexual orientation as a prohibited ground of discrimination.

And in the case of Rosenberg v. Canada, the Ontario Court of Appeal ruled that the definition of "spouse" in the Income Tax Act, as it applies to the registration of pension plans, was unconstitutional because it excluded same-sex survivor benefits.

Despite the ruling, which is not being appealed, "the government has yet to amend other statutes at issue," the report stated.

Meanwhile, Holocaust survivor and community volunteer Sigmund Reiser, a member of the CHRC since 1994, resigned from the Commission as of September 1998 to take a position as a citizenship judge.

CJC WORKSHOP

Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, recently held a workshop for the Ontario region War Crimes Unit of the federal immigration department. Seen (from left) are CJC Ontario region executive director Bernie Farber, Susan Davis, an advisor to the unit; CJC Ontario region chair Keith Landy; Carrie Storms, manager of the unit; and Craig Goodes, the unit's senior director.

There is a world of difference between "life goes on" and "life is good."

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How Toronto's personalities celebrate Passover

Fond memories recalled

JOYCE SINGER
Special to the CJN

For many of us, Passover is a favorite holiday spent with family and friends, passing down traditions to the younger generation.

It's a poignant, annual reminder of our historical struggles for freedom, and our hopes for a lasting peace in our homeland.

Occasionally, we are reminded of our diversity, and that we each have unique ways of celebrating our traditions. The following people passed along their holiday plans, and their fond memories of Pesach past.

Blayne Lastman

Noooooobody is better known around town than the Lastman family, and **Blayne Lastman**, president of the Bad Boy Furniture stores says that it's a favorite holiday around his house.

"It's a nice time of the year. One of the seders will be at my house, and, yes, my parents will be there." (It's not everyone who can say that the mayor will be at their seder!)

"My mother's father was a cantor, so the seders when I was growing up were, in one word – *long*!

"My kids, (Samantha, 9, Bradley, 6), know a whole lot more Hebrew than I do. Samantha knows so much, compared to my knowledge of the language. I'll leave the part about the afikoman to my father, as he gets pleasure out of paying." He jokingly read, before the actual Exodus from Egypt, Passover was a spring festival. I like the original Passover, and that's what I celebrate – rebirth and renewal," Marilyn says.

Lauri Sue Robertson

reassured me that it won't come out of our taxes.

Lauri Sue Robertson is the vice-president of Handidactis Inc., a non-profit organization that teaches people how to work with the disabled. Lauri says that she and her husband are looking forward to seeing her parents at her seder.

"We're excited, because two days after Passover, my dad turns 80. We also invited a couple of friends who are not Jewish, so we can teach them about Passover. We believe you should have a stranger at the table, that it's one of the things you are supposed to do."

Lauri's fond childhood memories include visiting with cousins who had lived in Japan. "At their seder table we enjoyed the matzah ball soup in authentic lacquered Japanese bowls."

Actress **Marilyn Lightstone** hosts the program *Spoken Art* on the Bravo channel. TV mogul Moses Znaimer is her "significant other."

Marilyn Lightstone

"Many members of my family celebrate the traditional festivities, but I think, at heart, I'm a pagan and I celebrate nature. According to some of the things I've

"In the last number of years I've taken to travelling. I usually come back with all kinds of presents, and anyone who comes to our seder gets one.

"At my seder the food is communal. Traditionally, I do the chicken soup, the eggplant, and the main course which is usually a chicken dish. Libby, Moses' sister, makes the knaidlach and the gefilte fish, and a friend makes the dessert."

Although her background is Ashkenazi, Marilyn has recently discovered Sephardi traditions. "I think it's eminently superior to the Ashkenazi in terms of food. The Ashkenazim lived in tiny little shtetls, and ate potatoes and onions. In Sephardi cooking, they have wonderful flavors, using fruits, vegetables, nuts, sauces, herbs and spices. They are a very sophisticated people."

Matthew Teitelbaum

The director of the Art Gallery of Ontario, **Matthew Teitelbaum**, says that this year they are having the first seder at home, and for the second seder they will go to his in-laws', as it alternates from year to year.

"I don't do any of the cooking, but I do a lot of the eating! We don't do [the seder] in a fully formal way, but it's certainly more structured than the tradition I was used to, growing up. My son Max is 7 and Elijah is 5."

Apparently Elijah gets a kick out of it whenever his name pops up throughout the holiday. The family plans to attend the services at the Junction Synagogue.

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Regarding ages, the Mishnah says, "20 is for pursuit, 30 is for strength, 40 is for understanding." Yujjies are in pursuit! Yujjies are strong! They may even have a bit of understanding.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Les and Minda Feldman Foundation who have made possible this program for the benefit of Jews in their 20's and 30's.

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Greater Toronto Area

Reform day school conference set for May

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — For the first time in its history, the annual conference of the Progressive Association of Reform Day Schools (PARDeS) is being held in Toronto.

The conference to be held May 1 to 4. will be attended by leaders of Reform day schools all across the United States.

They will be gathering here to honor the home city of PARDeS president, Zita Gardner, and Leo Baeck Day School which she heads. The school is observing its 25th anniversary this year.

One event planned for the conference is a visit to Leo Baeck Day School where visitors will chat informally with the students and teachers.

The conclave is also reflects a recognition of the growing maturity of the Reform day school movement in Canada and its commitment to religious education, said Gardner who is Gardner is completing her two-year term as president of PARDeS.

The Leo Baeck Day School in Toronto is the third oldest Reform day school in North America and one of its largest. It is one of the few to enroll students to the end of Grade 8.

The head of the oldest school,

Zita Gardner

Rodolph Sholom in New York is attending the conference, along with the head of the second oldest, Beth Am, of Miami.They are both in their 27th year of operation.

It will be an opportunity for the 75 participants – 30 to 40 will come from the United States – to hear prominent rabbis and professional educators in the Reform movement.

The conference begins with a Havdallah service on May 1, at Holy Blossom Temple, the site of one campus of Leo Baeck school. Sessions will also be held at the school's main campus on Atkinson Avenue in Thornhill.

The Havdallah service will be followed by Rabbi Gunther Plaut's talk on Teaching Our Children is Not Enough.

Sharing expertise in Jewish Education will be the subject of a session led by Prof. Michael Brown, director of Jewish Studies at York University, and Alex Pomson, a professor of education at York.

Prof. Marshal Zaldin of Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, will lecture on Monitoring: A Powerful Tool of School Leadership.

Cantor Benjamin Maissner of Holy Blossom Temple will also take part in the program.

Rabbi Jan Katzew, director of the department of education of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, will install the new board.

The theme of the conference is From Strength to Strength. The conference will include Tefillah, Torah and text study and sessions on student needs, professional growth, classroom visits and development of interpersonal skills.

Kosher fare at fine food show

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO – Will the winner be Dijon mustard, chocolate or champagne jelly? The envelope please...

These products are the kosher finalists for the product award of this year's Canadian Fine Food Show, which will be held at the International Centre, April 11 to 13.

Spokesperson Richard Swayze told *The CJN* that this is the first year that kosher products have been featured at the fair, although there have been a few kosher foods shown over the years. In fact, Ceres' Secrets of the Valley Juice and Godiva Chocolates were among the 1998 finalists.

The kosher finalists are Lemeraire Dijon Mustard, distributed by Elco Fine Foods; Dynamic Chocolates' Seashell Treasures, Macadamia Seashells, and Milk Chocolate Truffles; and Faye's Finest Champagne Jelly, from Faye's Finest Inc.

Other categories in the food judging contest include dairy foods, dressings, condiments, desserts and meat or seafood.

This year's show, the 15th, will have close to 200 exhibitors, ranging from major distributors to cottage industries. Ordinarily, the show focuses on a different country every year.

Kosher foods will be available for sampling. A special guest will be food writer Eileen Goltz, who is a staple of *The CJN*'s food supplement pages.

Goltz will announce the winner of the kosher food judging the evening of April 11.

The Canada Food Fair Show is open only to those involved in the food trade.

For more information, call the Canadian Association of Specialty Foods, 416-255-7071.

Yom Hashoah V'Hagvurah

Monday, April 12, 1999

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Dedicated on June 2, 1991, the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial is at Earl Bales Park, Toronto. Sculptor: Ernest Raab.

1996 March of the Living – Rosemary Goldhar photo

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Dry Bones

WELL, THEY REALLY TURNED UP THE HEAT ON US!
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE BEZEQ WORKERS, THE ARYEH DERI VERDICT, THE TEACHER'S SANCTIONS...
...THE EU POSITION ON JERUSALEM, OR THE JORDANIAN RESPONSE TO OUR WATER POLICY?
ACTUALLY I WAS TALKING ABOUT THE WEATHER.

Justified and just

The demonstrations in this country against Canada's participation in the NATO action against Slobodan Milosevic's army must not deter the government from maintaining its policy. NATO's actions are justified and the government's policy is just.

The purpose of NATO's military intervention, it must be emphasized, is not to join the battle on the side of the Kosovars in their attempt to break away from Yugoslavia. Rather, it is to try to prevent the Yugoslav leader from exterminating the Kosovars.

Even as these words are being written, reports from Kosovo continue to tell a tale of extreme brutality against the ethnic Albanians there. Entire villages are being set to the torch, their inhabitants forced to flee ahead of the arrival of the marauding paramilitary gangs of Serbian thugs who plunder, loot, burn and murder.

Some critics of the NATO initiative contend that only the United Nations has the international legal authority to launch such military action. But their criticism is hollow, knowing as they do that the Russia would veto any UN military strike and thus prevent any attempt at rescuing the targeted Kosovars.

Other critics of the NATO action object that the allied forces have no moral or legal right to intervene in what they characterize as a wholly internal Yugoslavian dispute, thereby violating the inviolate territoriality of a sovereign nation state.

But this objection too is a shell that must be collapsed. There is no denying that Yugoslav sovereignty has been violated. But the sanctity of Yugoslav sovereignty weighs less on the scale of competing values than the sanctity of the lives of the countless thousands of Kosovars who are fleeing for their lives to avoid the slaughterers' knife. The attempt to negotiate a settlement of the dispute was an acknowledgment by the NATO alliance that Yugoslav sovereignty must indeed be respected – but not at all costs.

Once the Yugoslav leader rejected every diplomatic overture and every reasonable proposal to peacefully resolve the dispute, how were the lives of the ethnic Albanian Kosovars to be saved except by the use of force?

And is this in truth, not the paramount issue in the dispute now?

Are the lives of the ethnic Albanian Kosovars not to be saved?

Indifference to evil, in effect, is complicity with evil. After all the horrors and the brutalities let loose in this century by evil unchallenged, we must never again ever countenance such indifference, such complicity.

It is a humanitarian objective, not a military one, that NATO has undertaken to achieve in Yugoslavia. Canada is to be commended for participating.

The scandal of homelessness

Passover is a most fitting occasion for us to reflect upon the sorry plight of the homeless; it is a clarion proclaiming the inherent dignity of all mankind. It rouses us to rage against what Rabbi Dow Marmur forcefully describes elsewhere in these pages as "the scandal of homelessness." But rage unaccompanied by action will provide little comfort and even less shelter to those whom we must help.

The appointment last week by the federal government of Claudette Bradshaw as minister for the homeless was an important first step. But a first step is not yet a plan of action.

A humane, comprehensive plan of action will require wide intergovernmental consultation, adequate financial resources and the political will to restore to those unfortunate many the dignity that their homelessness has injured.

WISDOM OF THE AGES

"Let all who are hungry enter our home and eat;
let all who are needy join our Passover seder." (The Haggadah)

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Overcoming Ibsen requires "poetical spirit"

The contents of your editorials and your articles, in general, concerning the development and evolution of politics and religion in Israel, bring to mind a 100-year-old comment by Henrik Ibsen that has deeply troubled me for many years:

"The state is anathema to the individual. How does a state acquire its political strength? By absorbing the individual into [its] political and geographical idea… "And on the other hand, take the Jewish people, the aristocracy of the human race – how is it they have preserved their unique identity, their poetical spirit amid surroundings of coarse cruelty? By having no state to burden them. Had they remained in Palestine, they would long ago have lost their individuality in the process of building their nation – like all other nations." (editorial licence used to clarify translation).

For me, that "unique identity [and] poetical spirit" are the very essence of Judaism – from Abraham, to Moses, to Solomon, Isaiah, Hillel, Akiva, Maimonides, Nachman of Breslov. And I am deeply troubled by what I see emerging within the State of Israel: hostility, fanaticism, disrespect, intolerance, self-righteousness, violence – all those qualities that are the exact opposite of poetic spirit.

It may not be an easy task to surmount Ibsen's prognostication, but I think of it as our destiny and responsibility as Jews, the essence of our unique identity.

Boris G Freesman
Toronto

Needs of Holocaust survivors are ignored

I agree with D.M. Schonberger (*CJN*, Dec. 24) that the remarks of Irving Abella were deeply offensive. To refer to the Holocaust as a "metaphor" in education (*CJN*, Dec. 3), whatever his meaning, is an insult to all of us who lost members of our family. Unfortunately his insensitive words reflect the attitude of an elite group of Jewish leaders, who for many years avoided Holocaust education, as if it had never happened, and later appeared to use it as a bargaining position.

For this reason, many of us who returned from the services in 1945, remained ignorant of the mass killings in Nazi death camps until years later.

It is no wonder that leaders capable of seeing the Holocaust simply as a metaphor have little empathy or concern for the welfare of survivors, most of whom were people with real and immediate needs. The larger question that should be addressed then, appears to be: "Who should speak for the Canadian Jewish community?" Diaspora Jews are not a nation with democratically elected leaders, and it seems clear that the policies and practices of our self-appointed ones do not represent the best and most humane principles of our people.

Now of course, Abella can proudly state, "It would be inappropriate to end the 20th century arguing over how to divvy up assets." Does he mean that the struggle to make ends meet for needy Holocaust survivors would be inappropriate after 1999? Or that those who have robbed them are now fighting over the spoils?

Samuel Levy, Ph.D.
Montreal

Globe and Mail had hidden agenda on Dueck

Kudos and more to your editorialist for the piece (*CJN*, Mar. 4), condemning the cowardly article written by the *Globe and Mail* on the Johann Dueck case and the government's Nazi war criminal prosecution/deportation efforts.

It is almost impossible to escape the conclusion that the feature article on Johann Dueck that appeared in mid-February in the *Globe and Mail*, was printed with the full understanding that it would bring anti-Jewish elements in Canada out of the woodwork and onto the letters-to-the-editor pages of *the Globe*. My guess is that the *Globe* editors felt they erred in giving extensive and favorable coverage to Jean Chrétien's visit to Auschwitz with the Ronen family. These editors were surely startled by a barrage of hurtful, prejudiced letters from Canadians of Polish descent decrying the "overemphasis" on the Jewish tragedy at the death camp.

Danny Alexander
Toronto

Needs $15 daily to satisfy panhandlers

Re: Rabbi Gunther Plaut's article, "Outlawing the Panhandlers." (*CJN*, Mar. 11).

Tzedakah is a mitzvah of the highest order, but certainly a choice must be considered by the provider. The good rabbi obviously does not live in the downtown core of Toronto where panhandlers thrive. The many I meet on a daily basis are not interested in a cup of coffee or food, just money. One would have to carry $15 to $20 in change daily, to satisfy the mitzvah of tzedakah in downtown Toronto.

This does not address the real problem affecting the poor and homeless. Intelligent constructive social legislation must be enacted before the situation becomes overwhelming.

Sid Caplan
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Perspectives

The true and ultimate meaning of Pesach

By RABBI REUVEN P. BULKA

Passover is the period of time when we recall and relive our ancestors' enslavement and their having been redeemed from bondage.

Bond-age. That is an ugly word. But bond-ing, is a lovely word. What is the difference? In bonding, we are tied voluntarily to someone else in a meaningful relationship of friendship and trust. In bondage, we are tied to someone else against our will, in a distorted relationship of exploitation and horrible manipulation.

At the seder, we say, *Avadim hayinu*. We were slaves. To be an *eved* is to be in bondage. But to be an *eved* of God, to be a servant of God, is the highest form of bonding. A small nuance, but what a large distinction!

We relive the Exodus on Passover in order to move from bondage to bonding: bonding specifically with God.

There are many ways to bond with God. One way, which we unfortunately tend to overlook, is via bonding with God's creations, with our fellows. Though it often escapes us that we can connect to God by connecting to other humans, it cannot escape us that by disconnecting and antagonizing others, we antagonize and disconnect from God.

In this context, I share some reflections on my most recent trip to Israel, a few weeks ago. My plane landed just a few hours after the, by now, famous and humongous haredi rally and secular counter-rally in Jerusalem. By the time I arrived in Jerusalem, there was hardly a visible reminder that anything so massive had transpired just a bit earlier.

But there is no one who doubts that the impact of this event will be felt in Israel for a long time. The question is, what will that impact be? As the adept spin-meisters of politics will testify, it all depends on what "spin" we give to the event.

I do not feel comfortable being critical because I do not reside in Israel. And to be blunt, criticism usually is taken personally and adversely, and usually dismissed. There is much about which to be critical, but there is also much about which to be optimistic regarding the rally and counter-rally of recent vintage.

"The two sides (secular and haredi) share more than we realize."

[Jacob El-Baz photos]

Those who accuse me of being naively hopeful are correct, but I prefer this to a logic-based negativity which breeds hopelessness. Bear with me, as I share with you some thoughts on the light in the middle of the tunnel.

First, crazy as it may sound, I was delighted that there was a counter-demonstration. It showed that the "other side" cares very deeply about Israel. If there had been no reaction, that would have testified to a very dangerous level of apathy about Israel's future. We have long heard dire warnings about a reduced affection for Israel in the younger generation of secular Israelis; so the fact that they were there, 50,000 strong, is a positive sign.

This conglomerate of events was billed as the Haredim vs. the secular. But the two sides share more than we realize. Both, thankfully, care very deeply about Israel, and are committed to its future. The secular, though they might be horrified to find this out, are also haredi.

Haredi, the word, means anxious, concerned, worried. In its most immediate incarnation, it probably is most accurately translated as vigilance. Vigilance is the natural end result of being anxious, concerned and worried.

So the secular who demonstrated, and those who would have liked to but could not, evince a "haredi-ness" about Israel's future. Their vision of Israel is different, maybe even radically different, from the vision of their counterparts. But it helps us all to realize that these are shared concerns that diverge philosophically but converge on the essential matter of love for Israel.

Most secular Israelis that I know fully, espouse the Jewishness of Israel. They appreciate the passion, the zeal, the love, that emanates from many, in fact, most religious Jews. Religious Jews need to know this. They also need to know and to appreciate that thousands of so-called secular Jews gave their lives for the State of Israel, and many more were, and continue to be, ready to do the same should it tragically become necessary.

And yes, secular taxes have made it possible for Torah institutions to flourish in Israel at a level that is beyond astounding.

The two communities are not as far apart as it may seem. But there is definitely a need to heal serious ruptures between them. The perceptions that each community harbors about the other are where the action must start. And the weaknesses that prevail in the respective communities must be addressed by the communities themselves, not by each hurling epithets about the other.

The haredi community needs to ask why, after all these years, it has not created a better feeling about religion among the secular. The secular need to ask why, after all these years, their dedication and commitment to Israel have not filtered down effectively to their children.

If each of these communities will seek guidance from the other on where they may have gone wrong, much can be corrected before it is too late. But it can only happen with an honest willingness to admit failings and to seek remedies.

Rabbi Reuven Bulka

To the Haredim, whose passion for mitzvah fulfilment is unmatched, let me humbly make a small suggestion. For the next year, why not make the fundamental mitzvah of "love your fellow as yourself" (the bonding mitzvah!), the mitzvah that you will endow with your legendary zeal and boundless energy. Think of the impact this would have on Israeli society.

Let the Haredim try this for a year. I am convinced that once they try it, they, and the secular Israelis, will be so enthralled that the mitzvah will perpetuate, as it should and must.

Thus, haredi Jews concerned about cars driving through their neighborhoods should invite these very people to their homes to enjoy Shabbat together, instead of using other, less effective and more incendiary means to express their displeasure with the drivers. This can be, and should be, generalized as the approach for all matters that divide the communities, not only in Israel, but everywhere.

There is plenty to build on for the future. I would love for the haredi community to have a second demonstration. But for this show of strength, I would love them to invite all Israelis, with special emphasis on the secular community, to join them, to bond in prayer and resolve. That would be a wonderful show of strength, the strength referred to by the talmudic sages that is manifested when one turns a foe into a friend, when one transmutes hatred into love.

It would be a most welcome spin on the first demonstration, a spin that would be felt with warmth in all Israeli and Jewish circles.

But the road to such an event starts with our proper appreciation of the true and ultimate meaning of Pesach, what we do with our freedom and how we bond with our past, present, and future.

Rabbi Reuven Bulka is spiritual leader of Congregation Machzikei Hadas in Ottawa, and was recently the first Canadian rabbi to become chair of the State of Israel Bonds Rabbinic Cabinet.

Opinions

Away from home for the seders

It's that time of year again. Time to root through the basement looking for the extra sets of dishes, utensils, pot and pans.

Time to fill the cupboard with food in green and orange packages. Time to find new ways of observing Passover without having to actually eat matzah.

Jennifer Fox in Halifax

Like most Jews I know, I can't stand eating matzah. It's dry, it's crumbly and it's impossible to spread anything on it without it breaking.

The only people I know who enjoy eating matzah are non-Jews.

My roommate is excited that Passover is near because she enjoys the taste of our unleavened bread. Taste, what taste? I can't describe what matzah tastes like because I've come to believe that it doesn't have one. I think the 160 days of my life that I've spent eating the stuff has deadened my taste buds. If it has a taste, then I'll find it.

The absolutely worst thing about matzah is that it's not transportable. Year after year, I would take sandwiches of matzah and cream cheese to school. Though my sandwich would be tightly wrapped in layer upon layer of tin foil to prevent it from breaking, by the time lunch rolled around, it would be fractured in a hundred places, and soggy. I praise the person who invented kosher for Passover bagels.

My mom has sent me a box full of Passover food. Two boxes of egg matzah; three cans of chocolate chip macaroons; one box of instant Passover hot cereal, and plastic forks, knives, spoons and plates, which will hopefully sustain me for the eight days.

It's cheaper to have kosher for Passover food shipped in from Toronto than buying it in Halifax. The grocery store here has little to no selection and the price of a jar of gefilte fish would feed my entire house for a month. OK, maybe not for a month, but I have schoolbooks that cost less than these six pieces of fish.

I sound bitter, I know, but the Passover seder is one of my favorite times of the year. The three children of my family haven't all lived in the same house since I was 12 years old. But every spring, my brother and sister would return home from university so we could all sit down together as a family and retell the story of how our ancestors were freed from Egypt.

Passover is also the only time of the year when I'm willing to sing in public. I am, unfortunately, the youngest member of my family, siblings and cousins included. This means I must sing the Four Questions every year, even though I think I have a voice like a rusty hinge. My parents tell me I sound beautiful; I think they're tone deaf. Luckily, my cousins now have children, and I think it will only be a few more years until I can retire from my Four Question duties.

It's all the family traditions I will think of when I celebrate Passover this year in Halifax. It will be the second year now that I'll be spending the seders without my family. Though I will attend a student seder, and a generous Haligonian household will take me into their home and feed me, it's not the same.

Passover isn't Passover until I whine that I never find the afikoman, or until my mother asks, "How many matzah balls do you want in your soup?" Passover isn't Passover unless it's with my family. Now it's just the one week of the year when I eat tasteless crackers.

The real significance of Passover

Passover is coming. Bring out the matzah. Greet your family. Tell the story. Sing the songs. Drink the wine. Welcome Eliyahu. But don't forget to close the door after he enters the room and sips down the wine that was left for him.

Erica Horn in Montreal

It has been my experience that often during Passover, people forget what is important about the holiday and focus on other, more trivial elements. It seems that people expend unnecessary time deciding or arguing about which night they will make seder and who will be invited.

While family feuds and other crises can occur throughout the year, Passover seems to be the buzzword for breakdowns, grudges and complications. A simple game of word association will demonstrate my observation:

Passover: Matzah – tasteless. It's hard to cook on Passover – Who will make seder? I don't want to – it's too complicated. Where will we go? – We want to be with our family. I'll make it, but you bring the gefilte fish – Oh, but I already bought the fish, and so forth.

The purpose of Passover is to celebrate the Exodus from Egypt with family and friends. It is a time to enjoy good company, to sing the songs we now know by heart, and to realize how fortunate we are on the other days of the year that we don't have to stare at sealed off or practically empty pantries, and feel deprived of food we hold so dear.

Moreover, for those of us old enough (grandparents and uncles seem to experience difficulty distinguishing between those who are indeed old enough and those who aren't) it's a time to get a little "pickled" from four cups of wine (and when the head of the table loses count…).

Passover is a reminder of the importance of fighting for freedom and salvation in every generation, and it is a celebration of the Israelites' redemption from the Egyptian house of bondage.

While the holiday conjures up more restrictions than allowances, and more disagreements than can be avoided, people lose sight of its intentions and fall into the booby trap of prohibitions. Just because we can't eat bread, our favorite chocolate cake, or even drink our regular milk, doesn't mean we are given the warrant to break down the fortified walls of the importance of family, unity and humanity.

Furthermore, Passover politics sets a bad example for the younger generation. We cannot start assigning less than favorable adjectival names to family members who forget to send flowers, serve tasteless macaroons, or forget to close the door behind Eliyahu, let in a draft and plague the family with pneumonia and colds.

The theme of the Israelites being freed from bondage has provided us with a reason to rejoice and to be together. What purpose do family disputes serve? The longer they persist, the more negative the perception of Passover will become. Children will grow up associating Passover with dreaded family meals and warped memories of happy times gone sour, all because our parents have forgotten to don their value caps and gowns.

At the seder, we dip a green vegetable and/or an egg in salt water to serve as a reminder of bitter times. Forty years from now, who's to say that our grandchildren won't be mistaking this tradition for a reminder of how their ancestors were too caught up in family feuds to actually teach their children the real significance of the holiday?

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'Careful, they steal children!'

When I was a small boy and visited my grandparents' home in Muenster, in West Germany, my grandmother often warned me, "If you're not good, the Gypsies will come and steal you."

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

I wasn't quite sure who Gypsies were, but the threat was frightening enough because I did not want to be abducted. Only much later did I learn about the people who constituted the basis of grandma's threat. They suffered terrible discrimination, not unlike that of the Jews, and have experienced their own Holocaust as well. Pesach is a good time to think about them. Freedom has many faces!

Gypsies is a term that should, in fact, no longer be used, because it has an underlying derogatory meaning. The people it means to describe should be referred to as Roma, and their history has certain resemblances to our own.

At the present time, the Roma count some eight million in Europe and form the largest single minority group on the continent.

They arrived about 500 years ago from Asia, and a quick look at their experience in Europe will evoke familiar memories in the reader:

In 1496, a German edict declared Roma to be traitors to Christianty; a few years later, Louis XII forbade them from entering France; and until late in the last century, they lived as slaves in Romania. The Nazis – not to be outdone by anyone else – issued an edict which concluded that "the Roma question must be treated as a racial one." Subsequently half a million of them were exterminated.

But prejudice, as we Jews know, survives for a long time. As late as 1997, when several hundred Roma from Czechoslovakia and Romania sought asylum in Britain, even mainstream newspapers had headlines such as these: "Gypsies invade Dover hoping for a handout," or "They speak little English but know exactly how to play the system." Lines such as these have been used for Jews for hundreds of years.

Today, the Roma are scattered across Europe, and their largest communities are found in central and eastern Europe. The magazine *Refugees*, published by the United Nations in Geneva, reaches this conclusion: "They seem to face a common antipathy and fear, branded as ruthless wanderers, illiterate, dirty and even dangerous." That's the way Jews were described and denigrated not too long ago, and going by recent figures published in the Canadian Press in 1999, Jews are still the second largest group who suffer attacks from others. Only blacks have greater reason to complain.

There's an old saying that no one is truly free as long as others are in chains. I feel that way about the Roma. I don't know any of them personally, but I have read enough about them to know that they deserve more attention from us than perhaps any other group that is being persecuted at this time.

At Pesach time, I would like to see, not so much a Roma campaign, as merely a Roma awareness. It will make our sense of freedom and gratitude more cogent and more legitimate. Chag Samayach.

The Kirshner File

Muscle and moxie — Tough Jews loomed large

The very idea of a Jewish gangster, muscling and shooting his way into notoriety, seems incongruous today when Jews are being appointed presidents of major American corporations and Ivy League universities.

But for approximately three generations, until about 1945, the image of the Jewish mobster was indelibly etched into the consciousness of a nation.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

From Arnold Rothstein and Abe "Kid Twist" Reles to Louis (Lepke) Buchalter and Ben (Bugsy) Siegel, the figure of the Jewish hoodlum loomed large, and even somewhat romantically, in the pages of the yellow press and in popular folklore. These gangsters, hard and heartless and morally repugnant though they were, shattered ethnic shibboleths and stereotypes of the meek, milquetoast, submissive Jew.

Long after they had vanished from the scene, these tough, fearless Jews with guns, knives, ice picks and brass knuckles served as something of a counterpoint to the weak, defenceless, hapless Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

Given their almost legendary status, it is hardly surprising that writers have gravitated toward them like moths to a light bulb. Irving Howe, in *World of Our Fathers* (1976), took note of them, and Robert Lacey delved into their peculiar universe in *Little Man: Meyer Lansky and the Gangster Life* (1991).

Rich Cohen, in *Tough Jews* (Simon & Schuster), is the latest chronicler to plow this furrowed field of sociological inquiry. His is not a straightforward history of the Jewish mob, but rather a highly personal and impressionistic take of it as viewed through the eyes of his father and his friends.

Cohen's dad, as well as his chums, were raised in New York City districts - Bensonhurst, Flatbush and Brownsville - where these mobsters roamed.

"The Jewish gangster stories told each morning by my father and his friends," writes Cohen, "are really the remnants of the old neighborhood stories, legends that have been passed from clubrooms and street corners to boardrooms and delis and on to suburban towns, like the one where I grew up."

By his reckoning, the first "truly famous" Jewish gangster was Monk Eastman, whose real name was Edward Osterman. Born in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, now a Chassidic enclave, Eastman was the wayward son of a middle class restaurateur who sold a pet shop he had inherited to become a bouncer in a nightclub.

From there, he drifted into crime, gathering around him a coterie of Lower East Side Jewish thugs whose stock in trade was robbery. After bungling a holdup, he was dispatched to Sing Sing in 1904, and in his absence, a succession of Jewish gang leaders emerged, ranging from Big Jack Zelig to Dopey Benny Fein.

Released from prison in 1916, Eastman worked as a sneak thief, pickpocket and dope peddler. In 1917, he enlisted in the U.S. army, and on the battlefields of France, he acquitted himself as a hero. Unable to adjust to civilian life after the war, he returned to his bad old ways. In 1920, he was found dead in front of a cafe, having been shot five times. Eastman was buried with military honors.

Eastman's demise not only spelled finis to a gangster era, but ushered in a new epoch briefly dominated by Arnold Rothstein. A pampered rich man's son from Manhattan, Rothstein was fascinated by the seedy world of card and dice games which lay far beyond his ken. He was an inveterate gambler who befriended Big Tim Sullivan, the Irish political boss of the Lower East Side. "This is one of my smart young Jew boys," Sullivan proudly boasted when referring to his protége.

With Sullivan's protection, Rothstein, the putative model for F. Scott Fitzgerald's character Meyer Wolfsheim in *The Great Gatsby*, opened an opulent midtown casino. Having accumulated sufficient capital, Rothstein blossomed into the financier of the underworld.

They called him Ph.G.: Pappa has gelt. Rothstein was involved in the drug and in the illicit liquor trade. He also fixed fights, and, it's rumored, the 1919 World Series.

And while no one quite like him ever appeared again after his murder in 1928, the streets of urban America continued to produce a succession of colorful and menacing Jewish hoods.

In Cohen's father's judgment, the "greatest" of all the old gangsters was Abe Reles. Fleeing pogroms, Reles' father, a Galician Jew, reached Ellis Island - the gateway to America - in the early 1900s.

When he was 12, Reles left school, turning to petty crime. Soon, he was "enforcing discipline" - performing contract killings - for the infamous Syndicate, established by Italian mobsters in 1931 to keep the peace and apportion criminal turf.

When Reles turned state's evi-

Ben (Bugsy) Seigel

dence, much to the rage of the mob and much to the delight of U.S. prosecutor Tom Dewy, he sealed his fate. Although he was protected by a phalanx of 16 policemen, Reles suspiciously fell five storeys to his death from the window of a hotel in Coney Island.

In the pantheon of gangsterdom, Louis (Lepke) Buchalter was a singularly sinister figure, the man behind Murder Inc. The scion of Russian Jewish immigrants, he was the product of a broken family. Bereft of parental guidance, he fell in with a group of Jewish hoods who led him astray. In the mid-1920s, Rothstein recruited him as a "soldier."

With Rothstein's demise, Buchalter inherited his drug operation. Diversifying his base, he infiltrated and corrupted trade unions in the garment industry, and was not averse to physically eliminating scores of rivals.

In 1944, Buchalter's luck finally ran out. Refusing to cut a deal with prosecutors after his arrest, he was executed in the electric chair, the only high-level boss in mob history to receive the death penalty.

No book worth its salt on the mob would be complete without at least a reference to Arthur Flegenheimer (aka Dutch Schultz) and Meyer Lansky. In *Tough Jews*, Cohen elaborates upon their respective criminal careers.

Schultz was one of Rothstein's boys, riding shotgun on his whiskey trucks during Prohibition. With Rothstein's murder, he formed his own gang, consisting primarily of hooligans like Bo Weinberg, Abbadabba Berman and Lulu Rosenkrantz.

In the wake of Prohibition, Schultz entered the rackets, extorting money from Manhattan's swankiest restaurants and raking in huge profits from Harlem's numbers game.

According to Cohen, Schultz was perhaps New York City's "most visible" gangster in the 1930s. But when he outlived his usefulness, he was mercilessly gunned down. His hired assassins were Jews.

Renowned as the "brains" of the Syndicate, Lansky was one of the first Jewish mobsters to form alliances with Italian gangsters, notably Charles (Lucky) Luciano. Toward the end of his life, Lansky was a fugitive from justice, forced to leave Israel, his temporary haven, by the long arm of the American government.

Law enforcement official Ralph Salerno believes that "Italian gangs with Jewish friends" had an edge over their competitors. They were swayed by the prospect of gain and not blinded by racism. Cohen quotes him as saying: "The Genovese family, the Gambino family, they had Jewish friends and prospered. What did they care about a guy's religion? Do you like him? Do you trust him? Can you make money with him? That's all that matters."

There is a large grain of truth in the simplicity of these words.

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Israel's Sephardi election

By AVI BENLOLO

At no other time in Israel's political history have there been so many Sephardi politicians poised to help govern the state as there are in this coming election on May 17.

Israeli Sephardim can no longer be viewed as an underclass, but rather as part of an emerging governing-class. This is evident if one examines the ranking of Sephardi candidates on the electoral lists of the major parties including, Labor, Likud, the new centre and Shas.

The Labor party has made a dramatic shift; historically its top candidates were mainly of east European descent, or Ashkenazim. Realizing the party's lack of representation within the Sephardi community, Labor leader Ehud Barak appointed David Levy and Dr. Shlomo Ben Ami to third and fourth place respectively on the electoral list.

A veteran of Israeli politics, Levy realized his Gesher party might not survive this election and so he accepted Barak's offer to follow Shimon Peres on the party list. Levy's most distinct attribute is that he is respected by working class Sephardim who can identify with his Moroccan heritage. They are aware that like them, he too came from a lower socio-economic group.

On the other hand, Ben Ami represents Sephardim who have succeeded in Israeli society – the upper class. Born in Morocco and raised in Kiryat Shmona, Ben Ami became a professor at Hebrew University.

Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party has historically been much more inclusive of Sephardim. Nevertheless, it is interesting to note that the three top spots following the prime minister are occupied by Sephardim in the following order: Tunisian-born Silvan Shalom currently minister of Science and Technology; Meir Shitrit who is an emerging figure and represents Moroccan young leadership; and finally, Iranian-born Moshe Katzav, who now serves as minister of tourism and deputy prime minister.

The new centre party,which is still without a platform but a threat to Labor and Likud, is led by Yitzhak Mordechai. Born in Kurdistan and a traditional Sephardi Jew, Mordechai served as a major general in the IDF. He resigned from Likud as minister of defence in January to help form the centre party.

Finally, the political party to watch most in these elections is Shas, the self-proclaimed Sephardi party. Lead by Rabbi Aryeh Deri and backed by Rabbi Ovadia Yoseph, its spiritual leader, the party won four seats in its first election in 1984. Shas quickly rose to 10 seats in the 1996 elections. Although sometimes perceived as a religious party, Shas attracts traditional Sephardi Jews who can best be described as moderate in their religious and political views.

The party began as a grass-roots movement establishing an organization called El Hamayan (to the source) which caters to the social needs of lower income Sephardi families.

El Hamayan provides child care services to working parents, social assistance to families and educational programs for school children. Shas was clearly able to capture votes through the work of El Hamayan.

Clearly, the major political parties in Israel have targeted the Sephardi vote. The fact that so many key Sephardi figures are at the top of their respective party's electoral list makes it evident that the Sephardi community plays a major role in this election.

(Special thanks to Eli Ophir for helping compile this information.)

Counting of the Omer

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

It's somewhat ironic that on the second night of Pesach, with the holiday barely underway, Jews are already beginning to prepare themselves for yet another festival. Thursday night marks Day 1 of sefirat haOmer, the counting of the Omer, which culminates in seven weeks with Shavuot. This period is a fascinating one, long associated with spiritual, even kabbalistic growth.

Just what is an omer? According to the Torah, an offering consisting of an omer (a specific measure) of barley was brought to the Temple on the second day of Passover **[http://www.virtual.co.il./city_services/holidays/lagbaomer/omer.htm]**.

Until that offering was made, no grain from the new year's crop was to be eaten. From that day onwards, it was necessary to count 49 days until Shavuot – the Feast of the Wheat Harvest (Leviticus 23:15) **[http://bible.ort.org/bible/htm/leviticu/torah/23152316.htm]**.

After the destruction of the Temple, the practice of bringing barley was discontinued, but Jews continued to count the Omer period.

The Ohr Somayach site calls this period a spiritual journey of 49 Steps **[http://www.virtual.co.il/education/education/ohr/special/omer/index.htm]**.

The Kabbalists' interpretation of the Omer was based on the various permutations (7 x 7) of the sefirot or mystical emanations. These sefirot denote the ascent from the 49 "gates" of impurity of the Egyptian bondage to the purity of the revelation at Sinai. You can listen to three online lectures about the deeper significance of sefirat haOmer at 613.org **[http://www.613.org/shavuot.html]**.

How do you keep your days straight throughout the 49 days of counting?

Download a program to keep track of time for you. Windows users can download the free sefira program courtesy of Chabad **[http://www.chabad.org/software/index.html]**. Mac users can try out Doron Shalmon's MacSefira **[http://www.eclipse.net/~ohavemeth/MacSefira/]**. This program is shareware, but the author promises to donate all proceeds to tzedakah. And Virtual Jerusalem will send you a daily e-mail to help keep track of the proper day **[http://www.virtual.co.il/city_services/holidays/pesach/count.htm]**.

Their site also has instructions about how to do the count, as does Project Genesis at **[http://www.torah.org/learning/yomtov/omer/sefira.html]** and **[http://www.torah.org/learning/rambam/special/mt.sp.1.3.html]**.

The best program I have come across to help you keep track of the count will create a full Jewish calendar right on your Internet browser. Havienu L'Shalom's Hebrew Calendar is a remarkable piece of work **[http://www.knowledgengineers.com/Havienu/html/ndx_vs.html]**. You can generate and print a calendar complete with the Omer count, holidays and Shabbat readings. Click on your city's name (or enter your longitude and latitude) and the calendar will even calculate local candle lighting and havdalah times. Please note there may be some discrepancy between Havienu's candlelighting times and the one supplied by your neighborhood synagogue.

The Omer season has been associated with many national tragedies; so it has become the custom to refrain from holding public celebrations during this period. Eliezer Segal looks at the various tragic events which have occurred during sefirat haOmer and looks at related prohibitions such as wearing new clothes and getting married **[http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/Shokel/Calendar_Index.html#Omer]**.

However, if you have invested in an engagement ring, there's no excuse to procrastinate. You *don't* have to wait until the Omer period is over to give it to your fiancée **[http://www.ohr.org.il/ask/ask063.htm#Q3]**.

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at [mdm@inforamp.net].

Jewish Life

Midrashic Moments

Layers of meaning

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

As Passover nears, the entire Jewish people enter a phase I term seder madness. This is the time Jewish families rush to prepare for a dinner ritual that is both foreign in its complexity and beautiful in its simplicity.

Passover is the holiday of freedom and the celebration of spring. The seders have us re-live our slavery, which we commemorate with an abundance of food. It can best be termed a holiday of layers, layers which appear in every aspect of the holiday.

One example is seen in what we assume to be the simplest element of the seder: the Four Questions. The youngest person at the seder asks what appear to be four questions about the strangeness of the ritual that is unfolding at the table.

Generally we all look forward to the time when the youngest child has their moment in the spotlight – their unique moment of expressing their Jewishness. During all the other holidays we try to include our children so they can connect and feel part of Jewish ritual.

However, this night is different. On this night the ritual cannot continue unless the youngest among us is active and has their moment. We are not striving to include them, because the seder has made it essential that they participate. We listen closely as they sing the Four Questions. The parents and grandparents beam with pride and the slightly older children remember years gone by when they had their moments. Siblings help if the youngest child falters, and they have now become the experienced mentors, even though they themselves are still children. This is the first layer.

The second layer appears when we take a close look at these questions, for in fact they are not four questions. The child asks: "Why is this night different than all other nights?" and proceeds to itemize four ways in which this night appears different. There is really only one question with four perspectives on the question. It seems that the child is wondering about four aspects of the night, but in truth the child has asked one question: Why is the night different?

In this layer of the ritual, the seder is making an important point to the parents. There is never one question and consequently there can never be one answer. Every question has sub-questions; every observation has perspectives; every ritual has nuances.

When young children ask a question about Judaism, prompt them to ask another, prompt them to ask four. Answer the children in ways that address many questions so that the children can begin to build a portrait of their Judaism. An answer that encompasses only yes or no presents the child with a world of blacks and whites.

Judaism is a spectrum of colors and the seders offer us the range of questions, the multiplicity of answers and the layers of the complex and the simple.

Roots & Remembrance

Yad Vashem's 'list of lists'

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

Faced with a deadline of March 31, 1999, an army of some 1,200 data entry clerks, software technicians, Holocaust scholars and others, worked feverishly throughout the winter to computerize the names of three million or more Holocaust victims from a collection of documents at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem.

Spurred into action by an $8 million (US) allocation of funds from the Swiss Bankers Association and the World Jewish Congress, Yad Vashem officials initiated a massive mobilization of manpower, took over a whole floor in a Jerusalem office building, and rented more temporary space in Beersheva for the duration of the project.

The Swiss Bankers Association and the World Jewish Congress, acting jointly as the Volcker Commission, funded the project in order to attain a comprehensive list of names of Holocaust victims to compare with a list of dormant Swiss bank accounts that may have belonged to Jews killed by the Nazis during WWII.

Yad Vashem officials began to conceptualize such a project years ago, but only went into high gear after the Volcker Commission funding arrived in early January.

"It's a fascinating convergence of interests," said Yaacov Lozowick, director of the Yad Vashem archives. "We've been dreaming of this for a long time and would have done it at our own sedentary rate until the Volcker Commission came along and wanted it done right away. Yad Vashem could have lived with doing this over two years. But if it has to be done in three months, then so be it."

Yad Vashem has been collecting testimony from relatives of Holocaust victims since the early 1950s, and now has more than three million of the handwritten documents. Everyday for two months, workers fed some 50,000 pages of testimony into two high-speed scanners, while teams of data entry clerks worked around the clock to keyboard the pages, whose high-resolution scanned images appeared on their screens.

Recognizing the inevitability of transcription errors and difficulties in reading the Hebrew, English, Polish and other languages in which the pages of testimony were originally scrawled, Yad Vashem officials devised a thorough system of checks. Whenever a surname or place name was detected for the first time, for instance, that particular record was electronically sent upwards to a hierarchy of specialists, who checked it against thorough master lists that the institution has compiled over many years.

As part of its overall effort to compile a comprehensive computerized inventory of Holocaust victims, Yad Vashem has drawn up a master list of some 8,163 other lists of Holocaust victims, containing a total of more than 12 million occurrences of names.

Nearly 2,000 additional lists compiled by the International Tracing Service of the Red Cross contain an additional six million names, bringing the total on Yad Vashem's List of Lists to roughly 18 million occurrences of names on some 10,000 lists.

The lists include many duplicates – for instance, a Czech Jew who possessed a Generali life insurance policy, had a business confiscated, and was eventually deported to Theresienstadt and then Auschwitz or Dachau, might show up five times – but according to Lozowick, they make it possible, for the first time, to name at least five of the six million Jews who perished.

Yad Vashem is making every effort not to duplicate the smaller-scale computerization efforts of other institutions such as Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation and The United States Holocaust Museum and Memorial, Lozowick said. "Any of these institutions that give us the results of what they've done, we give them what we've done. It's a win-win situation."

So far, Yad Vashem has entered into cooperative arrangements with eight institutions, including the Bergen-Belsen Museum which has provided a list of 23,000 Jewish inmates, and the Swiss Federal Archives which has supplied a list of 24,000 names of Jews who entered Switzerland during the Nazi era.

Yad Vashem plans to make its computerized list of Holocaust victims easily accessible to the public, most likely via the Internet, before the end of 1999, Lozowick said.

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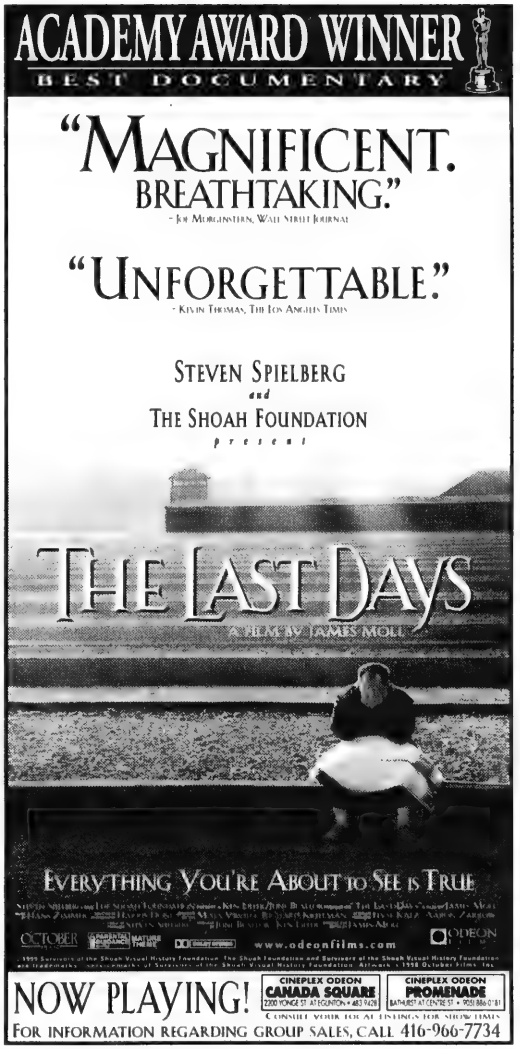


jewish toronto

Simcha Baskets Filled with Joy

Thanks to Jewish Women's Federation (JWF), a department of UJA Federation, families are adding new meaning to their special occasions by sharing their joy and good fortune with those in need.

The Simcha Basket project provides decorative centerpieces containing kosher food products which are then donated to community agencies for distribution to needy community members following the celebration. JWF volunteers give simcha planners guidelines for creating their own baskets, a list of professionals who can design the centerpieces and cards accompanying the baskets which explain the hosts' participation in the project.

"It's a wonderful way to enhance a celebration and to perform an important mitzvah," says Malka Lewittes-Pratzer, who displayed Simcha Baskets at her daughter's bat mitzvah last year. "Ariella and I felt it was a natural way of expressing community belonging and concern for others."

Project Chair Rochelle Reichert, who incorporated Simcha Baskets into her daughter Serena's bat mitzvah celebration in February, says she couldn't bear the thought of throwing away centerpieces after the party. "We saw this as a chance to perform tzedakah and teach our children about the true meaning of Jewish responsibility."

Now in its second year, the project has sent food contributions to Yad Chesed, Jewish Family and Child Service, Tomchei Shabbos, the Pride of Israel Food Bank and the National Council for Jewish Women. Reichert hopes increased efforts by volunteers to publicize Simcha Baskets in synagogues and schools will attract more participants. "So far all our success is due to word of mouth."

Serena Reichert

But Simcha Baskets are not only ideal for bar and bat mitzvahs, says Lewittes-Pratzer who is approaching large communal organizations and businesses about the project. "It's really something appropriate for almost any occasion."

"We are so grateful for these gifts," enthuses Naomi Greenberg, who helps put together food packages delivered to dozens of poor families every week. "Sometimes, when we're a little short, the items we receive from Simcha Baskets help us fill our boxes."

"Although these donations don't alleviate hunger by any means, we hope they help brighten someone's day and raise awareness about the issue," notes Danita Dubinsky-Aziza, who, along with Ellen Kachuck-Rosenbluth co-chairs JWF's Community Response Project, which spearheaded the initiative.

If you are planning an upcoming simcha and would like to receive a Simcha Basket information package call (416) 635-2883 ext. 135.

Community Celebrates Israel's 51st

Mark Yom Ha'atzmaut, Tuesday, April 20 in your calendar! Not only can you join hundreds of community members to celebrate Israel's 51st birthday, free of charge, you could also win two round trip tickets, courtesy of El Al, to see the real thing.

"What better way is there to celebrate our 50th anniversary as Israel's national carrier than offering people in our community a chance to win two free flights," says Stanley Morias, Director of marketing for El Al Israeli Airlines. "We're honoured to be part of this wonderful event."

The gathering, at 7:00 pm at the Bathurst Jewish Centre, is jointly sponsored by UJA Federation and the Canadian Zionist Federation in cooperation with the Consulate General of Israel. Admission is free, but space is limited so call (416) 635-2883 ext. 116 and reserve tickets. Admission tickets will be entered into the draw and a winner will be chosen by an El Al representative during the evening.

Additional highlights include music, an Israeli flag ceremony, Bialik and USDS choir performances, an address by Israel Consul General Jehudi Kinar, and a special Israel experience presentation for young adults.

"We felt this event is a wonderful way for our community to express its love for and pride in Israel and her achievements," adds event chair Lorraine Sandler. "There is no better way for us to demonstrate the importance of Israel in our lives. The connection of our youth to Israel is our future."

Around jewish toronto

generation to generation

Join Holocaust survivors and community members for the **Yom Hashoah V'Hagvurah** Holocaust Community Commemoration, **Monday April 12, 7:00 pm Earl Bales Park (Bathurst south of Sheppard).**

food for thought

Members of **UJA Federation's Young Leadership Cabinet** and **ATID** joined a corps of 1,000 volunteers who helped sort, pack and deliver hundreds of boxes containing Passover food items at the annual **National Council for Jewish Women Passover Food Drive**. The boxes, which include candles and haggadot, were delivered on March 26th to thousands of needy community members. Pictured at left: ATID member **Laurie Sheff** and her son **Matthew**.

Correction

The photograph of the young man in ***UJA Federation Rescues Vital JF&CS Programs***, which appeared in the Feb. 4 issue of ***jewish toronto***, was provided by photographer **Natalie Kauffman**.

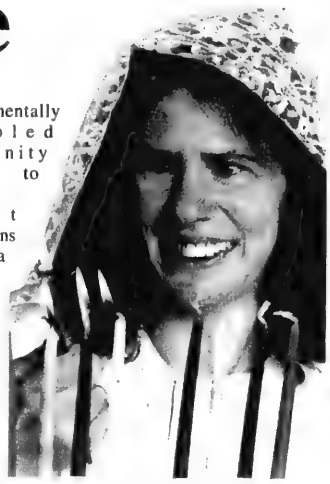
Reena Reinforces Jewish Life

At age 24, Todd Brooker is about to participate in his third Passover Seder. Todd, was born with severe developmental challenges and never had the opportunity to do so until two years ago when he became a client of Reena.

Brooker, blind from birth, moved from Ottawa to Toronto in 1996 after his mother Sharon won a long battle to secure a place for him in one of the agency's 22 group homes. "Now, Todd is able to celebrate all the Jewish holidays," explains Sharon.

Reena, established in 1973, provides housing, residential support, counseling, therapy and recreational programming for close to 1000 clients with developmental disabilities and their families. With financial assistance from UJA Federation, the agency also conducts extensive Judaic programming which includes client participation in community events, holiday celebrations, staff training, Kashrut in all group homes, assistance with Jewish lifecycle occasions and synagogue attendance.

New Jewish programming initiatives include increased community outreach, building links with synagogues and other communal organizations, such as Jewish Family and Child Service, to facilitate integration, and sending more developmentally disabled community members to Israel.



Last year, dozens of Reena clients participated in Israel at Fifty celebrations, including the *Night of A Lifetime* gala and UJA Federation's Israel at 50 Funwalk.

"UJA Federation is a symbol of our community, so it's natural for us to encourage our clients to participate in these kinds of events," says Sandy Keshen, Reena's Executive Director. "It gives them a great sense of inclusion and, at the same time, it exposes members of the community to our agency."

"We try to give our Jewish clients the opportunity to connect with the rest of the community and be exposed to Jewish tradition," stresses Arlene Margolis, Manager of Reena's Judaic Programming. "UJA Federation funding helps to train Reena staff – most of whom aren't Jewish," explains Margolis, whose training seminars focus on maintaining a Jewish household, festival observances and meal preparation. "We also encourage our staff to accompany their clients to synagogue," she adds.

This week, Passover Seders will be held in five Reena group homes across the city.

"Reena has always made quality of Jewish life a top priority," says agency Chair Stanley Kugelmass. "It's about pursuing the highest ideals of Judaism – tzedakah."

"UJA Federation supports Judaic programming at Reena because it recognizes that this population is an important part of our community," adds UJA Federation Social Planning and Allocations Committee member Ruth Ladovsky.

jewish toronto

Coming Together in Toronto

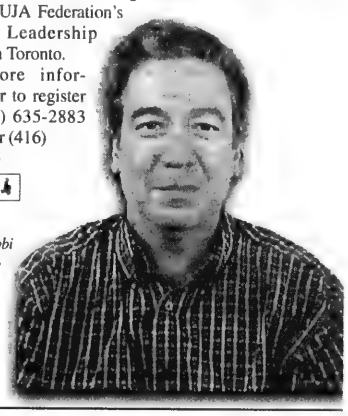
B'yachad - togetherness - is the theme of the third bi-annual Canadian Young Leadership Conference at Toronto's Inn On the Park Hotel, April 9-11.

The weekend conference, sponsored by UIA Federations Canada, will feature Emmy Award winning documentary film producer and director Simcha Jacobovici; Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, Director of the popular Kolel learning centre; Rabbi Danny Levine; Shira Herzog Middle East analyst; and noted professor and author Irving Abella.

Other program highlights include a kabbalat Shabbat ceremony and dinner, Saturday night Havdallah services followed by a party at a venue in the downtown core and a chance to meet Israeli young leadership delegates.

"It's a great opportunity for young Jewish adults to meet people from across the country, discuss relevant issues and re-discover their Jewish roots," says Joseph Benbasset, who is chairing the event with Heather Milstein. "People should take time out of their busy schedules to experience what promises to be an exhilarating couple of days," adds Benbasset, who participated in the International Young Leadership Conference in London, England last November and is active in UJA Federation's Young Leadership Cabinet in Toronto.

For more information, or to register call (416) 635-2883 ext. 177 or (416) 636- 7655 ext. 237.



Rabbi Danny Levine, scholar at the Melitz Institute in Israel.

volunteer views

When Charlotte Sasto moved to Toronto from South Africa two days after her 70th birthday, she told her daughter that she would need only two months to find her place in the community. In fact, all it took for this young at heart 84 year-old, was one week.

"I've been a volunteer all my life," explains Charlotte, who is known as the "voice of the Jewish Book Fair," where she has been in charge of ticket sales and bookings for close to 15 years. "I began volunteering for the Book Fair just two days after I arrived in Toronto."

Although the Book Fair, held at the Bathurst Jewish Centre every November, occupies a special place in Charlotte's busy schedule, she also manages to keep up her remarkably steady pace for the remaining 11 months of the year.

Her full roster of volunteer activities includes teaching weekly arts and crafts classes and organizing other gatherings at the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Creative Living; running bingo games and discussion groups at the B'nai Brith apartment building where she lives; and, livening up the lounge at Baycrest on Tuesday afternoons with tea and cookies for residents and their guests.

Charlotte, who held many leadership positions in Johannesburg, South Africa, including a 30 year term as chairperson of the Jewish Women's Benevolent Society, says "I was raised to care for others so I am just following my parents' example."

Now Charlotte is setting her own example for five grandchildren and four great grandchildren. In 1995 she was presented with the Mel Lastman Volunteer of the Year Award for her service at the Betel Centre, which she displays on her dining room table among her colourful crafts and delicately knit infant sweaters. "One day," she vows, "I'll give the award to my granddaughter."

To find out about volunteer opportunities in the Jewish community, call (416) 635-2883 ext. 137.

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Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Toronto, agency helping new immigrants with resettlement and integration, is looking for enthusiastic and committed volunteers.

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• Youth & Children

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Please call JIAS at (416) 630-6481.
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Enjoying the blessings of Pesach

By MAURY KELMAN

As you read this, you are probably in the midst of frantic, and even more frantic, Pesach preparations.

Guest Voices

Each year it seems, people begin to prepare earlier and earlier for this eight-day festival. In fact, I'm aware of one family that got so tired of Pesach cleaning, with its concomitant dish rearrangement and pot moving, that they now keep Pesach all year round.

With all the focus upon cleaning, however, we must ensure that we do not neglect the key aspects of the holiday, namely macaroons and marshmallows. Each year, I study the eating patterns of Jews, and I have yet to see a Jew eat a marshmallow during the other 357 days of the year. Yet, come Pesach, every Jewish family must purchase a bag of fluffy, kosher for Passover marshmallows, and prominently display them in the cupboard right next to the 23 tins of chocolate, chocolate chip, chocolate watermelon, chocolate papaya and chocolate eggplant macaroons (usually left over from last year).

Furthermore, by no means do I mean to question the obligation to own old fruit slices, which thanks to great advances in nutrition, now contain only 94.8 percent chemical additives, and can keep for up to 12 years.

My own sweet memories of Passovers past centre around borscht. Oh, how I would yearn for those eight magical days when the borscht would flow freely, enveloping me in its regal red wonder. Growing up, we were only allowed borscht as a special treat on the Sabbath before a Wednesday new moon if it coincided with the Toronto Maple Leafs enjoying a three-game winning streak, which effectively left borscht banquets for those too swift Pesach days. The anticipation was palpable on Passover eve, and while short sighted Jews the world over compared their briskets and hens, I basked in borscht heaven.

Thank God, after years of counselling with Borschters Anonymous, I can now enjoy the occasional shot on Pesach without reverting to my former ways.

In fact, as I've grown older, I have come to appreciate other aspects of Pesach beyond food. While eating our M & M & Ms (matzot, macaroons and marshmallows) is clearly crucial, we must not forget the most important part of Pesach and all Jewish holidays.

The keys to happiness

Maimonides (this is the serious part now, so be forewarned) in Hilchot Yom Tov explains that a Jew who buys the most exquisite food, serves it on the most beautiful china, and drinks the most expensive French wine for the four cups, but does not invite any guests for the seder has made a mockery of the commandment to rejoice on the festivals. "This," Maimonides thunders, "is not happiness. This is your stomach's happiness."

As Rav Soloveitchik, one of this century's great rabbis, has explained, good meat and fine wine, while mandated on the festivals, are only tools given to mankind to unlock the keys to happiness. True happiness on Pesach occurs when, after enjoying a fine meal, we appreciate all of God's blessings in this world. It occurs when we find ourselves engrossed in a discussion upon the significance of the four sons, and can't wait to whisk back 4,000 years and experience the Exodus ourselves. True joy occurs when we recognize the great and little miracles that God performs, not only on Pesach, but each day of the year for ourselves and loved ones.

There is, however, one ingredient missing from this incomparable recipe of physical bounty and spiritual yearning, without which the recipe borders on the unkosher. As Maimonides points out at the end of the Laws of Megillah (Purim), "there is no greater and more beautiful happiness than to cause the needy, orphans, widows and strangers to rejoice. In fact, whoever raises their hearts to happiness can be compared to God."

It is difficult to find a more succinct and poignant way of expressing our responsibility to reach out to all Jews during the holidays, and in fact all year round. Let us resolve to ensure that no Jew during Pesach lacks a place to eat or a home where he or she can find comfort. Look around your work place. Look around your neighborhood. Look anywhere you can find a Jew. Introduce yourself. Smile. Extend an invitation for a meal.

If all of us are as meticulous in this crucial area as we are in our cleaning and food preparation, surely the entire Jewish people will be rewarded with not only a joyous Pesach but also a future filled with peace, success and true happiness.

Maury Kelman is chair of Kedma, an international Jewish student organization.

MINYANIM IN THE GTA
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Adath Israel (C)	37 Southbourne Ave. (416) 635-5340	6:20 PM 6:25	9:00 AM	8:00 & 9:00 AM	7:00 & 7:45 AM	6:40, 6:25, 7:40 & 7:00 PM
Agudath Israel (O)	129 McGillivray Ave. (416) 789-5514	6:27 PM	8:45 AM	7:00, 7:30 8:00, 8:30	Mon. Thurs. 6:25, 6:50 7:15 Tues. Wed. Fri. 6:30, 6:55	6:30 PM
Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am (C)	55 Yeomans Rd. (416) 633-5500	6:30 PM	9:00 AM	8:30 AM	7:00 & 8:00 AM	6:30 & 7:30 PM
Beth Lida (O)	22 Gilgorm Rd. (416) 489-2550	6:32 PM	9:00 AM	----------	----------	----------
Beth Radom (C)	18 Reiner Rd. (416) 636-3451	5:30 PM	8:45 AM	9:00 AM	8:00 AM	5:30 PM
Chevra Shas (O)	3545 Bathurst St. (416) 781-7126	6:27 PM	9:15 AM	7:00 & 8:00 AM	6:30 & 7:30 AM	6:30 PM
Minyan Avreichim (The Boat Shul) (O)	2919 Bathurst St. (416) 789-4731	6:27 PM	8:30 AM	7:30, 8:00, 8:30 & 9:00	7:00, 7:30, 8:00 8:30 & 9:00 AM	6:30 PM
Temple Emanu-El (R)	120 Old Colony Rd. (416) 449-3880	7:30 PM	10:30 AM	8:30 AM	7:30 AM	----------
Temple Kol Ami (R)	36 Atkinson Ave. (905) 709-2620	7:30 PM	10:30 AM	----------	----------	----------
Yeshivas Toras Chaim (O)	475 Lawrence Ave. W. (416) 781-6941	6:00 PM	9:30 AM	7:00 AM	6:30 AM	6:30 PM

This is not a comprehensive listing of the synagogues in the Greater Toronto area. The information is provided by the Vaad Harabonim of Toronto and the Toronto Board of Rabbis. The Vaad and the Board will periodically revise the listings. For Pesach davening times, please call the Synagogue which you wish to attend.

Zareinu 'dollars' help children with special needs

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — In the past few weeks as people have been power shopping for Passover, Zareinu Educational Centre has been a grateful beneficiary.

Over 100 stores in the Toronto area accept Zareinu dollars – certificates in denominations of $10, $20 and $50 – that are bought at face value and used as cash.

Participating stores and services donate a percentage of the money back to Zareinu, to maintain therapies for special needs children, said Gloria Silver, Zareinu dollars program coordinator.

The centre serves about 60 special needs children from infancy through age 12, offering special education, physiotherapy, music, occupational and communication therapies. Students have a range of developmental and physical disorders including autism, Down syndrome and cerebral palsy.

Although there is a perception that the school is for Orthodox children only, the students reflect the entire spectrum of the Jewish community, said Silver.

Zareinu has four programs: infant intervention; junior and senior class (run as a nursery school, but with therapies); total communication program (TCP) for severely handicapped children; and, new this year, a more academically-oriented class for students with general learning disabilities. The latter two programs are run at Or Haemet Sephardic School; the former two at 4700 Bathurst St.

Zareinu dollars fund 10 to 15 percent of the school's operating budget, said Silver.

Although there is no additional cost to the customer who buys Zareinu dollars, sales – through the office and a team of 100 volunteers – had reached a plateau.

Silver attributed the slowdown, at least in part, to the increased use of debit cards, which preclude customers from exchanging cash for Zareinu dollars in stores where volunteers were stationed. "It's definitely had an impact on us," she said.

Late last year, Zareinu began accepting Visa and MasterCard in payment for Zareinu dollars. Although there is a charge of one percent, sales have picked up, particularly among people who accumulate air mile points with the use of their card, said Silver.

She offers delivery of Zareinu dollars if people phone in their credit card order.

The first certificates were printed in 1992, with a focus on stores in Jewish areas. Zareinu's customer base covers the area from Don Mills Road west to Dufferin Street, and from St. Clair Avenue north to Richmond Hill.

Participating merchants and services range from Act II Fine Jewellery to Zephyr Studios Inc., from Aleph Bet Judaica to the Zemer Orchestra. There is also a wide selection of supermarkets, restaurants and food stores, as well as gift, party goods and clothing stores and a number of professional services.

Silver was selling Zareinu dollars before she landed her present job in 1996. Her late parents were also active volunteer sellers at the IGA (then Food City) at Spring Farm Marketplace in Thornhill.

"Our philosophy is, if you're part of a community, you have to help a community," she said. Like Silver, over 90 percent of the volunteers do not have children at the school.

MATZAH MAGNETS

Students at USDS Bayview campus prepare matzah magnets, which they intend to sell to raise tzedakah for the Israel Cancer Research Fund. This is a self-directed project of the school's activity board committee, which meets one lunch time a week and is supervised by two teachers who devote their spare time. It is comprised of one child elected from each class, grades 3 through 5. Seen (from left) are Shanna Abramovitch, Mitchell Rattner, Shira Herzstein and Jamie Goldstein.

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Educators urged to examine multiple intelligences

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — Education should encompass a variety of methods in order to reflect children's different learning styles, says a leading Toronto educator.

Gail Baker, a co-founder of the Toronto Heschel School, and its director of general studies, recently spoke on multiple intelligences (MI) theory and its role in Jewish education, at the Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue, where the Heschel School is located.

Baker is a proponent of MI theory which essentially purports that there are many ways of being smart.

For example, one can have mathematical, linguistic, musical, athletic, and/or interpersonal intelligence, she said, noting that most people have a combination of intelligences.

A recognized expert on MI theory, Baker has recently given workshops on the subject at several U.S. Jewish education conferences, among them, the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE) and the Jewish Educators Assembly.

She said MI theory is a very current topic in education because it gives a broader view of how children learn; it is applicable to Jewish education because "educators are looking for ways of keeping children connected to Judaism for life.

"Educators recognize the need to deepen children's understanding of the text and Jewish culture so children will have a better chance of retaining the material."

She said traditionally, the tendency was to approach Jewish subjects in one way, and that "limited access to the material for many children.

Jewish subjects

"MI offers different avenues...It's a way of opening up a door in Jewish education that might not have been open before."

Baker said that traditional IQ tests, developed in the early 1900s, deal mainly with logical/mathematical and linguistic intelligences, but those tests are not designed to measure the other kinds of intelligences that people possess.

She cited the work of American professor Howard Gardner, the leading proponent of MI theory. A neuropsychologist from Harvard University, Gardner developed this theory after identifying at least seven different types of intelligence in the '70s and '80s.

She said those intelligences include linguistic, the ability to manipulate language; logical/mathematical; interpersonal, a well-developed understanding of other people and relationships; intrapersonal, the ability to have personal insight; spatial, the ability to imagine clear images and to perceive the visual/ spatial world accurately; bodily-kinesthetic, intelligence, expertise in using the whole body both athletically and expressively; and musical intelligence, the capacity to express musical forms.

Baker noted that Gardner recently identified an eighth intelligence – the naturalist, the ability to understand plants and animals and other aspects of nature.

Most people have blends of these intelligences, she explained.

"There is not one way of being smart. A cognitive profile is a combination of different intelligences. That's what makes individuals unique."

Baker stressed that MI theory is not an educational, but a psychological theory. "It's what we do with the theory that makes it educational theory."

The teacher's responsibility is to create a bridge between the various subject areas and the individual child's abilities, she said.

"Educators need to consider every child and their particular learning patterns if we want to unlock the potential of every student, and create life-long learners."

PASSOVER FOOD BOXES
Students at Eitz Chaim Day School sort and pack boxes for the community's annual Passover food drive. Some 2,000 boxes were packaged at the offices of the National Council of Jewish Women. More than 4,500 people will receive the packages.

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Greater Toronto Area

Move over maror, grappa can unblock those sinuses

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

I used to love the old adventure movies, where the partisans, spies or sullen villagers would sit in a cantina drinking grappa. The steely-eyed hero would drain it in one gulp while waiting for the innocent, yet determined blonde beauty.

I, of course, was the blonde beauty.

Well, recently I attended a wine tasting and kosher information seminar at Lorac Wine. And they served grappa.

Marketing director Michael Lennon explained that grappa is made by distilling the last pressing of the grapes. The result is a fiery, eye-watering drink, guaranteed to unblock the sinuses and keep the heart pumping.

The fact that it is kosher for Passover to boot is an added bonus.

Not surprisingly, most Passover wines are less dramatic. Carmel, for instance, which Lorac represents and supplies to the LCBO, now produces world class wines, according to Lorac's Carol Slatt.

This year, there are Chardonnays, Cabernet Sauvignons and Sauvignon blancs, ice wine (Carmel's Private Collection Muscat), Merlots, sparkling wines, and liqueurs.

You can even begin the seder with a Martini, with white vermouth Italiano.

Slatt explained that while most spirits are not acceptable for Passover, as they are made from grains, vodka may be permissible if it is made from potatoes or fruits. (Carmel's Vodka Stopka is made from fruit.)

What makes wine kosher, she told the seminar, is "supervision, supervision, supervision," from the picking of the grapes, through the crushing, processing and packing of the wine.

"The process [of making kosher and non-kosher wines] is otherwise identical, she said.

In a winery that produces both kosher and non-kosher wines, a team of about 10 people, led by a mashgiach, takes over the winery, until the wine is actually in the bottle, Slatt said.

The labels certifying that the wine is indeed kosher, are kept in sealed safes, which are opened by the mashgiach.

"Everyone involved in handling anything to do with the wine must be Sabbath observant," she noted.

Another consideration is whether or not the wines are mevushal (boiled). "A wine which is not mevushal may only be opened or served by a Sabbath observant Jew," Slatt said.

Until fairly recently, she said, wines were brought to a boil, and then allowed to cool. "This eradicated any fruitiness or taste in the wine," said Slatt. New technology allows flash cooling, and now there is barely any difference between mevushal and non-mevushal wines.

The final tasting was Partom, a port-like wine that is aged for 10 years in oak casks. A dessert wine, its sweetness and smoothness goes beautifully with fresh fruit.

Carmel also produces an extra virgin olive oil, which is available only through Lorac.

Many of the wines are in interesting and appealing bottles. Those looking for a novel gift for a seder host and hostess might consider grappa grappola, sold in a crystal hand blown bottle.

Now if only they would supply the steely-eyed hero too…

Associated '79 celebrates reunion

By SYLVIA PAPERNICK-BROOKE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — An enthusiastic crowd of 160 filled the social hall of the Labor Zionist Building at the recent reunion of Associated Hebrew Day Schools' class of '79.

Graduates and their spouses gathered to laugh and reminisce about their elementary and junior high-school days.

The reunion was the brainchild of graduate Karen Seidman.

Last fall, after meeting a former graduate at the shivah for their fellow classmate Ed Pollak, the two decided that it would be meaningful to catch up with other classmates, Seidman explained

It was done with the "purpose of getting together and seeing old friends and to try to do something for Eddie," she said.

The class has raised almost $1,000 in his memory, to be donated to Baycrest Geriatric Centre.

This event marked the first time in the 95-year history of Associated that a reunion for one specific class took place.

Friends playing catch-up

Seidman worked with five other graduates, putting together the evening within a few short months.

So many people were in attendance, little could be heard above the noise of the crowd, chatting to the strains of Stevie Wonder, Chicago and Blondie.

A trivia game which had been planned for the evening was never played, as people were too busy catching up with old friends and poring over old class pictures, scrapbooks and slides.

Among the events recalled, were the fashion and gong shows and the trip to Ottawa in Grade 9.

In conversations, it was discovered that many in the group are presently sending their children to Associated.

With the success of this first reunion there was talk about holding another. Leah Charney, one of the organizers, noted, "We spent a long time with these people and it was nice to reconnect with them and remember the time."

Happy Passover 1999•5759

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פון יוסף ליפסי

מיר לייענען אין די געשיכטע ביכער, אַז אַמאָליקע פֿעלקער, ווי אויך טייל מאָדערנע פֿעלקער, האָבן דעם דראַנג זיך צו באַפֿרייען פֿון זייערע אונטערדריקער. מיר ייִדן האָבן דאָס אויך מיטגעמאַכט. לויט דער ייִדישער טראַדיציע קומט אויס, אַז ווען אונדזערע אור-עלטערן האָבן זיך פֿאַרמערט אין מצרים און געוואַקסן אין צאָל, האָבן די פֿירער פֿון מצרישן פֿאָלק געגומען צוטראַכטן אופֿנים, ווי אַזוי צו באַשווערן זייער עקזיסטענץ און אַרבעטס-באַדינגונגען, כדי אונדזערע אור-עלטערן זאָלן ווערן ווייניקער און מיט דער צייט אונטערגיין.

משה, אַ זון פֿון ייִדישע עלטערן, ווערט דורך אַן אויסערגעוויינלעכן צופֿאַל, דערצויגן אין מצרישן קעניגלעכן פּאַלאַץ. ווען ער וואַקסט אויף און זעט אין וועלכע באַדינגונגען די בני-ישראל לעבן, באַשליסט ער צו איבערצייגן פּרעהן, ער זאָל לאָזן די בני-ישראל אַרויסגיין אויף דריי טעג צו אַ פֿייערונג אין מדבר. משה באַזוכט פּרעהן צען מאָל. ער ווייזט אויף פּרעהן, אַז אַ צופֿרידענער אַרבעטער איז אַ בעסערער אַרבעטער. מיר קענען זיך פֿאָרשטעלן, אַז בעת די אוידיענצן האָט משה געגעבן פּרעהן פֿיל אַנדערע סיבות ער זאָל לאָזן די ייִדן גיין אין מדבר אויף דער דריי-טאָגיקער פֿייערונג. משה האָט טאַקע זיין ציל דערגרייכט. משהן געלינגט אַרויסצופֿירן אַ מחנה שקלאַפֿן און זיי צו באַפֿרייען פֿון דער שקלאַפֿעריי. ער שאַפֿט פֿאַר זיי אַ תורה, אַ מין קאָנסטיטוציע, מיט עטישע און מאָראַלישע נעזעצן און, וואָס איז אפֿשר דאָס וויכטיקסטע, ער שאַפֿט אָפּ געצנדינסט.

פֿאַר די וואָס צווייפֿלען, אַז די בני-ישראל זיינען אַרויס פֿון מצרים אונטער משהס פֿירערשאַפֿט — און שטיצן זיך אויף דעם, וואָס אין די מצרישע געשיכטע ביכער ווערט יציאת-מצרים אינגאַנצן ניט דער-מאָנט — וויל איך אונטערשטרייכן דעם פֿאַקט, אַז קיינמאָל דערמאָנען ניט פֿעלקער זייערע אייגענע נאַציאָנאַלע מפּלות. די ייִדישע געשיכטע שרייבער האָבן אויך אַזוי געטאָן. ווי אַ בייַשפּיל קען דינען דער אופֿן ווי אַזוי דער שרייבער פֿון ספֿר "מלכים ב" באַשרייבט די מפּלה, וואָס די דריי קעניגן פֿון ישראל, יהודה און אדום האָבן געליטן אין דעם לאַנד מואב.

די געשיכטע איז געווען אַזוי: דער קעניג פֿון ישראל האָט באַהערשט דאָס לאַנד מואב. ווען דער ישראל קעניג אחאב איז געשטאָרבן, האָט דער קעניג פֿון מואב רעוואָלטירט און ניט געוואָלט צאָלן קיין שטייערן צו ישראל. די דריי מלכים פֿון ישראל, יהודה און אדום האָבן באַשלאָסן צו מאַכן אַן אינוואַזיע אויף מואב. מישע, דער קעניג פֿון מואב, איז געווען פֿאַרצווייפֿלט, האָט ער געגומען זיין עלטסטן זון, וועלכער האָט געזאָלט זיין קעניג נאָך אים, און האָט אים געבראַכט פֿאַר אַ קרבן צו זיין אָפּגאָט כמוש, ער זאָל העלפֿן אין קאַמף קעגן די אַריינדרינגער. די האַנדלונג פֿון קעניג האָט דערצאָרנט די מואבים און זייער דראַנג צום קאַמף האָט זיך פֿאַרשטאַרקט; זיי האָבן העלדיש געקעמפֿט און האָבן טאַקע באַוויזן צו פֿאַרטרייבן די דריי אַרמייען פֿון זייער לאַנד. דער שרייבער פֿון ספֿר "מלכים ב" באַצייכנט די מפּלה פֿון די דריי אַרמייען מיט פֿיר גאָרניט מיינענדיקע ווערטער.

דער דאָזיקער עפּיזאָד אין "מלכים ב" באַשטעטיקט זיך מיט דעם וואָס אויף אַ געפֿונענעם שטיין איז אויסגעקריצט די דערמאָנטע געשיכטע. דער שטיין איז געפֿונען געוואָרן אין יאָר 1868 און געפֿינט זיך אין לוווד מוזיי אין פּאַריז, פֿראַנקרייך. ס'איז דעריבער קיין וווּנדער ניט, וואָס די מצרישע געשיכטע שרייבער דערמאָנען ניט יציאת-מצרים, ווייל דאָס איז דאָך געווען אַ נאַציאָנאַלער דורכפֿאַל פֿאַר מצרים.

די לייענער וואָס צווייפֿלען אין דער געשיכטע פֿון קריעת ים-סוף, דאָס הייסט, אַז דאָס וואַסער אין ים-סוף האָט זיך צוריקגעצויגן אויף אַ געוויסער צייט, וואָלט איך געראַטן זיי זאָלן באַזוכן די מזרח-פּראָווינצן פֿון קאַנאַדע און זען די בוכטע, די "בעי אָוו פֿונדי", וואָס טיילט אָפּ די פּראָווינץ נאָוואַ-סקאָשיאַ פֿון דער פּראָווינץ ניו-בראָנזוויק. האַרטיקס קאַנאַדער ענציקלאָפּעדיע זאָגט, אַז די פֿלייץ-כוואַליעס (tidal waves) אין דער בוכטע זיינען די גרעסטע אין דער וועלט. די צווייפֿלער קענען זיך איבערצייגן, אַז דער קריעת ים-סוף איז אַ נאַטירלעכע דערשיינונג.

מיר האָבן דאָ איבערגעגעבן אונדזער אָפּשאַצונג וועגן די נאַטירלעכע עלעמענטן פֿון די געשעענישן אין דער צייט פֿון יציאת-מצרים. אָבער לויטן חומש האָבן נסים באַגלייט אַלע עפּיזאָדן פֿון יציאת-מצרים. בכלל, דורך דער גאַנצער ייִדישער געשיכטע, האָבן ייִדן געלעבט מיט נסים. לויט דער ייִדישע ענציקלאָפּעדיע זיינען אין די פּנקסים פֿון די קהילות אין פֿאַרשיידענע שטעט און שטעטלעך אויף אין פֿאַרשיידענע צייטן פֿאַרצייכנט הונדערט און צוויי פּורימס. ייִדן האָבן דאָרט געלעבט אין געפֿאַר פֿון אומגליקן און זיינען געוואָרן געראַטעוועט בלויז דורך נסים.

צום סוף וויל איך דערמאָנען דאָס באַקאַנטע דיקטום פֿון דעם גרויסן ייִד, דעם ערשטן פּרעמיער-מיניסטער פֿון ישראל: "דער ייִד וועלכער גלייבט ניט אין קיין נסים איז ניט קיין פּראַקטישער מענטש!"

אַ פֿריילעכן פּסח פֿאַר אַלע ייִדן!

Greater Toronto Area

UJPO gets ready to hold third seder at Baycrest

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Children will scamper to find the afikoman, a cup of wine will be filled for Elijah, the four questions will be asked, but this third seder will also have a dash of politics.

About 300 people of all generations are expected to attend the seder sponsored by the Morris Winchevsky School and the United Jewish Peoples Order (UJPO). It will take place at the Wagman Centre of Baycrest Terrace on April 11 at 6 p.m.

The six-course dinner is open to the public, and last year's seder at the same location attracted many families who are not members of the school or of UJPO, said Maxine Hermolin, the school's executive director.

With a specially written Haggadah, lots of music and political messages interspersed at appropriate spots, the seder celebrates the Exodus of the Jews from slavery in Egypt and connects that event to current struggles for freedom.

Its spirit is exemplified at the start, when an orange is added to the plate with the well known traditional symbols.

The orange is explained by this passage in the Haggadah: "In recent times, a Jewish feminist speaker was challenged by a hostile listener claiming that women belong in positions of authority within the Jewish community just as much as an orange belongs on a seder plate. The speaker responded that like an orange on a seder plate, women's participation represents transformation, not transgression."

When the plagues are mentioned, the hope is expressed that the rule of Premier Mike Harris in Ontario and the tribulations he brought on the people will be ended with the next election.

Later, the Haggadah expresses the hope that the May 17 election in Israel will result in the recognition of the right of the Palestinians to self-determination, with two states for two peoples, to end the vicious cycle of violence and revenge.

A plea is made in the Haggadah to end the economic slavery of thousands of children in the Third World, and the poverty of children in Canada and the United States.

Rousing songs of defiance like *Zog Nit Keyn Mol* (Never Say!) and *Shtill Di Nacht* (Still the Night) will be sung by Dave Wall of the Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band and Ruby Rowan and Sarena Sairan, Winchevsky teachers, accompanied by Michael Blazer and the children of the school.

Each year the seder is led by a family within its community, and this year Roni Chaleff, Paul Freudenthaler and their sons, Adam and Leith, will lead the service.

Since the Winchevsky School has forged a link with the Shalom Food Project, a group of children from the food project families will be guests at the seder.

The cost is $32 for adults, $22 for children under 12, for members; and $35 for adults and $25 for children, who are non-members. For more information, phone 789-5502.

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To confirm attendance or to receive agenda and procedures, contact the Corporate Secretary at (416) 586-5082.

Announcement

The Partners of **Solursh Feldman & Partners** wish to announce that **Mr. Harvey Solursh** has retired as a partner of the Firm.

While Harvey will pursue several other outside endeavours, he will continue to be associated with our practice as Counsel and provide consulting services for our clients.

All members of the Firm wish Harvey and his family continued success in all his future endeavours.

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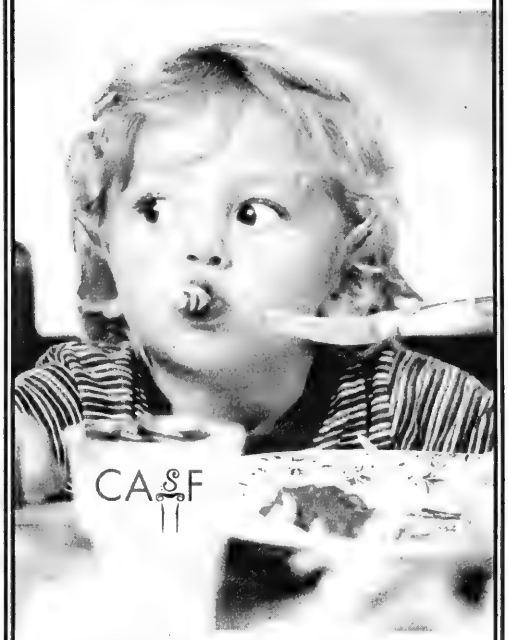

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CIC asks Chrétien to explain remarks on Mideast

Continued from page 1

policy.

CIC executive director Rob Ritter pointed out that Canadian policy "is based on direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, and that the outcome of those negotiations should never be prejudged." Chrétien's statement, he said, seems to prejudge the outcome of bilateral talks.

"He's saying there should be negotiations, but that the negotiations should lead to a Palestinian state. So why are we negotiating?" Ritter said. "It's against the pattern [of Ottawa's policy] and we're absolutely opposed to that.

"We're definitely asking for an explanation."

Asked if he believes Israel should have the right to block the creation of a Palestinian state, Chrétien tempered his remarks somewhat by saying, "It is the policy of this government that we have to do it through negotiations, but it cannot be blocked forever. It has to come eventually to a resolution."

The prime minister said Canada supports the idea of a Palestinian state, but "all should be settled through negotiations between the parties in a civilized and peaceful manner."

Nevertheless, the CIC says Chrétien's remark represents "a fundamental deviation from traditional Canadian Middle East policy."

In his letter to the prime minister, CIC national chair Brian Morris says, "Nothing is inevitable – with the possible exception of the failure of the Oslo agreement if the Palestinian leadership believes that it can achieve its goals without having to engage in meaningful negotiations with Israel."

The CIC asks Chrétien "to review" his statements "and seek a public opportunity to re-affirm that Canadian support is confined exclusively to those developments that flow from direct negotiations and which reflect agreement between parties to the conflict."

Canada's position on the Middle East "has not changed," Sophie Galarneau, a spokesperson for the Prime Minister's Office, told *The CJN*. "The Canadian government still feels that a Palestinian state must be resolved through negotiations, the outcome of which must be mutually agreed to. We expect both sides to engage in negotiations expeditiously and in a serious fashion."

Arafat, on his first visit to Canada, was on an eight-nation tour, partly to drum up support for a unilateral declaration of independence, which he has threatened to proclaim on May 4, when the five-year transitional period under the Oslo accords expires.

"We are discussing this," a visibly tired Arafat told reporters. "We are conducting our consultations before taking a decision."

Jewish groups hold talks with Axworthy

Chrétien stressed that the Palestinian leader did not indicate he would proclaim sovereignty on May 4. The prime minister said the two discussed the May 4 timetable and "expressed the point of view that because [of the May 17] Israeli elections, it would be well-advised to consider postponing the declaration intentions to a later date."

Canadian officials went to great lengths to describe Arafat's trip as a working, and not a state, visit.

In a statement, Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) president Moshe Ronen emphasized "that this [was] not a state visit and Canada should not treat it as such…Certainly we expect Canada to discourage Mr. Arafat from any unilateral declaration of independence.

"This would destabilize the region and damage severely the prospects for a comprehensive peace."

Arafat also held talks with Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi and Minister for International Cooperation Diane Marleau.

The Palestinian leader paid tribute to the late Yitzhak Rabin who "paid with his life for the peace agreement," and to Shimon Peres, his "partner in peace."

The day before Arafat's visit, 20 leaders from several Canadian Jewish community organizations held another in a series of talks with Axworthy.

The 90-minute session focused in part on Arafat's threat to declare sovereignty, and on continuing human rights violations in the Palestinian-controlled areas, Ritter said.

The Jewish community also presented Axworthy with several concerns, among them:

• The Palestinians must adhere to the direct dispute mechanism contained in the Oslo accords instead of moving their grievances to the United Nations.

• Canada was taken to task for supporting last month's UN Security Council vote to hold an emergency meeting on the applicability of the Geneva Conventions to areas conquered by Israel after the 1967 war. Canada is being asked not to attend such a meeting, Ritter said, and no longer to vote for "unfair, one-sided [UN] resolutions."

• The Jewish community is still waiting for an audit of Canada's UN voting record promised much earlier by Axworthy. The minister also pledged to respond to a letter from the CIC asking the government to explain and elaborate on six principles of its Mideast policy.

Ritter said the group "didn't leave feeling very positive. There was really no headway on the UN issue."

The minister also promised to meet community groups again in six months.

Jewish organizations represented at the meeting included the CIC, Canadian Jewish Congress, Hadassah-WIZO, the Ottawa Jewish Community Council and B'nai Brith Canada.

With files from Diane Koven in Ottawa

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On Campus

ISRAEL WEEK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

University of Toronto students and Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto [JCS] staff are seen with displays highlighting different aspects of Israel at the University of Toronto's Sidney Smith building. [Photos courtesy of JCS]

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, April 12, is deadline for April 22 issue and Monday, April 19, is deadline for April 29. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Thursday, April 1

SIMCOE COUNTY SEDER

Simcoe County Jewish Association annual community second seder, 6 p.m. Bring the family! For details, leave a message on the voice mail 705-721-6126.

NEWMARKET SYNAGOGUE

Or Hadash Synagogue, Reform congregation, Newmarket, potluck seder. Be part of the festivities. Call **Rhonda** 905-895-2777.

Sunday, April 4

PASSOVER CONCERT

Lachan Jewish Chamber Choir and the Beth Tikvah Choir present a Gala Passover/Spring Concert with the Festival String Quartet conducted by **Benjamin Maissener** and **Srul Irving Glick**, 8 p.m., Leah Posluns Theatre. Tickets $15, available at Lachan Jewish Chamber Choir 787-0393 or Beth Tikvah Synagogue 221-3433.

And What Else Is New

GENETICS SEMINAR

Mount Sinai Hospital, Jewish Women's Federation and the Bathurst Jewish Centre free public seminar on Genetics: Your Family, Your Health, Wednesday, April 12, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Leah Posluns Theatre, sponsored by Imperial Oil Charitable Foundation. Mount Sinai experts will discuss important issues around genetics, risk and knowing your health history. Moderated by **Micki Moore**. This is part of Mount Sinai's Health Living Series. To reserve or for more information, call 586-8338.

WALDMAN SCHOLARSHIP

The board of directors of the Dennis Waldman Scholarship for Jewish Education is soliciting applications for the 10th Dennis Waldman Scholarship, an award of $2,500. The scholarship is open to students graduating from a Jewish secondary school and to students graduating from a public high school who intend to pursue a course of Jewish study at a university. Applications are available through the offices of Solursh Feldman and Partners, 4950 Yonge St., Suite 400, North York, Ont. M2N 6K1. Phone 250-1212. Applications must be submitted by May 7.

TOTS TOGETHER

A five morning a week program for 2- and 3-year-olds starts September at the new Village Shul (Eglinton/Bathurst area) plus an afternoon enrichment program for 3- and 4-year-olds. **Ellise** 785-6638 for information and registration.

WELLNESS PROGRAM

If you're a senior living with osteoporosis, register now for Power, a six-week program that covers exercise, eating and education. A referral from your family physician is required. Class starts April 12 at Baycrest Centre (785-2500, ext. 2395), North York General Hospital Seniors' Health Centre (756-6050), and April 19 at Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care (321-6679). Registration fee is $30. Class size is limited, so register early.

ST. JOHN'S COURSES

Infant/child CPR Sunday, April 18, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. $36.

First Aid course (bleeding, bites, burns, broken bones). April date TBA.

Babysitting course 11 plus, Sunday, May 2.

All programs held at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. Register. **Rhonda** 905-731-9441.

BOOK DISCUSSION

The Underpainter by **Jane Urquhart** will be discussed at the Feminist Book Discussion Group.

Continued on page 25

Go ahead ...live a little!

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And there's more. You can take advantage of an array of Baycrest Centre services including all the facilities of the nearby Wagman Centre. Services to make dressing, grooming, bathing, shopping, cleaning, laundry and meals easier. With a selection of outstanding suites still available, isn't it time to live a little?

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What's New

Continued from page 24

North York chapter, Older Women's Network, Sunday, April 11, 2 p.m. at Barbara Frum Library. **Ruth Goldsmith** 782-6414.

SPRING SALE

Come shop at Baycrest's annual Spring Sale and buy quality items at reasonable prices, Wednesday, April 14, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Baycrest Centre. Items for sale include knitting needles, crochet hooks, wool, fabric, and hand crafts made by the residents including afghans, baby items, pottery, ceramics, stained glass pieces, challah covers and more. For information, 785-2500, ext. 3574 or 2549.

CZF HEBREW CLASSES

Registration is now open for day and evening classes (Ulpan method) offered by Canadian Zionist Federation (CZF) for beginner, intermediate, advanced (Chug Ivrit) levels beginning April 26 with **Chana Sargon,** specialist in conversational and Hebrew language skills. Explore current events, newspaper articles, literature, all in Hebrew. CZF 633-3988.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups. **Pat Lieberman** 638-7800, ext. 215.

Parenting:1,2,3 Magic, three-session groups for parents to learn behavior management techniques based on **Thomas Phelan's** book. *1,2,3 Magic*. Groups are age specific and begin after Passover.

Divorce: It's Not My Idea begins April 15; Parenting the Young Child is Hard Work begins April 15; Anger Management Group for Women begins April 15; Bereavement Groups begin after Passover; groups for younger and older persons begin April 13 and April 21.

SINGLES SCENE

First anniversary celebration party for 25-35 and 35-55 groups, Sunday, April 25, 6:30 p.m., Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. Chinese buffet, Mandell Entertainment. Tickets $25, Beth Emeth office 633-3838. For information **Rhonda** 905-731-9441.

JIS IS AVAILABLE

Call Jewish Information Service for information on recreation, cultural singing groups, holidays and festivals, counselling services, Jewish education, newcomer/tourist information, synagogues and temples. The number is 635-5600.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Sunday, April 11, dance with live band; April 14 and 28, Casino Rama; May 4, Bata Shoe Museum and Manning Cookie Factory; May 5, *My Fair Lady* at Stage West; May 23-25, Ottawa; July 5-11, Catskills. Membership open $12. 395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). April 1 and 8 closed for Passover; April 15, bingo; April 22, video; April 29, members meeting; May 8, Yom Ha'atzmaut dance, for tickets call **Malka Colla** 630-5771. All activities in Hebrew, English and Yiddish. **Jerry Bengall,** president, 905-707-7334.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club: Monday, May 10, to celebrate Mother's Day, variety show with entertainer **Tanya Granonski** dancing and singing, Yiddish, Hebrew, Russian, English songs, 12:30 p.m., light lunch; Aug. 25, morning cruise then matinee performance of *Move Over Mrs. Markham* at Gryphon Theatre; Oct. 12, *West Side Story* at Stratford. **Lena** 785-5773. Golden Book donations go to Laniado Hospital in Israel. **Dorothy Bloomfield** 787-1526.

LZA Seniors Club in the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave., is open for socializing Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ladies Folkdancing classes Thursdays 1:30 p.m. Cultural Discussion group Tuesdays 10 a.m. Register now to see *My Fair Lady* at Stage West June 16. **Libby** 782-2059 or office at 630-9444.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

The Jews of India: Origin and History with **Diana Mingail**, Tuesday, April 6, 10 a.m. Non-members $1. **Bookie Kwart**.

Low Vision Support Group reviews articles about blind and visually impaired individuals living in the community, Tuesday, April 6. 1:15-2:15 p.m.

Bible Study, **Kolya Shimrat**, Mondays 9:30-11:30 a.m., April 12-June 21. **Norma Steiner** ext. 124.

Intermediate Hebrew, improve your written and oral skills, conversation, grammar, literature, **Kolya Shimrat**, Tuesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m. April 13-June 14. **Norma Steiner** ext. 124.

Line and Folk Dancing spring semester, **Anne Sharpe**, Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m. Members only. **Norma Steiner** ext. 124.

The following spring semester programs offered in partnership with Toronto Board of Education, 10 weeks, April 12-June 14. Registration at first class during the week of April 12. Board of Education Learner's Card $40 or fee for course. Agency fee of $5 per 10-week program for non-members.

Painting with Watercolor, **Bilha Morgan,** Tuesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Pottery, **Linda Rosen**, Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Ballroom Dancing, **Gita Miller**, Tuesdays 10:15-11:30 a.m.; Canadian Literature, **Maria Bonnano**, Wednesdays 1-3 p.m.; Creative Choir, **Eleanor Rice**, Fridays 10 a.m. to noon.

Do you speak Hebrew? Join Israeli Club Etrog members every Tuesday at 7 p.m. for movies, lectures, dances, sing-alongs, bingo, picnics. Programs based on topics of special interest to Israelis and are conducted in Hebrew. April 6, closed for Passover holidays; April 13, Israeli movie. **Anna** ext. 110.

WAGMAN CENTRE

April happenings at the Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave. 785-2500.

Sunday, April 11 – Baycrest Terrace and Wagman Centre Book Sale of Jewish, Hebrew, Hungarian and English books, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Proceeds to the Centre's Lipa and Fanny Green Library.

Monday, April 12 – Yom Hashoah Memorial 7-8 p.m. **Paula David** ext. 2271.

Monday, April 12 – Creating a Balcony Oasis, Session 3, germination and seeding, 2-3 p.m.

Thursday, April 15 and 22 – Men's Club, 7-8 p.m.

Wednesday, April 21 – Yom Ha'atzmaut Concert, 2-3 p.m. **Mara Swartz** ext. 2275.

Tuesday, April 27 – Lunch and Learn, speaker **Marina Reisher**, topic Judaism and Art, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Mara Swartz** ext. 2275.

Wednesday, April 28 – Bringing Neighbors Together, Baycrest's community recreation program, presenters **Ruth Tamari, Laurie Lottman,** community recreationists, Baycrest Centre, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Register ext. 2267.

Wagman Bereavement Group: a support group for older adults who have recently lost a spouse, meets alternate Friday mornings. **Paula David**, ext. 2271.

Second Generation Group: Aging Parents, Aging Children, a mutual aid group for adult children of Holocaust survivors. **Paula David**.

If you are interested in becoming a Wagman Centre member, contact **Mara Swartz** ext. 2275. Join the many seniors for exciting recreational, social and educational experiences.

THE ACCIDENTAL PHILANTHROPIST

Ann Szedlecki of North York recently addressed a group of 200 children from Emanu-El Synagogue in Englewood, N.J., as part of the school's Tzedakah Fair. Szedlecki, who was on vacation visiting her grandchildren, spoke about her own experiences as a Holocaust survivor living in the fledgling State of Israel. She raised $200 for the Jewish National Fund.

ELECTION OF NEW BOARD

A newly constituted board was elected at the recent annual meeting of Yeshiva Bnei Akiva Or Chaim and Ulpanat Orot Girls' School. Pictured above are Robert Rubinstein (centre), president; with (from left) Shloimie Romberg, chair; Yvonne Martel, vice-president; Berl Nadler, secretary; and Joseph Edell, treasurer. Absent from picture is Saul Koschitzky, immediate past president.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 28

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Greater Toronto Area

Terry Fox Walk/Run heads to Israel

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — National Defence Minister Art Eggleton is scheduled to join the over 2,000 runners, walkers, bikers and casual strollers who are expected to take part in the first mass Terry Fox Run/Walk in Tel Aviv on April 9.

It's the first time Canadian expatriates and the Israeli public have been invited to take part in the run, held in memory of Terry Fox. In the past, Canadian soldiers stationed with United Nations peacekeepers in the Golan Heights held their own Terry Fox run. Last year, they raised $1,000 for cancer research.

Organizers have already sold 2,300 tickets, Natalie Amar, a spokesperson for the Canadian embassy in Tel Aviv, told *The CJN*.

Eggleton, who will be in the region to mark the 25th anniversary of UN peacekeeping between Syria and Israel, is slated to kick off the run along with Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai.

The event will take place through a seven-kilometre route through Park Hayarkon in Tel Aviv. April 9 is a school holiday, and hundreds of children are expected to take part.

Amar said several large companies in Israel, including El Al and the Israel Electric Co., have committed to help send participants.

The embassy also worked closely with the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel (AAC) and with the Canadian Tourism Commission, which is helping to set up 13 stations along the route to represent the 13 Canadian provinces and territories.

Amar said the embassy reached out to Canadians but placed equal effort in bringing in Israeli groups.

Canadians studying at Israeli universities will also take part. Air Canada has donated a free ticket to Canada as the main prize in a raffle.

A local supermarket, Greenberg, which sells President's Choice products, bought 1,000 tickets to distribute to its employees.

Clowns, jugglers and magicians will help make the day fun, Amar added.

She said the route can accommodate runners, walkers, bicycles, wheelchairs and baby strollers. Participants may also take a shorter, 3.5 kilometre route.

Last year, 58 countries organized a Terry Fox event and raised over $15 million for cancer research. This will be the first time Israel will join on a large scale. Funds raised will be channeled through the Israel Cancer Association.

Terry Fox was diagnosed with bone cancer in 1977. At age 18, his leg was amputated above the knee. He began his cross-Canada Marathon of Hope in April, 1980, and in 143 days, ran more than 4,000 kilometres – almost half of Canada.

He was forced to stop by his cancer, which had spread to his lungs. Fox died a month short of his 23rd birthday.

Anyone wanting more information on the event in Tel Aviv may dial (03) 636-3322 or by e-mail at taviv@taviv01.x400.gc.ca

Correction

In the article, "Geriatric social worker explores richness of aging," (March 25) the photograph caption should have said that the quilt was created by Irene Borins, who donated it to the Princess Margaret Hospital a few years ago. *The CJN* regrets the error.

Scene in Ottawa

By G.K. SIMCOE

Ezra Levant, the brash spark-plug who joined the office of the Leader of the Opposition (OLO) as coordinator of the Reform party's question period tactics squad is off to greener pastures.

When Parliament breaks for the summer, Levant is slated to join the *National Post's* editorial team.

The move, which will become official in a week or so, is seen as a blow to the OLO's ability to put and keep the government in the 'hot seat'. There's no doubt that Levant is both charming and bright. And, there's no doubt that he has been a definite asset to Preston Manning, despite some less than discreet attempts by some of his colleagues to push Levant towards the margins of the OLO.

His departure, however, does raise the question of just how effective the Opposition has been during question period.

Two recent cases involving defence related subjects highlight the problem.

The government has attached considerable importance and prestige to its leadership of the campaign to ban anti-personnel land mines.

Canadian interest in this issue is generally linked to Lloyd Axworthy's personal convictions regarding all things military. In fact, the land mine crusade is really just the first step in a larger effort by the foreign minister to address a wide range of human security issues.

So when certain Department of National Defence documents surfaced, indicating that senior officials in the department were and continue to be opposed to the ban on land mines, why was the story never pursued by the Opposition?

The second matter is a story that broke concerning possible job losses in the defence industry because the United States might remove the preferential status given to Canadian companies.

The Americans are furious that restricted military technology is finding its way to places like Iran, Iraq and China as a result of indifferent Canadian export controls.

Axworthy is the cabinet minister responsible for issuing export and end-user certificates for military hardware. So why, despite repeated warnings from the Pentagon, has Foreign Affairs still not brought the problem under control?

These questions could have served as mighty potent cannon fodder for an Opposition intent on discrediting the government during question period.

The Somalia inquiry aside (which was always about politics and not the military), perhaps the real question is why the Reform party is steering clear of any national defence issues.

G.K. Simcoe is a pseudonym.

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Talk during Seudah-Shelisheet – Vienna
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Coast to Coast

PM HELPS STUDENTS MARK REBBE'S BIRTHDAY

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien (centre) attended a recent reception in Ottawa held to mark the birthday of the late Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem Mendel Schneerson. Enjoying the moment with the prime minister were students from Montreal's Beth Rivkah Academy for Girls (from left) Nechama Mendelovici, Deborah Kadoch, Thamy Malka, Faigie Silberstein, Frieda Zirkind, Rabbi Simcha Zirkind, principal Rabbi Josef Minkowitz and Chana Teitelbaum. Standing in front of the prime minister is student Shterna Sara Junik. [J.M. Carisse photo]

Chassidim denounce Israel at Montreal protest

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Chassidic protesters, angrily describing the State of Israel as illegitimate, recently marched through downtown Montreal to Dorchester Square across from the Israeli consulate, to decry the four-month incarceration of three of their brethren in Jerusalem.

"Israel! Why are you oppressing the Jewish people?" and "Stop persecuting Orthodox Jewry," were two of the dozens of multicolored placards – mostly in English but also in French – wielded by the estimated 500 Chassidim at the protest.

The protesters, garbed in traditional black, included members of virtually all the chassidic groups based in Outremont, including Satmar, Belz, Tasch and Skver.

"This is against the Israeli government," protester Yitzhak Stern told *The CJN*. "They hate haredim. They give us tzuris."

The rally was a protest against the continued jailing without charges in Israel of haredi Jews Yaakov Korenblit, Eliezer Anshim and Yehoshua Weis.

The trio was arrested by police during a demonstration in an Orthodox Jerusalem neighborhood outside an apartment being used by Christian missionaries.

After gathering at the corner of Bleury and Sherbrooke streets, the Montreal protesters, escorted by MUC police, impeded rush-hour traffic as they marched west down Sherbrooke to Peel Street, and then turned left towards the site facing the consulate.

They handed out hundreds of copies of a "press release," printed in English and French, explaining their grievances.

The lengthy release, issued by a group called the Central Rabbinical Congress of the U.S.A. and Canada, condemned the continued incarceration of the three without charges, and referred to "all forms of Zionism [as] inherently antithetical to the teaching of our faith."

At Dorchester Square, mostly in Yiddish, speaker after speaker denounced Israel's treatment of the three prisoners, mocked its "pretensions" to democracy and condemned Zionism.

Three pick-up trucks used in the march and parked at the square carried dummies dressed in prison stripes. Other protesters shouted into megaphones: "Israeli government!" as the crowd responded with robust boos.

The Kashruth Council of Toronto **(COR)**
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the Feldman family
on the passing of
SYLVIA GREENBLATT ע"נ
mother of Mrs Bella Feldman
and mother-in-law of Mr Yitz Feldman, Q.C.
chairman of the Kashruth Council

Family Matters

by

John Syrtash, B.A. (Hon.), LL.B.

The obligations of stepparents

Under Canadian law, a stepparent may have a legal obligation to share in the costs of raising a child. This obligation could exist even if he never adopts the child or never marries the child's mother, but only lives with her. (For convenience I refer to the stepparent as the male and the child's natural parent as the mother since that is the most common scenario. The law, of course, is gender-blind).

But what happens when such a stepparent separates from the child's mother? Traditionally, if both the child and the stepparent have mutually severed their psychological ties, then the stepparent may not be obliged to contribute to child support.

However, can a stepparent avoid having to pay child support by unilaterally withdrawing from his psychological relationship with a child after he separates from the child's mother? The Manitoba Court of Appeal has said yes, and so have many other Courts across the country. Other Courts have strongly disagreed.

In loco parentis

Recently, in the case of *Chartier*, [1998] S.C.J. No. 79, the Supreme Court of Canada appears to have cleared up the confusion by definitively ruling that a stepparent *cannot withdraw unilaterally*. In *Chartier*, the stepparent played an active role in caring for his wife's daughter from a previous relationship, and became a father figure to the girl. The parties discussed, but did not proceed with, the husband's adoption of the child. They also amended her birth registration to indicate, falsely, that the husband was the child's natural father and changed her surname to his. Sometime after the parties separated, the husband resisted a claim that he stood "in place of a parent" (*in loco parentis*) and argued that he should be able to unilaterally withdraw from such a role without paying any child support.

However, the Supreme Court ruled that a person *cannot unilaterally withdraw from a relationship in which he stands in the place of a parent.*

> "The Court must look to the nature of the relationship to determine if a person in fact does stand in the place of a parent to a child. The policies and values reflected in the Divorce Act must relate to contemporary Canadian society. They must be given a meaning that is both independent of the common law concept of *in loco parentis* (which was developed in various contexts during the 19th century) and reflective of the purposive and contextual approach to statutory interpretation advocated by this Court."

The Court also ruled that whether a person is in fact a "stepparent" liable for child support depends on the facts of each case. The existence of a common law or cohabitation relationship does not automatically mean that child support will become a legal obligation in the event of separation. Rather, the Court ruled that many factors must be taken into account:

> "...the test for whether or not a person stands in the place of a parent should be not be determined exclusively from the perspective of the child. [The child's opinion] ... is important, but [is] only one of many factors to be considered. The Court must determine the nature of whether the child participates in the extended family in the same way as would a biological child; whether the person provides financially for the child (depending on ability to pay); whether the person disciplines the child as a parent; whether the person represents to the child, the family, the world, either explicitly or implicitly, that he or she is responsible as a parent to the child; and, the nature or existence of the child's relationship with the absent biological parent."

Stepchild support obligations

In short, if you're contemplating cohabiting with another person who has a child or children from a former relationship, understand that you may have to pay child support if the relationship fails to last. And any prenuptial or cohabitation agreement that pretends to limit one's liability for child support in such cases is just as useless as one that pretends to do so where the parent is "real" and biological. Such clauses in agreements were popular in the past but they have now become very weak in the shadow of this new ruling: "Once it is shown that the child is to be considered, in fact, a child of the marriage, the obligations of the stepparent towards him or her are the same as those relative to a child born of the marriage with regard to the application of the Divorce Act." As most lawyers will tell you, any premarital agreement that attempts to limit child support is legally questionable.

Finally, the Court does confirm that the stepparent gains rights as a result of its ruling. This is not a "one way street": In addition to incurring obligations, the stepparent also acquires certain rights, such as the right to apply eventually for custody or access.

From my family and the law firm of Basman Smith, we wish you a Happy and Healthy Pesach.

John Syrtash is a partner and family law lawyer with the Toronto firm of Basman Smith. Neither B'nai Brith Canada, Basman Smith or John Syrtash is liable for any consequences arising from anyone's reliance on this material, which is presented as general information and not as a legal opinion. John Syrtash can be reached at (416) 860-1942.

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Coast to Coast

'Human security' focus of foreign policy: Axworthy

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Canada is not in a position to apply economic sanctions against Sudan, but there is still a possibility of stopping the war, according to Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy.

Speaking at a recent roundtable on religious persecution held at the Lester B. Pearson building, Axworthy outlined Canada's position, and described efforts to alleviate suffering in Sudan as well as in other war-torn countries around the world.

"Protecting and advancing freedom of religion is an intrinsic part of Canada's human security agency, and in our changing global context, this is more urgent rather than less urgent," said Axworthy.

"Canada has been reshaping its foreign policy to reflect the increasing human dimension of global peace and security. Many of the challenges we face as a global community, from violent conflict to newer threats – illicit drugs, terrorism or environmental degradation – have a more direct impact on the daily lives of ordinary people."

"Human security is providing both the focus and the impetus for global action. As a result, Canada has been taking a more human-centred approach to global relations in the initiatives we take, the themes we pursue and the methods we use."

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, he said, is prepared to devote resources to exploring ways in which "information technology as well as improved networking, better reporting and enhanced information gathering, can all be developed and used more specifically as instruments to promote religious freedom."

The roundtable, attended by academics, government officials and representatives of a wide variety of religious groups, was organized by the religious and interreligious affairs committee of Canadian Jewish Congress, with support from the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development, the Department of Foreign Affairs.

"A tremendous turnout from so many different communities, all under one umbrella, was in itself an eye-opener for many people," said Rabbi Reuven Bulka, chair of the committee and of the roundtable.

There were representatives of religious groups who said they had previously felt isolated, and were unaware that other groups were dealing with similar concerns.

According to Ron Singer, conference coordinator, many participants thanked Congress for providing an opportunity to meet and work with each other. "It was a great step in building a coalition," said Singer.

Paul Marshall, senior fellow at the Centre for Religious Freedom, Freedom House, Washington, D.C., discussed Canadian Policy Alternatives for Promoting Religious Freedom.

Lloyd Axworthy

Panelists who led a discussion on Case Studies in Religious Persecution were Susanne Tamas, speaking on the Baha'i in Iran; Ronald Schwartz, on Buddhists in Tibet; and Mel Middleton, on Christians in Sudan.

As a result of the meeting, a report will be submitted to the government.

Reluctant to call the roundtable a success until its results are known, Rabbi Bulka said, "We don't delude ourselves into thinking that the problems will be solved overnight. We know what happens when people stand by idly."

He is, however, optimistic that "we could have a very powerful voice in trying to get rid of the scourge that is affecting the entire world."

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Dr. George Fantus Staff Physician, Diabetes Clinical Research Unit, Mount Sinai Hospital; Associate Professor, University of Toronto.

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Coast to Coast

Hamilton UJA campaign faces funding shortfall

By WENDY SCHNEIDER
Special to The CJN

HAMILTON — For the first time in recent memory, the 1999 UJA campaign is in danger of not being able to meet its commitment to its member agencies.

Jewish Social Services, the Kosher Food Bank, the community's three Jewish schools, the *Hamilton Jewish News*, and the JCC, are just some of the services whose budgets will be cut as a result.

The campaign is facing a shortfall of $150,000 due to circumstances that have prevented a number of top donors from meeting their pledges.

The board of the Jewish Federation is now faced with the question of how to maintain community services at the current level.

Hamilton's situation, according to Shelley Maerov, associate executive director of UIA/Federations Canada, is not dissimilar to that of other small federated communities across Canada, that have few donors in the top gifts category.

When these donors are not able to meet their commitment for one reason or another, it has a huge effect, she said.

Despite the challenges facing the present campaign, Maerov says that based on its community size and demographics, Hamilton is right on the line. It is actually one of the few communities that does not fall under the 80-20 rule, which says that 80 percent of the campaign comes from 20 percent of the community.

On the contrary, he said, Hamilton has a broad card support base, strong at the lower and mid-level, which has grown significantly over the last two years. This year, the campaign has continued to bring on many new gifts in this range.

The doctors' division reported that 45 percent of the community's doctors have increased their pledges over last year.

Maerov notes that Hamilton is a community that has its financial house in order, has provided well for services on a local level, and has maintained a significant number of devoted canvassers and strong leadership.

Based on Hamilton's size and demographics, Maerov believes that the community could easily generate $950,000. The current crisis is an opportunity, he believes, for donors in higher categories to raise the "glass ceiling."

Maerov admits that the UJA campaign is always vulnerable to competition from other campaigns. But unlike other campaigns, the services and infrastructure funded by the Hamilton UJA campaign are solely dependent on 1,400 local donors.

The UJA is tzedakah, not philanthropy, says Maerov. "Philanthropy enriches life while tzedakah is basic social justice. The whole essence of our campaign is caring for Jews. If we don't address these needs, who will?"

The 1999 UJA cabinet, headed by Cele Steinberg, Allen Rams, Sandy Morris and Vivienne Epstein, is now asking each member of the community to consider an additional gift of at least 10 percent this year

Yiddish conference plans for future

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Among the suggestions presented at the Winnipeg Committee for Yiddish annual conference, held recently at the Na'amat Hall in north Winnipeg, were a summer seminar and a chair in Yiddish at the local universities.

"We decided that this year, instead of passing resolutions, we would entertain suggestions and try to follow through on them," says Osher (Oscar) Antel, the Yiddish committee chair.

Mark Steiner, president of the Jewish Public Library said that there is a revival of Yiddish at universities in other cities.

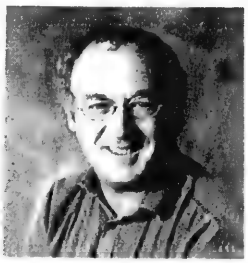
Roz Usiskin, president of the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada, called on the committee to plan a program to tie in with the coming celebrations to commemorate 1,000 years of Yiddish.

The conference attracted about 50 people including representatives from the Winnipeg Jewish Community Council, the United Jewish Peoples Order and the Yiddish-speaking H. Leivick B'nai Brith Lodge.

Edith Kimelman, a conference participant, said that considering the size of Winnipeg's Jewish population, there is a still a good-sized percentage of Yiddish-speakers here.

שישאר בינינו

גידי קורן וחברים



פסח באוויר:

פסח עומד באויר. נכון לכתיבת שורות אלה, אני עומד לטוס לישראל לליל הסדר. אבל יש בעיה. אני חייב לטוס חזרה בשלישי באפריל, ובישראל הכריזה ההסתדרות על שביתה כללית ובעקבותיה עיצומים שיכללו גם את שדות התעופה. אז מה עושים? אני חייב לצאת בשלישי לאפריל. אני מבין את השובתים, שכמו כל איגוד אחר - מנסים ללחוץ בנקודה שכואבת - בפסח אלפי אנשים מגיעים ואלפים רבים יוצאים. - זה הזמן להטבות. דורשי טובתי טלפנו לאן שטלפנו והתשובה היתה - לא לדאוג, ירתקו את עובדי רשות הנמלים והכל יהיה בסדר. רק שיש בעיה - "יהיה בסדר" בישראל הוא משפט שיש לו משקל כמו "מה שלומך" או "סמוך", לסמוך על מי? אה, גם אמרו שאנשי המפט מתכוננים לשבות ולהעביר את כל המגיעים דרך המסלול האדום. רוצה לומר: תורים של אלפי אנשים שמנסים לצאת משדה התעופה. בקיצור, יציאת מצריים וקריעת ים סוף.
אז מה עושים בכל זאת? על זה דיווח במדור הבא.

מי אנס את מי?

בסיאטל הורשעה מורה בת שלושים וחמש באונס של תלמיד בן 13, ממנו נכנסה להריון. היא שוחררה מבית הסוהר וחזרה להיפגש עם התלמיד, הרתה שוב ונכנסה שוב לבית סוהר, הפעם לתקופה ארוכה. על פניו - מקרה ברור של התנהגות בלתי הולמת, מנוגדת לחוק. עכשיו, בואו ניכנס קצת יותר לעומק הסיפור: הנער, שמוצאו באיים של האוקיינוס השקט, מפותח מכפי גילו, חבר בכנופיית עבריינים צעירים. טרם שקיים יחסי מין עם מורתו - הוא קיים יחסים עם נשים רבות מאז היותו בן אחת עשרה, כולל נשים מבוגרות, אף אחת מהן לא הואשמה באינוס קטין. הוא התערב על עשרים דולאר עם בן דודו, שלומד איתו באותה כיתה, שיצליח לפתות את המורה האטרקטיבית. האישה עצמה מורה מצטיינת, מאוד מסורה לעבודתה, אם לארבעה ילדים, עם בעיות קשות בנישואין. היא טענה שהנער הפעיל עליה לחץ קשה לפתות אותה, עד שעלה בידו, אחרי כשנה של נסיונות.
אז מי אנס את מי? האם לא היה נכון יותר לבדוק מקרה כזה, או כל מקרה אחר, בהקשר שלו עצמו? איך אפשר לאמר שהיא אנסה את הנער אם הוא עתיר נסיון בפיתוי נשים מבוגרות, בעוד שהיא, עד למקרה הזה, לא עסקה בפעילויות כאלה. ומדוע בית סוהר? הרי ברגע שהפסידה את מקצוע ההוראה שהיה כה אהוב עליה - חרב עולמה ממילא. היא גם הפסידה את משפחתה וארבעת ילדיה. מעבר למקרה והרכילות העסיסית שבו, הוא מעלה את הדילמה של גיל ההתבגרות. למשל, אלפי נערות צעירות בנות חמש עשרה עושות הכל כדי להיראות בנות עשרים, כולל פעילות מינית. האם כל גבר בן עשרים ושתים שנפגש איתן חייב לבקש תעודת זהות לפני קיום יחסי מין? אין ספק שהחוק חייב להגן על אנשים צעירים, אבל החוק חייב להיות הגיוני. המקרה של סיאטל מדגים, לדעתי, מידה רבה של אטימות, צביעות ורשעות. מסתבר שהשריף המקומי, שהלך לבחירות בדיוק באותו זמן, הפך את המקרה לדגל השמרני שלו, על חשבונה של משפחה שלמה. אבל שישאר בינינו.

SHMOOZIN

"I love all the traditional foods that my Mom makes on Passover -- especially the chocolate cake mixes!"

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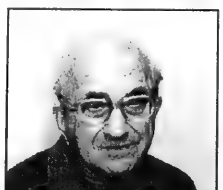

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Feature

'A cause for committed action'

By RABBI DOW MARMUR

Jews come to synagogue mainly for public events. Much personal worship takes place in the private sphere, notably the home.

It's in the home that the most significant events in the Jewish calendar are celebrated; it's there that the most important rituals are performed. It's in the home that a better future is anticipated by celebrating the Sabbath as a foretaste of messianic times. The home is every Jew's small sanctuary.

The scandal of homelessness

Placing a blanket on a woman lying on the Danforth in Toronto.

Much of what – perhaps romantically and, nowadays, less than accurately – is described as the closeness of the Jewish family, has its roots in this understanding of home. It's not a matter of sociology but of theology; of holiness.

The home isn't an institution for Jews only. Though Judaism imposes certain practices on its adherents, its quest for a better future always has all humanity in mind.

In recognizing the importance of the Jewish home, Judaism also recognizes the importance of the home for all God's creatures, all humanity. Hence the affirmation that we must resist all forces that, in one way or another, deprive humans of sacred space, of the home that must also be a sanctuary.

Miriam Kalushner finds a homeless man nestled in the alcove of a church downtown. Although many homeless people have nothing except what they carry with them, they will rarely accept more than they need and are very grateful of what they receive.

Hence also, the stress on hospitality, the imperative to welcome all who are in need of home. Jewish tradition has it that the biblical Abraham kept his tent open on all sides to encourage wayfarers to stop by. That's how he was found by the angels who, disguised as homeless visitors, assured him of progeny with Sarah.

Ironically, in their desire to shed their religious heritage, some of the Jewish pioneers who built Israel wanted to do away with the conventional home. Hence the kibbutz with its emphasis on collective living and communal eating – and no reference to Jewish tradition. The failure of the kibbutz, now so apparent, may have something to do with socialist perestroika, but it's primarily the result of the refusal to build small sanctuaries in favor of large dining halls.

The reincarnation of the kibbutz as a middle class enterprise came about when its members decided to come home and abandon the dining hall to live like their forbears, even bringing back some of the once discarded home rituals that make for holiness.

Knowing what home can be, I also know what homelessness leads to. I'm shattered by the scandal of homelessness in this society that professes humility before God, a desire to bring dignity to all and to promote family values.

When Jews speak of the scandal of homelessness, it's not a theoretical construct, but the result of bitter experience. From the time our biblical ancestors wandered in the wilderness between Egypt and the Promised Land until now, we have known what it means to be without a home.

As the psalmist lamented after the Babylonian exile: "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat, sat and wept as we thought of Zion." Zion is the metaphor of home for the people of Israel. Jewish history is suffused with the tears of the homeless.

For much of my early years, I knew no home in the accepted sense of the word, only collective living, tossed by the vagaries of war from country to country, from place to place, from one river to the next, from one bunk to another. I know how profane it is not to have one's own space. I think of it every time I see homeless people take the mattress that Toronto's Out of the Cold program provides them, to allow them to spend the night on the floor with 40 other homeless persons.

When the temperature drops, hot soup is a comfort that many people on the streets look forward to.

[Stephen Epstein photos]

In this society, there's no reason why people should live like that. Yes, the problems are complex, and a few individuals may choose to live on the streets, but those who come for a meal and a mattress every Thursday night in winter to the synagogue I serve, have not chosen their lot. We cannot house them in the way they deserve to be housed. Only governments – local, provincial, federal – can do that.

Homelessness therefore, should not be an object for detached study, but a cause for committed action. We know the problem, but we are not sure about the will to solve it.

In this country, at this time in its history, homelessness is totally preventable. The fact that it exists suggests several things. For those in power, the plight of the homeless can be ignored, because being so totally powerless, they are of no political consequence. As a society, we only pay lip service to compassion while our real commitment is to "the bottom line," and finally, that when we make ourselves out to be champions of the family and its values, it's only certain kinds of families we have in mind, namely, those who are like ourselves.

I hope a call will go out to the powers that be to solve homelessness, not to stay fixated on reducing the national debt, or putting more money in the pockets of those who don't need it.

Excerpted from remarks delivered by Rabbi Marmur at the Gordon Symposium, Massey College, Toronto, March 16, 1999. Rabbi Marmur is spiritual leader of Holy Blossom Temple.

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Feature

Ve'ahavta hits the road to provide Street Help

Continued from page 3

for days. He's worried.

At Yonge and Eglinton, Ken recognizes someone. We all pile out of the van with enthusiasm (which, we later reflect, might seem a bit intimidating to a homeless person), ladle the hot vegetable soup into a foam bowl, and offer a sandwich. The shy young man accepts, says thank you, and moves on.

The scandal of homelessness

At Queen and Sherbourne, we encounter our first and only drunk, a toothless older man who, although quite tipsy, is utterly charming. "I'll never forget God," he proudly tells Rabbi Gottlieb, after accepting some soup and a sandwich.

So far, so good. A group of young squatters politely accept food and loose tobacco, each one muttering, "Thanks, man." A man and a woman with a Pekinese puppy can't thank us enough. "God bless you all," they say. "We'd be dead without you." The woman hugs each of us tightly, and wipes away a tear.

At the Ossington subway station, are two men, one young. The older man's hands are so gnarled, he can't grip the cigarettes we rolled for him. "I'm freezing my arse off," he says, his voice trembling. Both receive sleeping bags.

A disturbing scene unfolds under the bridge where Bloor Street becomes the Danforth. Several straggly young people emerge from a tent with trays they pile high with everything we offer. Among them is a girl not older than 17. She's three months pregnant.

Five men who live in the washroom of a public park even manage some humor; their leader, who sports an awesome bushy beard, engages us in some television trivia. One of two men we wake up from a deep sleep on a subway grate near Queen's Park just says, "No, thanks," and rolls over.

"There's a lot of personality out there," observes Rosensweig.

And so it goes, with not one bad experience. No one has yelled at us. No one has threatened us. Everyone has been courteous to a fault, and even dignified. Rosensweig and Rabbi Gottlieb both wear kippot; there's been not one sidelong glance or anything that can be interpreted as anti-Semitic. Some are shy about asking for a second sandwich. Just one person refuses any help.

And it turns out that Ken, who drives the van three nights a week, is a veritable Sherpa of the streets, knowing every nook, cranny, alleyway and park frequented by the homeless. He eases the wide van down narrow laneways and paths, and navigates ravine embankments with ease. Cherry Beach at midnight looks the end of the Earth; frightening looking residents in a garbage-strewn swath under the Gardner Expressway resemble characters from one of those post-nuclear holocaust movies. Toronto at night looks very different from this vantage point.

I thought I'd be out for an hour or two. Seven hours later, I head home, exhausted but fulfilled, and wondering how seemingly normal people wind up being spat out by society. For a night at least, in our little corner of the little blue speck, we've made the world a bit better.

Scott Staiman hands a man some soup and a cup of coffee. The van carries juice, candy, cookies, condoms and tobacco.

Alison Epstein and Miriam Kalushner serve up hot soup and sandwiches from the back of the van. A hearty turkey and rice soup and peanut butter and jam sandwiches are tonight's offering.

Miriam Kalushner gives a man at Queen Street West soup and sandwiches. Often, recipients feel that they would like to give something back whether it be a newspaper, poem or just a smile.

[Stephen Epstein photos]

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Feature

The scandal of homelessness

An eighty seven year old man tries to find a safe place to sleep undisturbed. His regular grate had been taken over by a younger homeless man. One of the biggest challenges of living on the street is securing and maintaining a place to bed down. Some people turn to the heated foyers of automatic banking machines until bank security guards tell them to leave.

In a doorway not far from the Art Gallery of Ontario, a young man finds some shelter from the biting wind. He declined the offering of food but instead asked Alison Epstein for a warm sleeping bag. Sleeping bags are supplied by Project Warmth and the Aboriginal Peacekeeping Unit of the Metropolitan Toronto Police.

Natalie Lichtenstein and Karri Ritchie spend the afternoon preparing the hundreds of sandwiches needed. The food is ready by 7:30 PM at which time the van is loaded. The volunteers are on the streets till 3:30 AM unless the supplies run out earlier.

[Stephen Epstein photos]

Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee, in partnership with the Edward Bronfman Family Foundation and Na-Me-Res (Native Men's Residence) launched a Jewish Mobile Response to the homeless. One night a week a group of Jewish volunteers travel the city in a van stocked with hot soup, sandwiches, clothing and bedding for the people who have no place to call home.

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Netanyahu blasts EU declaration on final status

Europeans support Palestinian statehood

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a group of young European parliamentarians, here last weekend as guests of the Likud, that Europe "fails to understand the difference between two types of peace: peace between democracies, and peace between democracies and non-democracies."

He repeated his remarks that "in light of the fact that a third of the Jewish people died in Europe," the European Union (EU) should not "dictate a solution that would endanger the existence of the people of Israel."

He was speaking about the declaration approved by EU leaders at their Berlin summit last week, calling for negotiations on the final status of the Palestinian territories to be concluded within a year, and referring to Jerusalem as a *corpus separatum*, a separate legal entity.

The United States believes the resolution should be regarded positively, since the EU did not endorse a French proposal that European diplomatic recognition be automatically conferred on the Palestinians at the end of the 12-month period, even if there is no progress in the talks.

A senior Palestinian Authority official declared that he was "optimistic and delighted" at the EU declaration of support for a Palestinian state. But Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Nabil Shaath, would only say that the declaration "will be a very important factor when we come to discuss the question."

The statement voiced support for a Palestinian "sovereign" state, and declared "its readiness to consider the recognition of a Palestinian state in due course."

The EU's special envoy to the Middle East, Miguel Moratinos, called the declaration "balanced." He said it was intended "to facilitate a decision by the PA on the question of when to declare an independent Palestinian state."

Moratinos and Shaath were at a symposium held at the French National Assembly. Moratinos said he was "sorry" to hear about Netanyahu's attack on the declaration. Moratinos said he believed the EU leaders had found the "precise formulation" that can "sever the connection between the need to conduct negotiations on the Palestinians' declaration of independence, and the necessity of implementing mutual commitments" by the two sides.

He said the 12-month target date postulated by the EU for completion of the final-status talks "will give the new Israeli government that will be formed after the elections, time to deal with the difficult issues that await handling: water, refugees, the fate of the settlements and the status of Jerusalem."

Palestinian negotiator, Saeb Erekat, was quoted in the East Jerusalem daily *Al Ayam* as saying that the EU declaration represented "progress," but the EU and the Palestinians were still at odds over a deadline. "Twelve months is a long time," he said.

190 Jews evacuate Yugoslavia

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — As a result of the NATO strikes in Kosovo and Yugoslavia, some Jews have chosen to leave the war-torn areas.

About 190 Jews from Belgrade, Novi Sad and other towns in Yugoslavia have made their way to Budapest, where they are being cared for by the Budapest Jewish community, according to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC).

They are being housed temporarily in a boarding school and a Jewish community centre, while plans to move them to a Budapest hotel are being considered.

Jews remaining in Belgrade – where the Jewish community numbers roughly 1,200 – reported last weekend that life was continuing as usual, except for longer bread lines, a JDC official said.

But Jews in Kosovo have declined offers to help them leave, according to Jewish aid workers who have been active in the former Yugoslavia.

Plans have reportedly been drawn up to extract the approximately 60 Jews remaining in the Kosovar capital of Pristina if necessary, the workers said.

Meanwhile, eight Jewish men from the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia fled to Bulgaria over the weekend and were being cared for by local Jews near the Bulgarian capital of Sofia.

The men, all of them college students, expressed fears that the conflict might spill over the Serbian-Macedonian border.

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Meeting will take place subject to sufficient interest.

Israeli groups launch conversion institute

By AVI MACHLIS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Representatives of Reform, Conservative and Orthodox Judaism have launched the country's first inter-denominational conversion institute in the northern Galilee town of Carmiel.

But this latest development in the ongoing battle over religious pluralism in the Jewish state began under a cloud of charges and uncertainty, raising questions about how successful the institute will be in resolving the debate that has divided many Jews.

Leaders of the liberal streams said the institute – originally devised as a compromise to end a two-year controversy over whether conversions they perform in Israel should be recognized by the state – did not solve any problems because the Orthodox Chief Rabbinate has not officially agreed to recognize the institute's graduates.

The Institute for Judaic Studies, founded by the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Israeli government, started its first program last week with 37 students, all emigrants from the former Soviet Union.

Many of the immigrants are non-Jews married to Jews, who had been eligible to immigrate under the Law of Return, which grants automatic citizenship to all Jews when they move to Israel.

They will study Judaism for 440 hours – three times a week during a one-year period – supervised by a staff of about 25 teachers, who are drawn from the three main streams of Judaism.

"Teachers will deliver courses based on their expertise," said Tsila Kraskin, executive coordinator of the institute for the Jewish Agency. "Panel discussions will include members of all streams."

According to Kraskin, while Israel's chief rabbis have not explicitly endorsed the institute, they hinted at a recent meeting that Orthodox rabbinical courts would consider graduates of the new institute eligible for conversions.

"The chief rabbis told us that they don't convert institutes, they convert people," said Kraskin. "They said if the institute's graduates will meet their criteria, they will have no problem."

A spokesperson for the Chief Rabbinate, Tzvi Rosen, confirmed that this is the chief rabbis' position.

"They will be tested according to the Halachah," he said of the candidates for conversion. "It doesn't matter whether they come from this or that institute."

But Rabbi Uri Regev, director of the Reform movement's Religious Action Centre in Israel, called the statement a bluff.

He said several Reform and Conservative conversion candidates were recently sent to a moderate Orthodox rabbi to complete their conversion courses.

But even this rabbi only agreed to carry out the conversion if the candidates agreed to observe Shabbat, keep kosher and give their children an Orthodox education, he said.

"They were left with two options," said Regev. "Either to lie – and some did – to get an Orthodox conversion, or, for those who were not willing to lie, to accept that they cannot convert."

This, said Regev, is probably the meaning of the rabbinate's willingness to consider the institute's graduates.

"Their statement only proves that the institute is totally irrelevant to them," said Regev.

In addition, he said, the institute's launch does not change the fact that the Ne'eman Committee has failed.

The committee, headed by former Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman, was created two years ago by the government to seek a compromise to the conversion issue.

"Ne'eman sold us peace in the Jewish people, and this means there was supposed to be give and take," he said. "In reality, there is no dialogue, no cooperation, no recognition."

It was the Ne'eman Committee that proposed the inter-denominational institute as a compromise solution to the conversion issue.

The three major streams of Judaism would be involved in preparing candidates for conversion, while only Orthodox rabbis would be allowed to perform the conversions.

The compromise was suggested to head off a crisis sparked when Orthodox parties in the Knesset tried to pass a conversion bill that would have codified into law the Orthodox Chief Rabbinate's authority over all conversions conducted in Israel.

Orthodox parties blamed the liberal movements for the crisis, saying they were trying to break the decades-old status quo by seeking court rulings favorable to their cause.

Responding to the concerns, Prof. Binyamin Ish-Shalom, the institute's Orthodox chair, urged all sides to give the institute a chance.

"I think we need to give it time, and ultimately, the test will be in the field, when our graduates will stand before the rabbinical courts," he said.

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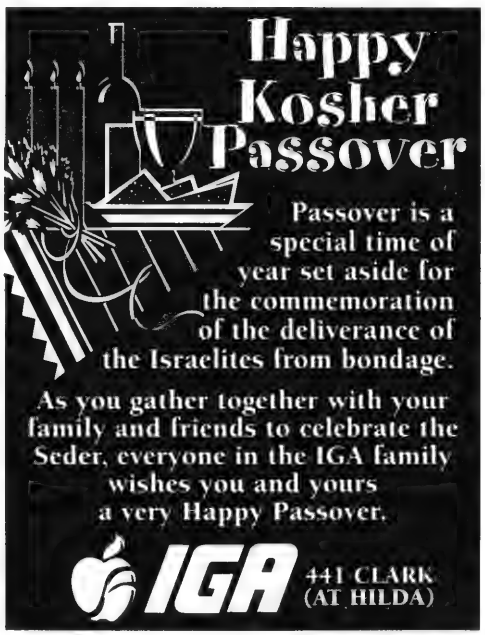
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March 22

• Israel's prosecutors charged Maryland teenager Samuel Sheinbein, with first-degree murder in a 1997 dismemberment killing. The charges came one day after the Supreme Court issued a final order preventing his extradition to the United States.

March 23

• A papal visit to Israel is not yet definite, the Vatican said. The announcement came after Tourism Ministry officials said that Pope John Paul II intends to visit Israel and the PA self-rule areas next March.

• Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed that the PA had recently helped prevent a Hamas terror attack in central Israel. While stating he had called PA Chairman Yasser Arafat three weeks ago to thank him, the prime minister added that the PA still had more to do to prevent terror in Israel.

March 24

• The Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem launched a campaign to collect the names of some three million Holocaust victims. Yad Vashem already has lists of half of the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust and is now attempting to gather the remaining names.

March 25

• Prosecutors asked a Jerusalem court to give the maximum possible sentence to Shas leader Aryeh Deri – between three to five years imprisonment – who was convicted last week of bribery, fraud and breach of trust.

• The cabinet approved an expansion of Jerusalem's municipal boundaries. At a special session held in Jerusalem's City Hall, the cabinet approved a plan to expand the city's jurisdiction westward to enable the construction of some 120,000 housing units by the year 2020.

March 26

• "There's nothing new in it," was the reaction of Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon to the EU statement that it would recognize a Palestinian state in year's time. "It's a continuation of Europe's policies," Sharon said.

Israel Election Notebook
May 17

• Former Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Shamir resigned from the governing Likud party, which he helped found. Shamir, who has accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of betraying the ideology of Likud's founders, told Associated Press he has joined the Herut party, led by Ze'ev Benny Begin, another Likud defector.

• Arab Knesset member, Azmi Bashara, announced he is running for prime minister. Bashara explained his decision by saying he wanted to ensure Arab affairs were given the attention they deserved.

• Taken aback by the Likud election campaign's failure to generate any excitement, Netanyahu urgently recalled his American media advisor, Arthur Finkelstein.

The weak campaign has disrupted the timetable originally envisaged by the campaign committee. The Likud is the only major party that has not yet held a gala opening for its campaign. Observers in the Likud said this was due to a budget shortfall, but informed sources said the real reason was that the party has not yet worked out its "information campaign."

• An invitation to Yitzhak Mordechai to attend a memorial ceremony for the late Yitzhak Rabin in Washington two weeks ago, spurred angry accusations from both Likud and Labor party officials that the United States is too involved in the Israeli election campaign.

BLONDE AMBITION

Pnina Rosenblum speaks to a group of students during a campaign stop as she vies for a Knesset seat at the head of her women's rights party. [Isranet photo]

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FIRST CALL

This year, on the eve of the Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem will launch a broad-based comprehensive campaign to collect the names of Holocaust victims.

For over 43 years, Yad Vashem has been collecting testimonies of survivors in Israel and throughout the world. Survivors' testimonies are a foremost source of information in the documentation of the names of those who perished in the Holocaust. These testimonies are sometimes the only perpetuation of the victims' names. Relatives and loved ones complete pages of testimony with the victims' personal details, including last place of residence, profession, place and circumstances of their death. Occasionally, a picture of the victim is attached to the form. The pages of testimony are preserved in the Hall of Names at Yad Vashem.

Until now, 53 years after the end of World War II, some three million names of Holocaust victims have been collected in the Hall of Names at Yad Vashem. As the twentieth century draws to a close and the generation of survivors grows older, this may be the last opportunity for the Jewish people in Israel and the Diaspora to provide a name and memory for each of the six million people who were murdered simply because they were Jews. A census of the Jewish people will be initiated and conducted in order to collect the still unknown names of those who perished in the Holocaust.

Yad Vashem will again appeal, in Israel and in the Diaspora, to the relatives and loved ones of those who were murdered in the Holocaust, to complete pages of testimony. At a later stage, the pages of testimony will be scanned and entered into the international central data base of victims' names in the Hall of Names at Yad Vashem.

At the launching of the campaign at Yad Vashem, the President and the Prime Minister of the State of Israel will call upon the Jewish people to heed this appeal and fill out pages of testimony.

The Canadian Society along with the American & British Societies have been asked to be a part of this very exciting and critically important project. In Israel the Campaign will be launched on the eve of Yom Hashoah Monday, April 12, 1999, and will continue until the end of the century in Israel and among Jewish Communities worldwide.

Please take this opportunity to fill in this page of testimony and to obtain more pages or for further information contact the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem at 416-785-1333 or 1-888-494-7999 or e-mail ydvashem@istar.ca

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A Page of Testimony

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8. מוטער פון דעם אומגעקומענעם - פארנאמען: - מיידלשע-פאמיליע: Victim's mother - First name: - Maiden name/nee:	
9. פאטער פון דעם אומגעקומענעם - פארנאמען: Victim's father - First name:	
10. מאן/פרוי פון דעם אומגעקומענעם - פארנאמען: - מיידלשע-פאמיליע: Victim's spouse - First name: - Maiden name/nee:	
11. סטאביליער וואוינארט (שטאט, לאנד): Permanent residence place and country:	
12. וואוינארטער בעת דער מלחמה (שטאט, לאנד): Wartime residence place and country:	
13. בעריף Victim's profession:	14. צייט פון טויט: Date/year of death:
15. ארט און אומשטענדן פון טויט: Death place: Circumstances of death:	
בעשריבן פון: Reported by:	
איך, דער אונטערגעשריבענער I, the undersigned	
וואו וואוינט (אדרעס) Residing at (address)	
קרובישאפט Relationship to victim (family/other)	

דערקלער דערמיט, או די עדות מיט אלע פרטים איז א ריכטיקע לויט מיין בעסטען וויסן
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Jack Wiltzer assumes the responsibility as a Senior Partner of Schwartz Levitsky Feldman Consultants which specializes in corporate turnaround and renewal, corporate finance and merger and acquisitions, Jack formerly was President and C.O.O. of Canada's largest public apparel company and enjoyed a long and distinguished career with that company.

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Crafting a legacy in Morocco

By PETER EPHROSS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

CASABLANCA — On a recent sunny day outside the Jewish elementary school here, Boris Azran watched as his two oldest children joined hundreds of others celebrating Purim festivities.

After a group of younger students performed a few Hebrew songs, older students, decked out in costumes ranging from Superman to Cleopatra, strutted across the stage.

A clothes manufacturer, the 35-year-old Azran, his youngest child sitting in his lap, says he is content with the education his daughters Melissa, 10, and Jordanna, 8, are receiving at the Narcisse-Leven elementary school.

But as soon as they are older, he expects that they, like other young Moroccan Jews, will move abroad for their education – most likely to the United States. He and his wife, he says, will follow them.

The reason he expects his family to leave is simple: "There are not a lot of Jews here."

Azran's assessment is undeniably true: Morocco's Jewish community, which stood at a robust 250,000 in 1948, has dwindled to approximately 5,000 today; most of its members are older than 50.

As Moroccan Jewry becomes a remnant of what it once was, the Jews who are still there have a new goal: crafting a tribute to the 2,000 years of Jewish life in this country just south of Spain. Judging by the words of top government officials, and their participation in recent Jewish events, Morocco's leadership shares that goal.

The slow death of Morocco's Jewish community is nothing new. The exodus that began soon after Morocco gained its independence from France in 1956, and accelerated during the 1960s, has continued unabated since.

The once-flourishing communities of Fez, Rabat and Marrakesh, all of which once boasted thousands of Jews living intimately in walled medieval markets, now have only a few hundred members. Only Casablanca, which still supports more than 20 synagogues, has enough Jewish students to keep a Jewish day school system alive.

"I used to work a lot with children. Now I work a lot with older people," says the soft-spoken David Dayan, a longtime school principal at the now-closed Jewish high school in Marrakesh, who, with coaxing, shows off a card in his wallet with the photos of the Jewish basketball team he coached in the late 1940s.

Moroccan government officials boast of what they call the "2,000 years of peaceful Arab-Jewish coexistence" – and it is true that Jews have been treated better here than in many other parts of North Africa or Europe.

But the historical record is more complex. As is true elsewhere around the globe, the Jewish experience in Morocco has been cyclical, with favorable times followed by periods of anti-Semitism.

This cycle has not changed in modern times. During World War II, for example, then-King Muhammad V refused a request by the pro-Nazi Vichy France regime to round up the country's Jews for deportation.

But several years later, Moroccan Jews, like others in the Arab world, were attacked by the local population during the period surrounding the 1948 establishment of the State of Israel. But, say Jewish historians, there were no uprisings during the 1967 Six Day War, as there were in neighboring Tunisia.

In more recent times, Moroccan King Hassan II, Muhammad V's son, attempted to steer a King Hussein-like heterodox course between Israel and the Palestinians.

Indeed, after the famous 1993 handshake on the White House lawn between Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat, Israel was allowed to open up a consular office in Rabat.

Relations with Israel frozen

Hassan, upset with the policies of current Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has frozen relations with Israel. And the number of Israeli tourists – Moroccan officials say 40,000 visited the country annually in 1995 and 1996 in the euphoria that followed the Oslo accords – has been cut at least in half.

"It is no secret that the king does not feel comfortable with the current leadership in Israel," Nabeel Khoury, the U.S. consul general in Rabat, said during a recent interview with reporters.

Despite the freeze, Israel still sells Morocco a host of agricultural products, said Gadi Golan, Israel's consul general in Morocco, who is allowed to stay in the country but is prevented from meeting officially with government ministers.

Moroccan officials say they hope that once peace is reached in the Middle East, Jews will return to this North African country, a land where just a few minutes walk takes one from city streets featuring sleek professionals dressed in Parisian black fashions to medieval marketplaces filled with labyrinthine alleyways where donkeys tread.

But when pressed, government officials speak mainly of the importance of Moroccan Jewry in the development of their country, a nostalgia for a time when Jewish and Muslim children played side by side – and of a desire for economic benefits through tourism and through increased trade with Israel.

Indeed, Moroccan officials, once unwilling to mention the State of Israel, now speak of their readiness to establish a direct Tel Aviv-Casablanca flight if peace is achieved.

"What is important is to share business, joint ventures, large cooperation together," said Andre Azoulay, a former banker and the chief economic adviser to Hassan.

Azoulay is believed to be the only Jewish minister in the Arab world.

For their part, Moroccan Jews are proud of their tradition, and at a session with American reporters on a recent trip to the country, members of Fez's Jewish community bristled when asked why they, too, hadn't joined their ex-compatriots in Israel, France, Canada or the United States.

"Why should a people deeply rooted for 2,000 years not co-exist with others in the land where he is living?" said Dr. Armand Guigui, the president of the Jewish community of Fez.

In private, however, members of Morocco's Jewish community admit that the history of Jews in Morocco will soon, for all intents and purposes, be over.

"The community of Moroccan Jews is good in France, is good in the United States, is good in Canada and is good in Israel. They have a future there," said one older Moroccan Jew, whose six children now live abroad, including two who teach at a yeshiva in the Israeli town of Bnei Brak.

In the meantime, much of what remains of Morocco's Jewish past is nostalgia – including the celebrations of holidays, when the community, in the words of Jacques Zafrani, the leader of the Jewish community of Marrakesh, used to go from house to house at the end of Passover to eat cake.

There are also physical memories. In addition to cemeteries filled with tombstones, there are synagogues – some run down and defunct, others, replete with chandeliers and cedar wood Torah arks, still holding daily minyans – and a host of Jewish artifacts that like the prayer books, kippot and wedding dresses at one museum in Fez, are scattered in disarray.

To its credit, the Moroccan Jewish community appears to be successful as it attempts to create a legacy of monuments.

It has formed the Foundation for the Preservation of Morocco's Jewish Heritage.

JTA News Editor Peter Ephross recently visited Morocco as a guest of the country's tourist ministry.

Health

Making the right food choices at Passover

JERUSALEM — Despite the many changes in our diet during Passover, we should still make wise food choices during this eight-day holiday.

You can make it through Passover if you just stick to a few rules. Shaare Zedek's head of nutritional services, Rachel Zochovizky, offers us some useful suggestions.

Firstly, small meals are recommended during seder days. Drink plenty, but not eat after 4 p.m., until the evening meal. Since seder meals are particularly rich and heavy, this should help balance the daily calorie intake as well as help reduce the familiar post-seder feeling of being bloated.

Note: The calories keep piling up during Passover. Take it easy on the matzah! Half a regular matzah has the same amount of calories as one slice of bread; one "light" matzah equals one bread slice; and one hand-made (shmura) matzah equals a whopping three slices of bread!

Celiac sufferers (people with an intolerance to the gluten in wheat, rye, barley and oats) should remember that matzah contains flour.

The following items also equal one slice of bread: two tablespoons of matzah meal, one medium knaidel (and who eats only one?), and one cup of borscht. One medium potato latke equals one slice of bread plus one portion of fat exchange.

Diabetics and dieters should try to use dry white wine for the customary four cups of wine at the seders; dry white or red wine is recommended for all. The sweeter and heavier the wine, the more calories it contains.

Many Passover recipes call for lots of eggs; in many cases, egg whites can successfully be used instead of the yolk. Try it whenever you can.

Avoid fried foods when possible and stick to reduced fat recipes that involve baking, steaming and boiling.

Passover cakes and cookies usually contain generous amounts of coconut or crushed nuts. Eat these moderately because they contain lots of fats and sugars.

Passover is usually a time of eating, reduced activity and relaxation. As we all know when we climb on the scales, this can be a dangerous combination. During the eight days of Passover, try to eat more vegetables than usual and at least two or three fruit portions every day. Take walks and try to increase physical activity.

Matzah combined with inactivity tends to make Passover also the festival of — to put it delicately — sluggish digestion. Drink at least 10 to 12 cups of liquids daily, preferably unsweetened, to get the system moving. Water is always the best.

Passover always brings with it certain medical events directly related to the festival – a marked increase in the number of limbs broken by people falling off ladders or chairs, or slipping on wet floors while doing their Passover cleaning. In one instance, the window-ledge upon which one woman was standing while cleaning her windows suddenly collapsed. She fell, breaking two ribs, and had to be treated by orthopedic specialists.

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. I have recently seen a lot of elephant garlic in the stores. Can you tell me what it is used for, and if it is just large garlic.

A. Elephant garlic does appear to be a very large head of garlic, but in fact, it is different in many ways. Firstly, elephant garlic is a member of the leek family and therefore has a milder taste than regular garlic. This makes it a great choice for recipes such as Caesar dressing that use raw garlic.

If substituting elephant garlic for regular, one clove of elephant garlic equals approximately 10 cloves of regular garlic. I love throwing these whole, peeled cloves in the bottom of the roasting pan when I make a whole chicken. Along with turnips, onions and potatoes, garlic is sensational and mild flavored when roasted.

Q. Is there a flavor difference between white and brown mushrooms?

A. Yes. Brown mushrooms tend to be much more flavorful. Small brown mushrooms, called cremini mushrooms, are actually small portobello's. If you do not require the large size of the portobello for presentation purposes, then save a lot of money and purchase the equally flavorful cremini. Since mushrooms contain so much natural water, they can be sauteed without any added fat in a non-stick pan.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist, specializing in pediatric and adult nutrition in Toronto. If you have any nutrition questions send them to The CJN.

Mount Sinai to expand

TORONTO — Mount Sinai Hospital will be able to transform its emergency services to make them more responsive, state-of-the-art and patient friendly, thanks to a $5-million donation from Gerald Schwartz, president of Onex Corporation, and his wife Heather Reisman, president of Indigo Books and Music.

The new Schwartz/Reisman Emergency Centre will be 25 percent larger than the current emergency department, providing patients with quieter, less crowded surroundings, greater privacy, and easier access to nursing stations, telephone and washrooms.

The gift will also form the basis of a Fund for Excellence in Emergency Medicine. The fund will have as its goal, education and research into ways emergency care can be improved and taught to doctors and nurses to provide a better emergency experience for patients.

The centre will feature a fast-track treatment area that will reduce frustrating delays for patients who can be treated and released fairly quickly. This would include injuries such as minor broken bones, lacerations requiring stitches and dental emergencies.

The number of patient treatment areas will increase to 36 patient care spaces from the current 22. The whole design is geared toward making it easier for staff and patients to interact."

Construction for the centre is expected to begin in late spring.

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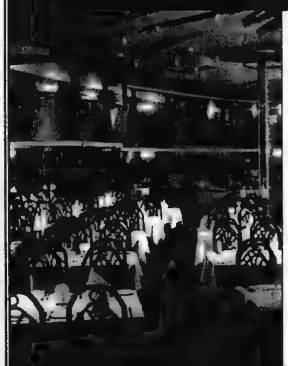
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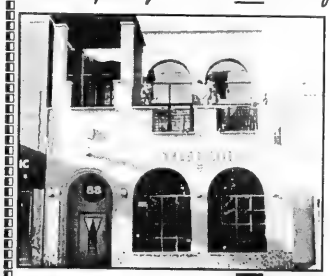

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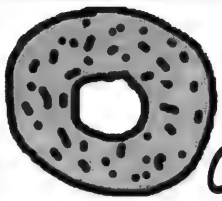

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Travel, Arts & Business

Actress exhilarated by theatre work

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

Debra Kirshenbaum credits her high school drama classes for inspiring her to become an actress.

Now, Kirshenbaum has the opportunity to inspire a new generation of students with her performance in *Waiting For Lewis* presented by Theatre Direct Canada, a company devoted to entertaining adolescent audiences.

Born in Montreal, Kirshenbaum headed to Toronto after graduating from Montreal's Dome Theatre School in the mid-80s. "There was not much of a future in Montreal for an English actor, so I decided to move to Toronto. The great thing about Toronto, is you can have a freelance career in film, television and theatre."

Kirshenbaum arrived in Toronto as an unknown, working as a waitress and office temp to supplement her income. "I used to crash theatre auditions, because it was hard to be seen if you weren't a member of Actra or Equity, the actors' unions."

On the suggestion of other budding actors, Kirshenbaum auditioned for productions held at the University of Toronto. Although non-paying, it helped her to build up her resume. Within two years, Kirshenbaum's talents were being noticed. She hired an agent, and joined the ranks as a full-time actor.

She now boasts a large list of credits. Her movie appearances include, *Searching for Bobby Fisher* and the *Long Kiss Goodnight*, in which star Geena Davis pulls a gun on her. Kirshenbaum co-starred in the Gemini Award winning film the *Battle of the Bulge*.

She's also applied her craft in television, but Kirshenbaum says that the major highlights of her career occurred in the realm of theatre, in productions such as *Crackwalker, White Trash, Blue Eyes, Head of Snakes, Brother Andre's Heart, Serious Comedy For Oxymorons, The Whore's Revenge* and *Counter Service*.

"You can't fake it in the theatre, because you are out in front, making a connection with the audience. I find this satisfying and more of an artistic sense of accomplishment. It's exhausting, but more exhilarating, too. It requires a lot of chutzpah every night to go out there and give it your best. Although it is more physically demanding than television and film, it is also very rewarding.

Debra Kirshenbaum

"When working in the theatre, anything can happen, and often does. Once I was on stage in an elaborate Victorian costume, when my skirt popped off to the ground. While in the musical, *Lolla Star Builds Her Dream Home*, I fell off a ramp, and the cast continued to sing. With tears in my eyes, I climbed back on stage and finished the number.

"It's amazing what adrenaline will do, and how the desperate feeling of not wanting to look like a fool in front of hundreds of people, will make you overcome. You have to be grounded and on your toes to cope with every theatre mishap. I have a great respect for those who work in this business."

In *Waiting For Lewis*, she plays Susan, a well adjusted upper middle-class mom, who, along with her husband, moves her city loving teens to the country, much to their chagrin.

"Most things Theatre Direct does, deals with issues of adolescence, and [the company] seems to respect the intelligence of the teenagers involved. In this play, the mother of the lead character – Lewis – is an alcoholic.

"Often in theatre, when kids come from a bad home life, they are portrayed as messed up, but Lewis compensates [by] creating poignant moments when [he] parents his parent," she states.

The play, Fabrizio Filippo's first commissioned mainstage production, celebrates its' world premier at the Buddies In Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander Street, from April 12 to May 1. It runs Monday to Friday at 1 p.m., with additional performances on Tuesday and Thursday at 10 a.m., and Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are $9.50-$16.00. For more information call 975-8556, group bookings 537-4191.

Stark honesty marks film

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The way in which Poles related to Jewish suffering during the Holocaust still haunts Poland. In *The Holy Week*, a film by Andrzej Wajda, one of Poland's greatest directors, this controversial subject is explored at length with nuanced sensitivity.

The movie, released in 1996, receives its North American television premiere on Vision TV on April 8 at 8 p.m.

Based on Jerzy Andrzjewski's novel, *The Holy Week* unfolds against the backdrop of the heroic 1943 Warsaw ghetto uprising, which was mercilessly crushed by the Germans.

Irena, a Jewish woman seeking sanctuary, finds shelter with a couple in the suburbs of Warsaw. It is a somewhat embarrassing arrangement, since Jan, the man of the house, is Irena's former lover. More to the point, Jan and his pregnant wife, Anna, risk the ultimate punishment, death by execution, if the Germans ferret out Irena.

Wajda wastes no time in setting the mood. As Irena wanders through Warsaw in a daze, shots rings out, flames erupt from tenement windows and people jump out of buildings. The Jewish revolt has begun.

Having established the appropriate tone, he develops the theme by revealing what various Poles think about Irena, and by implication, about Jews.

Alhough he has taken the initiative to harbor Irena, Jan is basically ambivalent. "Does Irena look like a Jewess?" he asks Anna, an angelic-looking woman who's basically sympathetic to Irena's plight. Later, when Anna expresses empathy for Jews as a persecuted group, Jan retorts that Poles face danger, too.

Yet, Anna is not the only person with a conscience in *The Holy Week*. Jan's younger brother Julek, a resistance fighter, denounces fascism and anti-Semitism.

Wajda portrays Irena as tough, feisty, bitter and none too hopeful about her prospects of surviving the Nazi occupation. From Jan's roof, she watches the ghetto burning against a bleak orange sky, a sign of things to come.

The villains make themselves known in no uncertain terms.

Jan's neighbor, a blackmarketeer, claims that Irena's very presence is a threat to everyone in the building, and that Poles "should not die for Jews." Her husband, a common lout, tries to rape Irena.

The most virulent anti-Semitism is voiced by Jan's boss. "We should be grateful to Hitler," he says. "Poland doesn't want Jews." Disgusted by his tirade, a female employee stalks out of the office. Jan, however, remains basically silent, fearful of roiling the waters.

In rounding out his cast of Polish types, Wajda introduces us to Jan's landlord, a bookish old man who feels the need to eject Irena from the building but who "respects" human life.

Relentlessly somb̈re and unflinchingly realistic, *The Holy Week* earns the respect of a viewer with its stark honesty. And while it is not one of Wajda's great films, like *Ashes and Diamonds*, it stands up to scrutiny.

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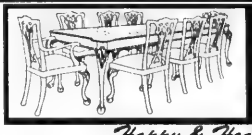
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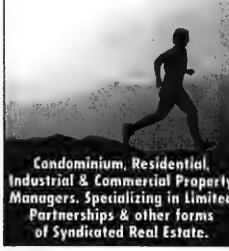
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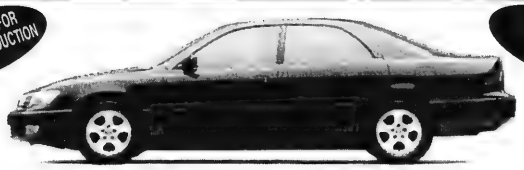
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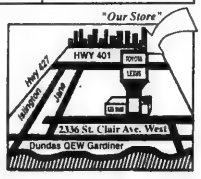

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Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

CASHING IN ON THE MILLENNIUM?

Nathan Gazzara is a bearded Jewish peddler living in America's Salvation Coast, most likely a mythological place. It is a place unlike most others, he discovers, because people "wanted him to be a Jew. The more Jewish, the better."

One day, Gazzara claps eyes on Sabitha Hunter, a young, irreverent, beautiful woman escaping her dowdy home town; her first name arose because she was born on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath. Sabitha's fate is to be greeted as the Christian Messiah.

Both these quirky characters are featured in *Get On Top*, a new novel by Montreal writer **David Homel** (Stoddart, $22.95). If you catch the allusions to the Jewish false messiah, Shabbetai Tsvi and his tireless promoter Nathan of Gaza, you might also catch the overtones relating to the X-rated messianic pretender Jacob Franks, who proved a mega-embarrassment if not a disaster for the Jewish people.

Homel, the author of three previous novels, won a Governor General's award for translation in 1995, but one senses that *Get On Top* won't put him in line for any more honors. His latest work is a peculiar novel, featuring a literary orgy of sex and violence, passion and panic, and with vague similarities in sensibility to Theroux or Vonnegut.

Born and raised in Chicago, Homel once worked in a kosher slaughterhouse. He also writes for TV and radio. With *Get On Top*, he may be trying to put out a literary product to cash in on the millennium.

And who knows? In these crazy times, he might just succeed.

***

Jolson Returns: The award-winning hit musical comes back to Toronto for two weeks, now starring **Mike Burstyn** as the legendary American singer "who on one knee brought the whole world to its feet." Princess of Wales Theatre. April 20 to May 2. $20-$89. 872-1212 or 800-461-3333.

***

Jewish Film Society: New York Jewish intellectuals have wielded tremendous influence over the last half-century. **Irving Kristol**, **Irving Howe**, **Daniel Bell** and **Nathan Glazer** were four of the most prominent members of that group. Their world is profiled in *Arguing the World*, a recent American-made film directed by **Joseph Dorman**.

A press release says, "The film's greatest success is that it makes these intellectuals likable – even the ones with whom you disagree." The Toronto Jewish Film Society screenings are on April 11. Screenings at Jackman Hall, Art Gallery of Ontario. 5:15 & 7:45 p.m. Author and broadcaster Robert Fulford will introduce the film. Call 924-6211 for details.

Arts Briefs

• Artist **Sorel Etrog**, famed as the designer of the Canadian Film Award ("Genie") is the focus of an exhibition of drawings, sculptures and etchings, including several of Italian cultural personalities. Until April 28. Italian Institute of Culture, 296 Huron St. 921-3802.

• **Dr. John Weinzweig**, a pioneer of contemporary Canadian music, has had a long and distinguished musical career. One of his latest achievements is the CD, *Wine of Peace – An 85th Birthday Retrospective*, featuring a variety of his compositions over half a century. On the Furiant/CBC label (FMDC 4602-2).

•**Leon Wieseltier's** *Kaddish*, a chronicle of a son's year of mourning for his father, won the non-fiction award at the recent 49th annual National Jewish Book Awards in the United States. Israeli author **Aharon Appelfeld** won the fiction award for *The Iron Tracks*, a story about a Holocaust survivor searching throughout the railroads of Europe for his father's killer.

For Kids

•Juno award winner **Jack Grunsky** and his **Chigo Chigo Band** is set to play three shows at the Markham Theatre. According to a publicity release, "Jack has a rare and wonderful gift of involving his audience no matter the age. He never talks down to them and as a result, children of all ages respond with joy and pleasure."

April 11, at 11 a.m. 2 & 4 p.m. 905-305-7469.

• *In The Red Corduroy Shirt*, a story for school-age children by **Joseph Kertes**, two schoolmates, whose families came to Toronto from different backgrounds and countries, become friends. But when one gives the other a red corduroy shirt, the parents have trouble accepting the friendship, and the gift must be returned.

Kertes' clever story of mutual prejudice delivers a powerful message in the form of a subtle contemporary parable. Illustrated by Peter Perko. (Stoddart Kids, $12.95)

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Mom's gift includes Cabaret lead

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — An unusual, but substantial and delayed birthday gift, gives Julie Lennick the chance to play the role of her dreams – Sally Bowles, the starring role of the musical *Cabaret*.

The gift covers rental of the 180-seat Studio Theatre at the Ford Centre of Performing Arts in North York, from April 7 to 17, a professional cast of 16, a five-piece orchestra and royalties for the play.

"I don't know yet what it will cost me, but it will be a lot, minus the tickets that are sold," said Sylvia Lennick, doyen of a theatrical family. She will play Fraulein Schneider, Sally's landlady, a role she had 16 years ago at the St. Lawrence Centre.

Luckily, the four songs she sings are all in her key which has dropped a little since her halcyon days.

She is best known for her comic role as Julius Caesar's wife on the *Wayne and Shuster Show*, opining, "Julie, I told you, don't go."

"I was supposed to give Julie (her daughter) the gift last Sept. 30, but in the meantime I got a 10-week engagement at the Mayfield Dinner Theatre in Edmonton and Julie told me not to pass it up.

"The idea started in my head because I could foresee a perfect cast for *Cabaret* including Julie."

The gift also expresses Sylvia's confidence in the acting and singing ability of her daughter who is taking on her first professional role in *Cabaret*.

Up to now, she has appeared in community theatre, for example, Scarborough Village productions of *Guys and Dolls* (as Adelaide who is always fighting a cold) and in *Grease*.

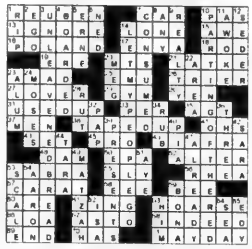
Playing the role that Joel Grey made famous, the master of ceremonies at the Kit Kat nightclub in Berlin, is Mario D'Alimonte.

"Julie is the only one of the Lennicks to have the sense to hold on to a good civilian job, as a traffic coordinator with the Metro Police. Our two sons, David and Michael are in show business. David is a compiler of compact discs and Michael is a TV writer and director," said Sylvia.

Her late husband, Ben, was co-developer of the Belmont Theatre, and with Sylvia, performed for years on the CBC radio show, *At Home with the Lennicks*.

The performances include a Sunday matinee, April 11, at 2 p.m.

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



Book on Bialystok looks at vanished era

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Numerous Jews in the Diaspora can trace their ancestry to the Bialystok region of Poland, and some are travelling there to reconnect with their ancestral past.

Bialystok and the 40 towns and villages in the vicinity, known for its dense and untouched forests and its green river valleys, are rich in Jewish history.

Jews arrived in the area in the 16th century, settling not only in Bialystok, the largest city in northeast Poland, but in places like Tykocin, Bielsk Podalski, Bocki, Bransk, Narew, Orla and Wasilkow.

By the outbreak of World War II, 58 percent of greater Bialystok's population was Jewish, while Bialystok itself had the greatest concentration of Jews – 60 percent – of any city in Poland.

Among those who claim descent from Bialystok and environs are Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's former prime minister; Albert Sabin, the discoverer of the polio vaccine; Ludwik Zamenhof, the inventor of Esperanto; Eliezer Sukenik, the archeologist whose name is inextricably associated with the Dead Sea Scrolls, and whose son, Yigael Yadin, was deputy prime minister in Menachem Begin's first government; Josef Chazanowicz, a physician who was instrumental in the formation of Israel's national library; and Frederick Reines, the co-winner of the 1995 Nobel Prize for physics.

The Nazis wiped out much of Bialystok's Jewish population, consigning tens of thousands of Jews to Treblinka, the death camp halfway between Bialystok and Warsaw.

Nowadays, scarcely any Jews are left in the Bialystok area. But visitors who venture there will find synagogues, ritual bathouses, cemeteries and Jewish community buildings in various states of repair.

If you're seriously thinking of visiting, don't leave home without reading Tomasz Wisniewski's useful guidebook, *Jewish Bialystok and Surroundings in Eastern Poland* (The Ipswich Press, 63 South Main St., Ipswich, Mass. 01938, $18.50 Canadian).

Wisniewski, a journalist and historian, is described as an expert on Jewish history and landmarks in the Bialystok region.

His book, the only one of its kind I have seen, seems relatively comprehensive. Wisniewski recounts the history of Jews in Bialystok and its satellite towns and villages, and suggests tours to suit different schedules.

In addition, there are 77 black and white photographs and 25 maps.

The foreward is by Mimi Sheraton, a notable food writer who sings the praises of the famous Bialystok *bialy*, the yeasty onion and poppy seed-flecked irregularly round breakfast roll, generations of Jews have heartily consumed.

But in what is surely a sad and depressing commentary of the times, Sheraton observes that no one in Bialystok today has ever heard of the *bialy*.

Like the murdered Jews of Bialystok, it is a forgotten remnant of a vanished era.

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Business Profile

Entrepreneur happily hectic in the Bulldog Group

Whatever you can do,
or dream you can, begin it.
Boldness has genius, power
and magic in it. – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

In the winter of 1934, Lotte Rubin, a recent immigrant to Canada from Pinsk, Poland, was crossing an icy street in Edmonton when she was struck by a truck.

Rubin, the breadwinner in her family with a sick husband and three children to support, was left with two broken legs.

Not despairing over her accident, she turned adversity into fortune by collecting $3,000 – a tidy sum during the Depression – in an insurance claim from the trucking company.

With the money in hand, Lotte Rubin, a smart, courageous and tenacious woman, risked everything and bought real estate when the market was depressed. Her timing was exquisite. Within a few years, housing prices rose, and she made a handsome profit.

Her granddaughter, Ellie Rubin, likes to tell this story whenever anyone asks about her own success in business. "She's been quite inspirational to me," said Rubin, co-founder of the Toronto-based Bulldog Group and author of *Bulldog: Spirit of the New Entrepreneur,* published last month by HarperCollins.

But, as she hastened to add, Lotte Rubin, now 98, was not her only role model. Alex Rubin, her 76-year-old father, to whom she dedicates *Bulldog*, was also an inspiration– and a mentor – to her.

A real estate developer and one of the first members of the Bulldog Group's board of directors, he imparted to his daughter two values which have helped her enormously – a taste for entrepreneurship and a yen for calculated risk.

Thanks to their examples, and her own driving ambition, this 37-year-old United Synagogue Day School and McGill University graduate created a $5 million-a-year firm whose clients include Microsoft, Apple, General Motors and Sony Pictures Entertainment.

The Bulldog Group, with offices in Los Angeles, London and Amsterdam, is a leader in the rapidly-expanding media management field. Since its formation, Bulldog, with almost 50 employees, has transformed itself from a traditional design-service firm into one of North America's leading multimedia production houses.

In technical jargon, Bulldog helps companies in the entertainment, publishing, advertising, marketing and broadcasting industries realize a higher return on their production processes while better managing their media assets.

Until quite recently, Rubin was Bulldog's president. But of late, she has stopped dealing with day-to-day operations, leaving these duties to her husband and partner, Christopher Strachan.

Rubin is still very much involved with Bulldog, being its chief adviser. Nowadays, however, she spends a good part of her waking hours on the road as a consultant and speaker in Canada, Europe, Asia and the United States. Her subjects are entrepreneurship and entrepreneuring, a word she uses as a verb.

Aside from her grandmother and father, Rubin is the only businessperson in her family and among her four siblings.

Berte, Rubin's Winnipeg-born mother, earned a PhD at 65, and now works in adult education. Wendy is a crown prosecutor in Vancouver and Leslie is an artist in Israel. Benjamin, a lawyer, lives in Toronto, while Ilan, who made aliyah about 20 years ago, is secretary-general of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem.

Rubin is no stranger to Israel either, having visited the country on a regular basis since she was six. "I have," she said, " a real connection to Israel."

Midway through her studies at at McGill, where she majored in English literature and theatre, she decided to teach theatre and dance in Israel. She ended up in Sderot, a bleak and remote Israeli development town in the Negev Desert, populated nearly exclusively by Sephardi Jews.

"I was having too much fun at university and wanted to do something difficult. I veered off the straight-and-narrow. That's when you learn the most. That was entrepreneuring!"

Sderot was certainly a challenge. "My parents were not happy with my decision to take off a year. Sderot was in the middle of nowhere. It was hard to be a single woman in a somewhat male chauvinist atmosphere."

Worse still, teachers in Sderot did not initially appreciate the utility of dance and theatre.

Ellie Rubin

Eventually, she won them over, and the experience gave her a terrific boost of self-confidence, the sine qua non of successful entrepreneurs.

Before she returned to Canada, Rubin was a housemother for six months in a kibbutz near Ashkelon. Back in Toronto, she honed her evolving business skills at the Toronto Arts Council in public relations and at a variety of advertising and marketing firms in administration.

With her husband's encouragement and assistance, she founded her own company in 1991, when Canada was in the grips of a recession. There were good times and bad times. Bulldog zoomed off the starting block, but soon was burdened by a $600,000 debt.

By dint of perseverance and grit, a capacity for bright new ideas and a talent for networking, concepts she collectively refers to as "story-telling," "championship" and "cachet," she eliminated that problem quite expeditiously.

No feminist, she does not consider herself a female entrepreneur. "I'm an entrepreneur who happens to be a woman," said Rubin, a slight, diminutive woman with curly auburn locks.

Yet, she acknowledged, there have been occasions when she has been "blocked" simply because of her gender.

As she points out in *Bulldog*, women are increasingly prominent in business. Female-owned businesses now account for approximately one-third of all Canadian companies and generate almost one million jobs. And since 1979, the number of women who have gone into business has increased by 150 percent.

For all her success, Rubin has had her share of failures. "I've lost bids, and I have had people hang up on me. It wasn't fun and I didn't feel good, but it built my self-confidence. You have to learn how to cope with rejection."

In general, Rubin divides her time between Toronto and Los Angeles. "It's a very hectic life, but entrepreneurship is a way of life, not a job," she said with the zeal of a new convert. "I'm happily hectic."

An avid reader and an amateur pianist who enjoys calisthenics, tennis and horseback riding, Rubin works up to 16 hours a day, which perhaps accounts for the fact that she has no children.

But Rubin is not ruling out the possibility. "You never know," she said coyly.

When it comes to her career, Rubin is not as vague. Asked what the future holds, she said she hopes to consolidate her position as an international public speaker.

"In 10 years, I want to be a world-wide expert in helping people find their entrepreneurial spirit."

With the publication of *Bulldog*, she has taken another bold step toward that goal.

Sonny Goldstein, CLU,CH.F.C.
President

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REAL ESTATE Section

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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Lots of home, low price! 4 bedroom 2 storey, family-size kitchen, open concept, ideal for entertaining. Close to all amenities. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1812. **SOLD**

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CONNECTIONS. David Eichorn has as his loyal clients, and can introduce your property to, many professional home builders and renovators who are looking to purchase homes and lots in your area.

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BATHURST / LAWRENCE / WILSON — NEW LISTING!

Custom-built modern design, open concept, quality craftsmanship, 4 + 2 bdrms., large principal rooms, ideal for entertaining, cathedral ceilings. Call for details. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

AVENUE ROAD / LAWRENCE – CHARMING 3+1 BEDROOM
2 storey brick home on 42 x 110 ft. lot, new porch, gorgeous deck and garden, finished basement, fabulous location, only $319,000. **ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / GLENGROVE
Reduced to sell now! Spacious ranch bungalow on 54 x 138 ft. lot, fabulous location near Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, only $459,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

UPPER FOREST HILL

Spacious 4 bdrm., huge family room addition, gleaming hardwood floors. Breakfast room overlooks gorgeous garden, 50 x 125 ft. lot, fabulous location! Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / STEELES – 3 BDRM. EXECUTIVE TOWNHOME
Shows very well, finished basement, w/o to gorgeous rear deck, 2 parking spaces, only $229,900. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

• • •

AVENUE ROAD / WILSON / 401 CONDO
2 bedrooms + solarium, 2 parking spaces, ensuite laundry, priced for immediate sale at $209,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

• • •

34 SUITES — POWER OF SALE
Investment property, asking $1.4 million. Call for details!. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

• • •

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — REDUCED $20,000 TO SELL NOW!
Spacious ranch bungalow! California-style, 2,700 sq. ft. (approx.), 4 bedrooms, oversize family room, 69 x 120 ft. lot, eat-in kitchen, only $329,000. **ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

ALAN NEWTON
REAL ESTATE LTD. REALTOR

Alan Newton and his Staff wish all our customers and friends a Happy and Healthy Passover

UPPER VILLAGE $699,000 - JUST LISTED!
Decorated, delightful & immaculate! This 4+1 bdrm. smaller center hall Georgian home is situated on a 50' x 121' lot across from million $ plus homes on the most desirable block in Upper Forest Hill. Lots of backyard for addition if needed. Finished lower level with nanny's room, rec room & 3 piece washroom. Move-in condition. **Alan Newton

• • •

BATHURST-CENTRE "WILSHIRE"
Exquisite 4 bdrms., main floor library, finished basement, hardwood, premium lot, extras galore! $449,900. *Ted Waxman

• • •

BAYVIEW & FINCH - ELEGANT! LUXURY!
3 years new, Shane Baghai built spacious townhome, outstanding finishes and design. A must see! $589,000. *Helen Gould

• • •

BATHURST-DREWRY - $299,900
Custom 2 bedroom bungalow, double garage, main floor family room, finished basement with bedroom, family & games room. Extras galore! *Ted Waxman

• • •

CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

BATHURST-CLARK - JUST REDUCED TO $209,000
About 1,400 sq. ft., low floor, sun filled 2 bedroom, August possession! *Helen Gould

• • •

BATHURST-ANTIBES "HEMISPHERES"
Immaculate and spacious 2 bedroom condo with solarium, appliances, overlooks ravine! $168,000. Call *Ted Waxman

• • •

* Sales Representative **Associate Broker

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CENTRAL PROPERTIES

YONGE/LAWRENCE - CUSTOM BUILT HOME
$719K Stone ext., 4 bdrms., 4 baths. Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

568 ST CLEMENTS AVENUE! WOW!
Upper Forest Hill! Reno. 4+1 bdrms., 5 baths, main fam.! Walk-out basement! Unbelievable value! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987 SOLD

A HOME THAT APPEALS TO EVERYONE!
Bathurst/Lawrence custom built. Reesa Sud* 488-2875

NEW LISTING - UPPER FOREST HILL!
$629,000. Large 5 bdrm., Centre hall, family room & powder room, finished basement! A solid home! Jay Bleiweis* 226-1987

INCREDIBLE LOCATION!
$649,000. Detatched 2 storey 4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 41 x 125' walk-out lower level - just move in! Jay Bleiweis* 226-1987 SOLD

SPACIOUS 4 BEDROOM LARGE KITCHEN + FAMILY ROOM
Central & sunny $499K. Sharon Flancman* 488-2875

34 ALDBURN ROAD! NOW $469,900!
Mint Upper Forest gem! 4+1 bdrms., 3 baths, main family! Cac! Fab. 38 x 103'! Walk to subway! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

ARMOUR HEIGHTS!
4 bedrooms, cac, large lot. S. Dick-Goodman* 488-2875

ARMOUR HEIGHTS 4 BEDROOM BEAUTY
Master ensuite. 42 x 187' lot. Russell Pearsall* 488-2875

BATHURST MANOR 1ST AD!
5 bedroom multi-level plus den & family room! Modern kitchen & baths. Great lot! Call Rickey Fitzerman* 226-1987

144 GOULDING AVENUE! $366,900!
Yonge N./Finch! Reno. 4+1 bdrms., 4 baths, sep. nanny suite! 50 x 132'! Dare to compare! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

BATHURST & ST CLAIR!!
Detached, 4 bdrms., 2 storey $344,900! David Manuel* 488-2875

CENTRAL PROPERTIES CONT'D.

ARLINGTON & VAUGHAN!!!
Triplex, good rents $279,900. David Manuel* 488-2875

WINNETT & VAUGHAN!!
3 unit including property $249,900! David Manuel* 488-2875

EGLINTON/ALLEN EXPRESSWAY SOLD
Charming 2 bedroom bungalow. Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

BAYVIEW PROPERTIES

BAYVIEW/YORK MILLS - QUIET COURT!
A unique architectural masterpiece, open plan with great flow, grand master suite. Call Sharon Bobkin* 226-1987

1ST AD! 57 FIFESHIRE ROAD! $1,114,000!
Custom 5+1 bdrms., 7 baths, mn. fam.+lib.! W/o bsmnt.! Gorgeous l/g. pool! Fab. 105x178'! L. Grammar*/S.Schwartzben** 226-1987

NEW LISTING EXCLUSIVE BOBWHITE CRESCENT
Large principal rooms, 4 bedrooms. Marilyn Merrick* 488-2875

1ST AD! BAYVIEW/STEELES
Large 4+1 bedrooms, renovated home. Close to schools. Neil Wagman* 488-2875

107 CASTLERIDGE DRIVE! $399,000
Bayview/Hwy. 7! Custom 4+3 bdrms., 5 baths, mn. fam.+lib.+2 pce. In-law ste.! Fab. 49x107'! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

NORTH PROPERTIES

THORNHILL'S MOST DESIRABLE COURT!
Gorgeous 4 bdrms., Backs on park. S. Dick-Goodman* 488-2875

BEAUTIFUL FAMILY HOME!
4 bdrms., cac. Fab. family room. S. Dick-Goodman* 488-2875

BATHURST/CLARK LOCATION, LOCATION!
Great 2 storey family home, 3 bedrooms + family room. Double garage. Must sell! 1st Ad! Ruth Bass* 226-1987

JUST LISTED AT ATKINSON & CENTRE
3 bdrms., upgraded, open concept family rm., fin. bsmnt. Has huge rec. rm., 3 pce.+bdrm. A must see! Hedda Zaionz* 226-1987

24 SPRINGHEAD GARDENS! NOW $249K!
Yonge N./Carrville! Updated 4+1 bdrms., 3 baths, main family! Sep. Nanny ste.! Fab. 37x120'! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

CONDOMINIUMS

BATHURST/LAWRENCE - SETTING IDEAL!!
Single/couple -2 bdrms., 2 baths, eat-in kit. Lil Cooper* 488-2875

** Associate Broker * Sales Representative

HOUSES FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE Section

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

HARVEY KALLES
REAL ESTATE LIMITED REALTOR

Listen to CHIN radio 1540 AM Sunday Mornings at 9:35 a.m. and 100.7 FM Thursday mornings at 10:45 a.m. for the Toronto Women's Hadassah-Wizo Report. Proudly sponsored by Harvey Kalles Real Estate Ltd.

LOCATION! LOCATION!
Quiet tree lined street. Walk to Avenue Rd. or Bathurst. 64 ft. lot. Build or renovate. Paula G. Bernstein*

ATTENTION: FIRST TIME BUYERS
1* ad! Chabad area. 3 bdrms., TH., fam. rm. w/walk-out & FP. Fenced yard, neutral decor. Walk to everything. P. Bernstein*

CASTLEFIELD BUILDING LOT
$319,000 - Last new home SOLD for $825K. Another for sale $998K. There is good value here! Jeffrey Joseph**

588 RUSHTON RD. - NORTH OF VAUGHAN
$330,000. Superior looking executive starter home. Cozy & charming with private drive & garage. Jeffrey Joseph**

LAKE SIMOCE - BIG BAY POINT!
Winter/Summer. Fab. retreat, 4 bdrms. + loft. Spacious fam. rm., 3 baths, 2 FP's, lrg. deck, sandy beach. Carole Lazer*

21 SHELBORNE - OUT TREED STREET
$468,000 - 2 storey, 4 bedrms, centre hall, main floor family room. Needs renovations. Jeffrey Joseph**

YORK MILLS/LESLIE $475,000
4 bdrms., 2 ensuites, extensive addition & upgrades. Centre hall plan, hardwood floors, walk-out from family room & den. Access from garage. Cheryl Graff*

CHAPLIN CRES. - BELT LINE
Great home in move-in condition. 3 bdrms., 4 baths, CAC. Private Drive. Motivated Vendor. Syma Solomon*

YORK MILLS/BANBURY NOW $623,000
2 storey, 5 bdrms., 5 baths. Granite foyer, skylite, modern kitchen & baths. Walk-out basement. Pool. Cheryl Graff*

617 CASTLEFIELD - 11 YEARS YOUNG
2 storey, 4 bdrms. Super Master Suite. Main floor family room. Nanny's quarters, double garage. Jeffrey Joseph**

TO BE BUILT - ON CASTLEFIELD
In Forest Hill $729,000 - Lavishly finished detached home. Now is the time for your input. Jeffrey Joseph**

BEAUTIFUL GLENGROVE - $739,000
East of Glen Rush. So much home for the money! Huge fam. room/breakfast room, flows from new wood kitchen. 50 x 170 lot & double garage. Jeffrey Joseph**

FOREST HILL VILLAGE TUDOR
On quiet Ava Rd. 3 storey renovation. Marvelous family room. Double garage. $998,000. Jeffrey Joseph**

BROWN SCHOOL AREA!
$1,195,000 - Beautiful mansion with gorgeous garden and large size rooms. Sun filled. Toby Farb*

* Sales Representative ** Associate Broker

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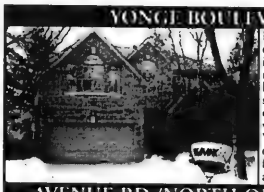
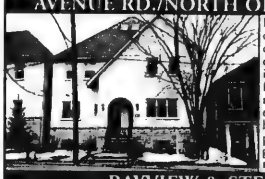
YONGE BOULEVARD



Exquisite custom built home of distinction! This home has it all...from the his and her master ensuites, open to lower level grand circular stairwell to professionally designed, temp controlled wine cellar. Superior finishes! Wonderful flow, ideal for entertaining, yet a terrific family home. All the bells and whistles! $1,179,000.

AVENUE RD./NORTH OF EGLINTON



Ideal for professional couple or empty nesters. A private oasis in the city only 1 year old. Double garage and finished basement. Fabulous finishes granite, hardwood, marble, ceiling mouldings etc. Fully fenced yard with large deck, interlock path and patio and maintenance free gardens. Immaculate and ready for you. $469,000.

BAYVIEW & STEELES

A gardener's dream! Quiet, understated elegance throughout. Large kitchen open to family room and heated sunroom. Four oversized bedrooms and 4 baths. Fully finished lower level. Simply move in and enjoy this lovely family home that has been maintained to perfection. $559,000.

Linda Mondville, Sales Representative
Re/Max Ultimate Realty Inc. Rltr. (416) 487-5131

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Happy Passover To All My Valued Clients, Relatives & Friends

57 Overbrook Place $299,800
Bathurst Manor, 3 bedrooms & basement apartment

45 Michael Court $518,000
SOLD
4 bedrooms & loft, kosher kitchen, pie shaped lot

19 Michael Court - Sold in 1 Day - $515,000
SOLD
4 bedrooms & loft, upgraded kitchen & pantry

29 Thorncrest Place $455,000
SOLD
5 bedrooms & loft, walk to shuls

43 Glenhurst Place - Sold in 2 Weeks - $321,500
SOLD
Beautiful 3 bedroom home, 2,700 sq. ft.

327 Douglas Ave. - Sold in 1 Week - $394,500
SOLD
4 bedroom updated home, Ave./Lawrence

91 Avenue Road Sold in 2 Weeks - $212,000
SOLD
Renovated townhome

249/251 Lansdowne Street $725,000
SOLD
Triplex investment property

53 Ashcroft Court $207,000
SOLD
Finished basement, 3 bedroom semi

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Michael Harari
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CLANTON PARK AREA
1st time offered, custom 4 bdrms. & family room, fireplace, w/out to deck, oak kit., appls., 4 baths, main flr. lndry., circular oak staircase, skylight, fin. bsmnt., 2 car garage.

• • •

NEPTUNE DRIVE CONDO
$149,900, about 1,400 sq. ft., 3 bdrms., huge liv. & din., w/out to bal., mod. oak kit., 5 apps., bath & lndry. ens., A-1 buy!

• • •

WILMINGTON OVERBROOK
Split level, 3 bdrms., 3 baths, family size kitchen, appls., fin. bsmnt., double gar., large lot.

• • •

WILLOWDALE - LARGE LOT
67' x 133'! Build your dream home! Steps to everything.

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REAL ESTATE Section

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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RESULTS 483-4337

FINE HOMES

PRESTIGIOUS DENLOW AREA - $539,000
Attractive 5+ bdrm. home. Main floor family rm. w/walk-out to patio. Fin. lower level. Professionally landscaped grounds. Double garage. *Bobby Simpson.

• • •

BAYVIEW/STEELES - $679,000
Beautiful 4 bdrm. home situated on 63x147 ft. lot. Main flr. family rm. + library. Finished lower level. Double garage. Backs onto park-like setting. *Lena Rauchwerger

• • •

ALLENBY SCHOOL AREA - $409,000
Stunning 3 bdrm home with tasteful renovations, boasts fabulous master with sitting area + ensuite bath. Family rm. with walk-out to deep English garden. Pad parking. **Don Wagman

• • •

FABULOUS ALLENBY - $415,000
Bright & spacious 3 bdrm. home. Master ensuite. Eat-in kitchen. Walk-out to deck. Fireplace. Finished lower level. CAC. Pad parking. Prime location. *Leslie Dennis.

• • •

EGLINTON/BATHURST - $244,900
Charming & spacious bungalow in prime location. Multi fireplaces. Leaded windows. Fin, lower level w/rec rm + dark rm & cedar closet. Steps to Eglinton & subway. *Cathy Goldman.

• • •

AVENUE RD./GLENGROVE - $439,000.
Inviting 4+ bdrm. home. Centre hall plan. Reno'd eat-in kitchen. Finished lower level w/nanny's rm. & rec. rm. Central air. *Edith Weiss.

• • •

YORK MILLS BUNGALOW - $569,000
Magnificent 75 x 150 ft. lot. Spacious principal rms. 3 bdrms. Centre hall plan. Finished lower level w/extra bdrm.& large rec room. Double garage. *Marlene Federman

• • •

YORK MILLS/LESLIE - $234,000
Executive townhouse. 3 bdrms., 3 updated baths. Eat-in kitchen. Lower level walk-out to private garden. Private drive & built-in garage. *Marlene Federman.

• • •

BAYVIEW/GREENLANE - $659,900
Designer's own home. Approx. 4,600 sq. ft. Main floor family rm. + library. Luxurious, private master retreat w/fireplace & 7pc ensuite bath. Fin. lower level. CAC. *Ruth Kaufman

• • •

YONGE/EGLINTON - $499,000
Stunning home boasts Green[SOLD]use kitchen w/breakfast area. Tasteful renovations. La[SOLD]ped garden & deck. Fin. lower level. Private drive & built-in garage. *Edie Winberg

• • •

AVENUE RD/LAWRENCE - $599,000
Newly built 3+ bdrms. Mas[SOLD] walk-out to balcony. Skylights. Main fl. family rm w/wal[SOLD] to deck. Fin. lower level. CAC. Fabulous upgrades. *Betty Cohen/*Ruth Kaufman.

• • •

CEDARVALE - $495,000
Tastefully decorated 4 [SOLD] bath home. Finished lower level. Walk-out to large garden. Private drive. Call **Don Wagman/*Shawnee Slan

• • •

TWO NEPTUNE DRIVE
GRAND OPENING ON APRIL 18
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10 HOUSES FOR SALE PRIVATE

Bath./Centre - 3 bdrm. T.H., 3 bth., CAC/CVAC, 3 yrs. new. Private. $219K. 905-886-5430.

Bath/Clark East side, upgraded 3+1 bdr, fin bsmt, dble gar, mn. floor den. $280K. 905-882-8519

Hamilton, McMaster. Hospital/University. 4 bdr., mod. kit., sep. din. rm., 2 fam. rms., 2 1/2 bth., wood flr., priv. yard. Walk to synagogue, day school, Yeshiva, golf. $312K. 905-526-8257.

York Mills/Bayview Custom blt 5 bdrm home backing to quiet park. Main fl fam rm & lib, 7 bth, cac, nanny ste, fully fin. bsmt, dble gar. $949K.416-364-1063.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

TORRESDALE (BATHURST/FINCH)
$169,900. Gorgeous 2 bdrm. condo + solarium & eat-in kitchen. Hardwood & ceramics. Very Clean.
David Nuernberger,
Sales Representative,
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ANTIBES - 1ST AD
RARE 1,850 sq. ft. corner, magnificent south view, ensuite bath, laundry, storage, 2 large solariums, 2 parking. Won't last, call...
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BATHURST/TORRESDALE
$229,000. Gorgeous 2 bedroom condo, huge solarium, 1,500 sq. ft., 2 baths. Quiet secure building, close to all amenities.
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CENTURY 21 SMITH LTD. BROKER

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

3000 Bathurst at Lawrence - 2 bdrm., $1400/mo. Avail June 1. By appt. only. 416-233-8054.

60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION

1 bdrm in newly reno'd bsmnt. by Wilson subway. Pref. Non-smkr., single, lau., cable, pkg., $450/mo. 416-398-7478.

Bath/Steeles, 2 bdr furn apt. to share,n/smkr,$420/m. 665-9967

75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

Bathurst/Sheppard - Newly reno'd, sunny, bright, 2 bdrm., undergrnd pkg. 416-635-5031.

75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

BATHURST-SHEPPARD
Very lg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms., ample closets, some 1½ baths & 2 balc., roof, laundry, ravine setting, pool, ind. pkg., 6 apts. per flr. From $900.
960-3238 - Bus.
631-9377 or 631-0388 - Super

81 APARTMENT TO SUBLET

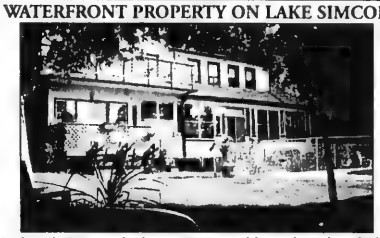
Bath./Steeles - 2 bdrm., pkg., June - Aug. N/smkr. 663-6788.

84 ROOM WANTED

A lady in wheel chair wishes to rent 1 room in accessible family home on Wheel Trans route. Needs room for 1 working day a week for office use. Approx. 11am-4pm. Will pay $10 weekly. CJN Box # 7156.

105 COTTAGE FOR SALE

WATERFRONT PROPERTY ON LAKE SIMCOE



Jackson's Pt. - 10 bedroom, inground heated pool, 3 decks, master ensuite with jacuzzi and balcony! Walking distance to shul. Steps to all amenities. **$399,000. Call...**
(905) 731-3400

110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

Lake Simcoe, lakefront estate, Beaverton area,lux. 4 bed. Sandy beach. Sunsets. Tennis. Week/mo, 226-0009, 749-6600.

120 COTTAGE WANTED

Fabulous waterfront summer home wanted to rent for full or part summer. New or recently reno'd on North Lake Simcoe. Min. 4 bdrms. 416-633-5926.

125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

GLENEAGLES COUNTRY CLUB
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Furnished Condos starting at $100,000.
Bobby Jones 2 Bdrms., 2 Baths + Den starting at $127,000.
3 Bdrms., 3 Baths, Furn. inc. Golf Ben Hogan $129,900.
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Many More - Golf + Tennis Available
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75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

Aventura Bch. Resort, 1 bdrm. studio w/kit., ocean front, sec. & fac., high flr. Wkly & mo. avail. 305-262-3955 or 305-975-7442

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT

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135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT

Hemispheres - 2 bdrm., 2 bth., oceanfront, high flr., furn., tennis, etc. 954-454-2935.

155 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR SALE

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Private sale. Hod Ha Sharon, 4 bdrm. apt., 2 1/2 bath., spac., excellent loc. 905-886-1650.

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North York, Ont. M3B 3K4

Head of Lower School Judaic Studies
Hillel Day School of Metropolitan Detroit, a Solomon Schecter Day School and constituent agency of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit has an opening for a Head of Judaic Studies - Lower School (K-5) for the Fall of 1999 or 2000. This position will oversee Judaic Studies curriculum development and faculty. The candidate should have and advanced degree, teaching experience, as well as three years of administrative experience. Qualified candidates should forward resume and salary history to:
Search Committee
Hillel Day School
32200 Middlebelt Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
USA

Principal of Middle School 6-8
Hillel Day School of Metropolitan Detroit, A Solomon Schecter Day School and constituent agency of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit has an opening for a Principal of General Studies - Middle School (6-8) for the Fall of 1999 or 2000. This position will supervise and coordinate general studies curriculum and faculty. The candidate will also be responsible for middle school programming and interaction with students and families. The candidate should have an advanced degree, teaching experience, as well as three years of administrative experience. Qualified candidates should forward resume and salary history to:
Search Committee
Hillel Day School
32200 Middlebelt Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
USA

SUMMER POSITION Downtown. Full Time customer service expert required at entrepreneurial Ketubah company. Excellent English communication, Mac/Windows, admin. experience, Hebrew reading required. Fax resume to: (416) 963-9129.

Temple Sinai School Office. Administrative Assistant/Secretary. Maternity leave/possibility of full time. Computer Microsoft Word '97, telephone reception and clerical duties. Fax resume to 416-487-5499.

205 INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL SPACE

YORKVILLE
CONTEMPORARY TOWNHOME
Full floor master suite, 3 fireplaces, 4 floors, designed for entertaining. Offers invited $599,000 to $698,000
www.preacanada.com click-on virtual tour>Avenue Rd/Bedford
Paul Solomons Assoc. Broker
487-4343
Prudential/Sadie Moranis Realty

COURTLAND 2 bedrooms, very large, completely renovated, $199,000.
DRASTICALLY REDUCED! 3,800 sq. ft., 5 bedrooms, + walk-out bsmnt., 2 yrs. old. Vendor wants offer! Thornhill.
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Sutton Group Admiral Realty,
416-739-7200.

BATHURST WILSON
CONVENIENT NORTH YORK LOCATION
NEWLY DECORATED SPACIOUS 1, 2 & 3 BDRMS.
- Large balconies
- Central air conditioning and heating
- Hardwood Floors
- Sunken living rooms
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- Close to conveniences and TTC
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125 Neptune Dr.
(416) 787-7171

The Behar Group Realty Inc.
is pleased to announce the opening of it's newest office at 1170 Sheppard Avenue West in Toronto. The Behar Group specializes in commercial and industrial sales, leasing and land development and would be pleased to assist you with any of these real estate needs.
We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our friends and clients a happy and healthy Passover.
1170 Sheppard Ave. W., Unit 24 Toronto M3K 2A3
Phone: 416-636-8898 Fax: 416-636-8890

240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

JEWISH CAMPUS PROFESSIONALS

HILLEL

Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, the largest Jewish campus service organization in the world, is seeking professionals to creatively empower and engage Jewish students through its network of Foundations across North America.

DIRECTOR

As CEO of a Hillel Foundation, you provide strategic vision and leadership to build and sustain a vibrant Jewish campus community. Experienced professionals from diverse career paths with Jewish passion and knowledge are desired. Advanced degree or rabbinic ordination strongly preferred. Minimum 3-5 years experience with proven organizational skills.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Work with diverse student populations to ensure that Hillel is the energetic focal point for Jewish student life on campus, offering a broad range of social, cultural, public service, educational and religious programs. Ideal candidates will be creative, enthusiastic and have strong interpersonal, organizational, marketing and leadership development skills. Diverse backgrounds in Jewish communal work, youth programs, social work, student affairs, etc. are desired. MA preferred.

Competitive salary/comprehensive benefits. Positions available in the **U.S.** and **Canada.** See list at: **www.hillel.org/careermoves/index.htm.** Send resume with cover letter stating desired positions and salary requirements to: Mr. Eran Gasko, Director of Human Resources, Hillel, **1640 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-3279.** EOE M/F.

Director of Admissions
Hillel Day School of Metropolitan Detroit, a Solomon Schecter Day School, seeks a Director of Admissions to oversee the school's recruitment, admissions, and financial aid programs. Expertise in admissions management, as well as excellent organization and communication skills are required. Computer literacy is a must. This person will be accountable to articulate the goals and philosophy of the school and to work with administration, faculty, parents and students. We offer a competitive salary and benefits package. Please send resume and salary history to:
Human Resources
32200 Middlebelt Road,
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
USA

Warm, loving, ECE teachers for Sept. '99. P/T. Call Goldie at 905-886-0420 or fax resume to 905-886-0421.

248 CAMPS

Top Northeast USA summer coed sleepaway camp seeks staff for roller hockey. Must be 19 and older. 516-732-2626 or email to harvcamp@aol.com

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Exp. Polish cleaning lady avail. Call Eva at 416-265-3295.

Exp., reliable lady seeks days work cleaning. Call 244-4874.

Exper. Polish lady avail. to care for elderly who speak Polish & Russian. 416-503-4535.

Frustrated by trying to find a suitable nanny? Let us help you. We have dependable, caring nannies who are thoroughly qualified, personally interviewed & pre-screened. All refs. are checked. Some are CPR trained. Low finders fee.
Wee Care Placement Agency
416-789-3070

Harvscott Domestic Services
"Five stars above the rest"
Housekeepers, elderly care, nannies, cleaning ladies, party helpers. 905-771-6543.

High quality house cleaning. Call Dora, 736-1179.

Live-out senior care in your home provided by an exp, resp. & reliable European lady w/refs. Call Elizabeth at 416-447-7965.

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

GOLDEN CARE LTD.
There's *no place* like HOME!
*Experienced Caregivers: Live-in & Live-out
*Reference & Police Checks
*We only hire **THE BEST!**
*On-going contact with you after placement
THE BEST PERSONAL SERVICE
Honey Hecker
665-4229 or 665-1435

NEED A NANNY?
• No Fee to Employer
APPLE DOMESTICS
(416) 730-0127

Experienced live-in Filipino Caregivers available from Israel.
ELLA'S DOMESTICS
Nannies, Housekeepers, Companions. Live-in or Live-out.
(416) 221-5114

Nannies, live-in &out, full &part-time, cleaning. In-home elderly care by RN's & nurses aides. Bonded, refs. **416-224-9907. Servicing Toronto since 1985.** ***NUMBER 1 DOMESTICS.***

Nanny avail. Experienced & refs. Call Karen, 905-953-5365.

Tender Care Nursing Agency provides experienced, responsible RN's, RPN's, PSW's and live-in companions. 243-1927.

255 DOMESTIC HELP WANTED

Babysitter p/t for 3 sweet kids. Must be energetic and love children. Some light housekeeping. 416-932-3591

Req'd:trained housekprs/babysitters/cleaning ladies.686-1230

255 DOMESTIC HELP WANTED

Senior lady seeks driver companion. Live-in, Don Mills/Finch. Private room & bath. Refs & good driving record req'd. Car not necessary. Immediate. Call week of April 5. 416-498-7221.

260 BUSINESS PERSONALS

Eliminate blind date disasters in a safe & secure environment. **INTERNET DATING SITE.** Free registration, 416-545-3283. **jewish.qualitysoulmates.com**

Jewish Singles Registry. Over 1710 registered. **416-483-4151.**

264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

KOTLER - Robert & Richelle (nee Ritchie) of Kelowna, B.C. are proud to announce the arrival of a son, Jacob Samuel, born March 23, 1999 at 9lb. 10oz. Proud Grandparents are Elayne Kotler of Toronto, Ontario, Dina & Mel Kotler of Kelowna, B.C., Elaine & Wayne Ritchie of Cawston, B.C. Everyone is doing well.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Mid - 50's retired Jewish gentleman, Israeli/Romanian background, fun living, 5'7", seeks attractive female companion, non-smkr. Send photo & phone number to Box 529, 250 Eglinton Ave. E, Toronto, M4P 1K0.

Retired senior male who likes dining out, movies, live theatre, music; dancing, cultural events and more. I am looking for a lady who has similar interests and desires. We can meet for coffee. CJN Box # 7168.

SJF attractive, university grad, mid 20's, romantic, quiet, family oriented, down to earth seeks a tall, good natured male, 26-36 for serious relationship. Please attach photo. CJN Box # 7170.

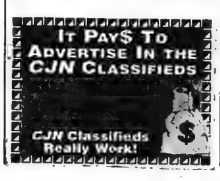
SJM 32 wishes to meet SJF 25-35 for casual dating and lots of fun. Please respond to CJN Box #7167. All replies will be answered

*** CJN Boxes for Personal Companions Wanted ads are valid for 30 (thirty) days only (from 1st publication date). Replies must be received within this time frame in order to be forwarded to the correct CJN Box #.**

Replying to a Companion ad with a CJN Box Number?

Address your mail to:

The Canadian Jewish News
1500 Don Mills Rd.
Suite 205
North York, Ontario
M3B 3K4
Box # _____



330 OBITUARIES

BAIN, Charles - on March 11, 1999, late of 2 Covington Rd., #903.
RABINOWITCH, Joseph - on March 11, 1999, late of 310 Kerrybrook Dr.
LEWIS, Joel - on March 12, 1999, late of 48 Glenayr Rd.
STEINBERG, Gary - on March 12, 1999, late of 81 Fontainbleau Dr.
MAIBAUM, Olga - on March 13, 1999, late of 1201 Steeles Ave. W, #1008.
MARKS, Louis - on March 15, 1999, late of 244 Maxwell St.
CAPLAN, Molly - on March 16, 1999, late of 50 Quebec St., #606.
HERMAN, Lily - on March 16, 1999, late of 2395 Bayview Ave.
ROSEN, Harriet - on March 16, 1999, late of 10 Clearcrest Ave.
SHERKIN, Harry - on March 16, 1999, late of 1 Benvenuto Pl., #225.
SOLOMON, Delicia - on March 17, 1999, late of 4003 Bayview Ave., #112.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

NASIKOVSKY, Alexander - on March 17, 1999.
FELCHER, Ida - on March 18, 1999.
GANZ, Manny - on March 18, 1999, late of 139 Pinewood Ave.
LAIWINT, Jean - on March 18, 1999, late of 181 Overbrook Pl.
KORENFELD, Evgenia - on March 19, 1999, late of 4866 Bathurst St.
SHTULBERG, Rosa - on March 19, 1999, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
VOLFINZON, Leon - on March 19, 1999, late of 100 Antibes Dr.
BENADIBA, Michel - on March 20, 1999, late of 6010 Bathurst St.
BLAUFELD, Mina - on March 20, 1999, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
CARMAN, Sarah Bella - on March 20, 1999.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

CLASSIFIED ADS/ SERVICE DIRECTORY ADS
·CUSTOMER SERVICE·

The CJN requires that advertisers check their advertisement upon publication, as *The CJN* will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion, and there shall be no liability for non-insertion of any advertisement. Liability for errors in advertisements is limited to the amount paid for the space occupying the error. All copy is subject to the approval of the management of *The CJN*. *The CJN* reserves the right to classify all advertisements.

Service Directory & Classified Ad Deadlines are Wednesday, 8 days previous to the issue, by 4 pm.

330 OBITUARIES

PASSOVER GREETINGS from IZENBERG GOLDBERG Monuments

Serving the Jewish community for over 80 years

•Finest quality memorials crafted in our own factory - under our supervision
•Very reasonable prices

LIFETIME GUARANTEE ON ALL MONUMENTS

EXPERIENCE
QUALITY - SERVICE
3173 BATHURST ST.
(just north of Lawrence)
(416) 787-0319

ICRF
Israel Cancer Research Fund
Your help will find a cure for cancer!
Passover cards now available
Phone: (416) 487-5246

GOLDMAKER, Esther - on March 14, 1999, late of 4979 Bathurst St., #406.
NATHANSON, Bernard - on March 14, 1999, late of 605 Finch Ave. W., #721.

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
HEDREW BASIC BURIAL
TRADITIONAL GRAVESIDE SERVICE

TO PLACE AN UNVEILING NOTICE PLEASE CALL AT LEAST 14 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE UNVEILING

338 SHIVA CATERING

SAME DAY SERVICE
*Tasteful Presentation
*Hot/Cold Platters
and Full Course Meals
*DELIVERY AVAILABLE
789-7651
3457 BATHURST ST.

milk 'n honey
THE DAIRY RESTAURANT

The Canadian Jewish news

CLASSIFIED/SERVICE DIRECTORY
PLEASE NOTE:
EARLY DEADLINES
FOR THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

APRIL 15th
Deadline
Monday, April 5, 12 noon

The office of The Canadian Jewish News will be closed on the following days:

Thursday, April 1st & Friday, April 2nd and

Wednesday, April 7th & Thursday, April 8th

SERVICE DIRECTORY

350 APPLIANCES

APPLIANCE REPAIR PARTS & SERVICE

Sabie's

Thermador, Jenn-Air, Subzero, etc.

APPLIANCE SHABBAT SWITCHES

MARCH ONLY: Free pickup & delivery for BBQ cleaning

(416) 224-2526 162 Willowdale Ave. (Willowdale & Sheppard)

355 AUDIO-VISUAL REPAIRS/ SALES

Jacob Repairs All TV's, VCRs & Computers. 416-661-6798.

405 FURNITURE

Marcantonio Furniture Repair Specializing in touch-ups. Restoration & general repairs done on premises. 654-0518.

370 CATERING

Dairy Treats Restaurant & Catering

Brit Milah • Bar/Bat Mitzvahs

Home or Office • Shiva Meals • Corporate Accounts

3522 Bathurst St. (S. of Wilson) (416) 787-0309

חתונה. ברית מצוה

Weddings • Bar Mitzvahs

Tri Elm Catering

3 Banquet Halls • For Elmalch

Glatt Kosher 631-7322 COR 200

e-mail:trielm@pathcom.com

395 ELECTRICAL

Electrician seeks small jobs only, Lic #E-329.Call 636-5732.

410 HEALTH, BEAUTY & FITNESS

AROMA massage. Russian attendant. 792 Wilson. 635-0853.

415 HOME IMPROVEMENTS

***HANDYMAN 638-5488** Repair & Improvement. Ephram

415 HOME IMPROVEMENTS

City East Hardwood Flooring. Sand,stain,finish. 905-839-0733

Polish Hardwood Flooring. All types, old &new, sanding, staining. 25 yrs. exp. 416-755-7169.

EPHRAM - 416-638-5488 **Superior skills handyman**

Perry's Handyman Service. All types of repairs, reas. (416) 429-2728, pgr. (416) 374-5718.

Exper. Handyman. All home repairs & improvements, electrical, plumbing, kitchens, baths, painting, roof, fence & deck. Sun.- Fri. 905-709-4906.

Home Services. Painting, plaster, carpentry, plumbing, electric, ceramic, tiling. 736-1179.

ALL JUNK REMOVAL Basements, yards, garages, sheds, renovation clean-ups, small moves and odd jobs. **Call 905-832-9655.**

Before signing any contract, make sure your contractor is appropriately licensed with the Metropolitan Licensing Commission (416) 392-3000

420 INVITATIONS/ PRINTING

A & D Invitations. Excellent price, selection & service. Call Mark at 905-731-5864.

438 LOCKSMITH

LOCKS - DEADBOLTS Schlage, Special - 1 for $85, 2 for $160 Installed. Fast, reliable service. Moshe 416-445-6438.

440 MISCELLANEOUS

Classic DRYCLEANING

COATS $5.99 OR 2/$10.70

365 WILSON AVE. 630-6799

445 MOVING

****Best Way To Move**** 26' trucks. Exp., prof. movers. Low rates, good, reliable service. Moving & storage. Call: **416-875-MOVE 416-801-2445**

****Professional movers.** Any size job! Reasonable rates & amazing service. Short notice OK. **Call 416-704-6881.**

Available now! Moving team ready to go any time & place. Fast & reliable. 416-561-9306.

B-K Movers. 2-28' trucks. Homes, offices, apts. Family business. Reasonable. Call **905-274-6144** or **905-278-0939**

G&M Moving and Storage. Apts., homes, offices. Short notice.Lge or small. We carry supplies. 905-738-4030.

450 PAINTING/ WALLPAPERING

Bargain Painter, apts, houses, offices. Mikhailov, 633-5973.

David Painter. Prof. Workmanship. Jewish, Hebrew, Hungarian, Romanian. 905-660-7794.

Exp. painter/ plasterer/ vinyl tile flooring. Best prices. Free est. Guaranteed. Bill, 638-9249.

450 PAINTING/ WALLPAPERING

Personalize your child's room with a Handpainted Cartoon Character or a Team Emblem

"I'll reproduce any picture on your wall in any size."

FREE ESTIMATE

Call: EUNICE (905) 939-8035

Master Painter. 25 yrs. exp. Int/ext, deck staining. Yiddish, English. Ephraim 905-709-3867

Painting. Reasonable price. Quality job. Call 416-265-3295.

Prof. painting & paperhanging, Jacob 667-9869. No Shabbos calls please.

452 PARTY SERVICES

FOR YOUR PARTIES... The CandyMan

SNO CONE, POPCORN, CANDY FLOSS, MINI DONUT MACHINE RENTALS

CENTREPIECES SOFT PRETZELS BALLOONS

789-7174 COR

455 PHOTOGRAPHY/ VIDEO

Artistic Photography Beautiful images of your Bar/ Bat Mitzvah, wedding or family portrait. **Schwartz/Scharf Photography.** 416-466-7399

470 RENOVATIONS

CAPPA General Contracting Ltd., int/ext. renovations, decks, fencing, concrete & masonry work, interlocks, kitchen & bathroom reno's, etc. 416-678-2272.

490 TABLE COVERINGS

Made To Measure TABLE PADS

Dover Pad. Finest quality since 1950. Heat resistant to 600°F. Many colours. Home service, no obligation.

1-800-354-4445

500 TUTORING/ LESSONS

Tutoring in MATH & SCIENCE Grades 9 to O.A.C. by experienced highschool teacher. Please call 905-886-6689.

510 UPHOLSTERY

Arctic Custom Upholstering Free est. Let us beautify your yesterdays furniture. Free armcovers, free toss pillows with every 2-piece suite. 665-3445.

Bathurst Upholstery. Reupholstering sofas, chairs. Lowest prices. 781-1995, 886-3148.

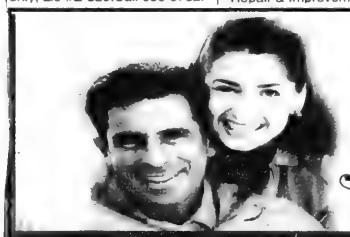
520 WINDOW COVERINGS

Shop at home. Verticals, venetians, rolling shades, pleated blinds, reupholstering, stainguarding. Work guaranteed! **Free est.** 224-2211, 223-1655.

To **Listen** & **Respond** To Ads **call 1-900-451-4552 *Ext.#* 65**

The cost of the 900# is only $2.49 per minute

To Place Your **FREE** Ad **call 905-276-6167 *Ext.#* 65**



The *Meeting Place*

Brought to you by the Canadian Jewish News

Women seeking Men

CALL ME
Single Jewish female, professional, petite, attractive, family oriented, enjoy dining & dancing, theater, movies, romantic evenings. Seeking a Jewish male, who is kind, easy going, for a possible long-term relationship AD#1955

TRUE ROMANTIC
Single female, 35, 5'4", slim, attractive, true romantic, enjoy theater, movies, dining out, cottage life. Seeking a male, 36-44, down to earth, settled in his life, ready to settle down with the right person. AD#1961

DOWN TO EARTH
Single female, slim, 5'5", professional, enjoy dancing, art, sports. Seeking a male, educated, down to earth, athletic, 28-38, with similar interests AD#1929

LONG LASTING RELATIONSHIP
Single female, 40's, Orthodox, kind, caring, friendly, helpful, outgoing, enjoy travelling, dining out, movies. Seeking an Orthodox male, educated, intelligent, kind, caring, easy going, honest, outgoing, attractive, employed, with a good sense of humour. AD#1930

BRIGHT
Single female, 57, slim, non smoker, enjoy life theater, walks, movies, travelling, dining out, good conversations. Seeking a bright male, 50's, honest, financially secure, non smoker, with similar interests. AD#1934

LIVELY
Single Jewish female, attractive, 31, brown hair & eyes, enjoy music, dining out, theater, long walks. Seeking a kind hearted male, 35-45, who loves life, lives life to the fullest, a positive person, likes to travel. AD#1938

LOVES LIFE
Single female, professional, 29, 5'3", attractive, enjoy live, movies, theater, outdoors. Seeking a male, 28-37, financially and emotionally stable AD#1951

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single female, retired, professional, attractive, kind, intelligent, traditional values, seeking a male, 68+, kind, educated, for lasting relationship and companionship. AD#1950

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single female, 35, 5'4", slim, attractive, brunette, true romantic, enjoy movies, theater, reading, dining & dancing, ethnic foods, weekend getaways. Seeking a male, 35-44, romantic, sensitive, intelligent, handsome, attractive, inside and out AD#1916

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single Jewish female, 36, slime, cute, petite, confident, enjoy dining & dancing, music, movies, long walks, good conversation. Seeking a single Jewish male, 35-40, spontaneous, down to earth, ambitious, for serious relationship leading to marriage and children AD#1917

HEART OF GOLD
Single Jewish female, 58, speak only Yiddish and Russian, brown eyes and hair. Seeking a single Jewish male, 60-70, kind, and well established. AD#1919

LIFE LONG PARTNER
Single female, 35, slim, attractive, a true romantic, enjoy theater, movies, and weekend getaways. Seeking a male, 35-43, who is intelligent, and attractive, inside and out. AD#1902

FRIEND OR LOVER
Single female, 38, dark hair, blue eyes, nice smile, a real people person, Kindergarten teacher, family oriented, down to earth, enjoy movies, live theater. Seeking a male, down to earth, with similar interests for serious relationship AD#1887

WEEKEND GET AWAYS
Single female, 35, 5'4", brunette, slim, attractive, sensitive, romantic, intelligent, enjoy dining out, movies, reading, theater, weekend getaways. Seeking a sensitive, romantic male, 35-43, intelligent, attractive on the inside and out. AD#1888

SEEKING LIFE PARTNER
Single Jewish female, 39, petite, non smoker, never been married, down to earth, quiet, have a laid back lifestyle. Seeking a good hearted male, 37-42, who enjoys oldies music and Bingo. AD#1863

FUNNY AND WARM
Divorced female, 52, intelligent, financially independent, warm, funny, enjoy dining in & out, long walks, sports, movies, baseball. Seeking a male, 55+, with similar interests. AD#1879

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single female, 35, 5'4", slim, brunette, attractive, enjoy movies, theater, travelling, ethnic foods, cottage and country life. Seeking a male, 35-43, professional, intelligent, handsome inside and out, a good communicator. AD#1881

LOVES NATURE
Single Jewish female, 42, blue eyes, intelligent, unique, enjoy art, theater, nature, travelling. Seeking a male, between 45-50 yrs, non-smoker, unique and caring. AD#1882

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single female, radiant, smart, sophisticated, compassionate, fun, open, loving, enjoy good food, good conversation, long walks, quiet romantic times. Seeking a male, who is romantic, professional, with traditional values, emotionally and financially stable, and is ready to explore life. AD#1866

DEVELOPING NEW INTEREST
Professional Jewish female, non-smoker, warm, pretty, enjoy dancing, long walks, movies, playing Bridge. Seeking a male, 55+, who is easy going, with similar interests AD#1867

Men seeking Women

SHARING HIS LIFE
Attractive, athletic male, 5'9", brown hair and eyes, employed, no children, enjoy reading, foreign movies, tennis, basketball, weight lifting. Seeking an honest female, who is open minded, compassionate, with a great sense of humour. AD#1957

HIGH QUALITY
Divorced male, mid 50's, 3 grown children, well educated, tall, slim, life in British Columbia, enjoy the outdoors, travelling, camping. Seeking a female, warm sensitive, serious, and ready for intense relationship AD#1962

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single male, Jewish, 26, handsome, non smoker, enjoy long conversations, movies, music, animals, camping. Seeking an attractive, single female, non smoker, with similar interests AD#1964

GOING OUT FOR COFFEE
Single Jewish male, 5'8", 180lbs, easy to get along with, healthy, down to earth, old fashioned, kind, man of many talents, enjoy art, sports. Seeking a single Jewish female with similar interests. AD#1937

WARM AND CARING
Single white male, 56, self employed, romantic, enjoy travelling, movies, quiet times, good conversations. Seeking a female with similar interests. AD#1933

EASY GOING
Single Jewish male, 41, fun loving, easy going, great sense of humour, enjoy movies, theater, long walks, skiing, skating. Seeking a female, 34-43, with similar interests. AD#1939

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP
Single male, Jewish, professional, late 40's, handsome, intelligent, good sense of humour, caring, sincere, enjoy dining & dancing, movies, good conversation. Seeking a warm hearted female for serious relationship. AD#1945

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single white male, professional, Jewish, computer engineer, good sense of humour, outgoing, gourmet cook, enjoy outdoor activities. Seeking a female for long term, lasting relationship AD#1944

SENSE OF VALUES
Single Jewish male, smart, intelligent, strong, outgoing, with strong sense of values. Seeking a female, who is fun, trustworthy, 25-32. AD#1921

COLLEGE STUDENT
Single Jewish male, 22, 6'2", college student, enjoy sports, especially golf and baseball, movies, dining out, dancing. Seeking a female, 18-23, with similar interests AD#1922

LOVING
Single male, 5'10", black hair, green eyes, non smoker or drinker, happy going person, enjoy cooking, dancing, dining out, movies, caring, loving. Seeking a very nice and sincere female with similar interests AD#1923

LATIN MUSIC
Single Jewish male, 5'6", 147lbs, healthy in body and mind, enjoy Latin music, great outdoors, tennis and fine dining. Seeking an attractive, slim female, with similar interests. AD#1906

ATTENTION LADIES!
Single male, professional, mid 50's, Israeli-European background, enjoy walks, movies, dining and dancing. Seeking a female, attractive, petite, down to earth AD#1470

LONG DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 36, tall, fit, professional, easy going, down to earth, live in Western Canada, enjoy travelling, movies, weekends at the lake. Seeking a Jewish female, active, sincere, outgoing, 25-40, willing to relocate or have a long distance relationship. AD#1886

To renew your ad call 416-236-6644

LASTING LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 46, physically fit, easy going, sincere, hard working, enjoy movies, books, art, dining out. Seeking a female, 30-40, for a lasting relationship AD#1892

CONSIDERATE
Single Jewish male, strong, fit, athletic, great sense of humour. Seeking a female, 30-40, who is nice and considerate AD#1895

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single male, 36, slim, blue-green eyes, brown hair, enjoy movies, dining and dancing, travelling, good conversationalist, financially secure. Seeking an attractive, outgoing, cheerful female, who is a good conversationalist, for relationship leading to marriage AD#1898

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 34, 5'7", athletic built, Bachelor of Science, caring, honest, reliable, romantic, enjoy movies, cooking, 60's dancing. Seeking a single Jewish female, intelligent, professional, open, and friendly. AD#1877

SPONTANEOUS
Single Jewish male, outgoing, spontaneous, adventurous, enjoy working out, swimming, scuba diving, skiing, music. Seeking a female, who is passionate, with inner and outer beauty. AD#1878

OUTSPOKEN
Single male, 34, educated, outspoken, enjoy country life, outdoor activities, dining out, animals. Seeking a female with similar interests. AD#1880

ATTENTION LADIES!
Single male, 47, warm, romantic, intelligent, 5'9", medium built, good sense of humour, enjoy movies, dining out, good conversation. Seeking a female, who is warm hearted and sincere. AD#1885

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Sports

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Finish fourth in IIHF tournament

Lack of quality goaltending deflates Israeli juniors

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

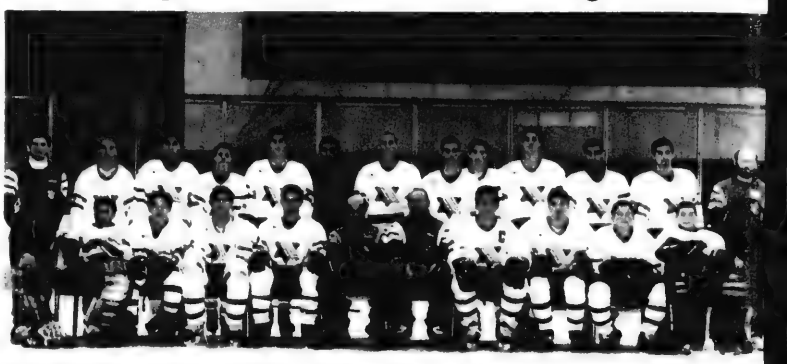
TORONTO — An apocryphal – and illustrative – story is attributed to hockey maven Gene Ubriaco. Years ago, the onetime Pittsburgh Penguins head coach was asked to comment about the importance of goaltending in hockey.

"Goaltending," the ice expert said without hesitation, "is 80 percent of hockey, unless you don't got none. Then it's 100 percent."

Ask Jeff Budd to comment, and chances are the Kitchener, Ont. native would agree with Ubriaco's opinion, if not with his grammar.

As manager of the Israeli junior hockey team, Budd recently returned from the IIHF European Junior Under-18 Championships, Division II, in Sofia, Bulgaria where he watched Israel's medal hopes slip away, thanks to weak goaltending.

A sixth-place finisher in last year's tournament, this time around Israel advanced to the medal round but was winless in three playoff games to finish fourth in the eight-team event. Spain won the gold, with the Netherlands and Belgium finishing second and third.



Israel's Under-18 junior team

"If we'd had a more mature, able goalie, we'd have a medal," Budd believes. "We could've beaten Belgium."

Hampered by their Tim Cheveldae-calibre goalie, Israel nevertheless finished ahead of Luxembourg, Bulgaria, Iceland and Ireland.

Despite his disappointment, Budd isn't blaming Israel's sabra netminder for their showing. After all, Avihu Sorotsky, is only 14 years old, one of the youngest players in the tournament. At that age, playing against boys three years his senior, his performance was understandable, Budd said.

But soft goals at inopportune moments doomed the Israelis.

In the first playoff game against Spain, "we played well for 1½ periods. Then, all of a sudden, they get five or six shots and they're all goals. It let the wind out of the team," Budd said. Israel went on to lose 10-2.

"It was the same in game two against Belgium," he added, a 14-1 loss.

At the skill positions, Israel has made tremendous strides in recent years, thanks in large part to Philadelphia Flyers' head coach, Roger Neilson. For the past two years, Neilson has run a two-week hockey school in Canada Centre's Olympic-sized rink, located in Metulla. Most of the junior team trained there under Neilson. This year, Neilson is expected to be back, with Jewish NHLer Steve Dubinsky of the Calgary Flames as a special guest instructor, Budd said.

At forward, the Israelis could play with the other Division II teams. "On defence, we were pretty good. They were able to play tough and keep the shots low. It could have been worse," he said.

Budd, who worked for 4½ years as manager of the Canada Centre rink, said the 18-man junior team consisted primarily of sabras, two Russian-born players who learned all their hockey in Israel, and four North Americans who carry Israeli passports.

Erez Eizenman, 17, and Daniel Bochner from Toronto, Yitzhak Levi from Montreal and a fourth player from New York City, bolstered the Israeli team.

Eizenman, a left winger who played for Scarborough Stallions AA Bantam team last year, was fifth in the tournament scoring with 10 goals and four assists in five games. Matan Nementoff, a sabra, was next with six goals and eight assists while defenceman Asher Moyal was 14th, with five goals and four assists. Levi, a right winger, had four goals and three assists for 23rd place and Yevgeni Kniter was 25th with four goals and two assists.

Nementoff is a veteran of the Metulla summer camp. He also attended Neilson's hockey school in Lindsay, Ont. last summer.

Eizenman, a student at CHAT, said he was surprised at his teammates' sound positional play, although their skills were a little lacking. Poor goaltending was Israel's achilles heel, he said.

In their playoff game against Spain, Israel's opponents managed only 15 shots on goal – and 11 of them went in. "That demoralized the team," he said.

Israel's rapid improvement was the talk of the town in Sofia, Budd said. The Irish team, in particular, admired the Israelis for their ability to advance to the medal round despite being a recent hockey country. Ireland, which competed in its first ever IIHF tournament has only a small, quarter-sized rink to practice and play in, Budd said.

The tournament was memorable for its goodwill, a far cry from the bad blood that marred an Under-20 event in Sofia four years ago. A game in that IIHF tournament deteriorated into a bench-clearing brawl when the Israelis got fed up with the Yugoslav team's repeated anti-Semitic taunts. Budd had to fight the Yugoslav coach when he came at him with a stick, he recalled.

There were no such extracurricular activities this year. Instead, camaraderie and respect marked the tournament, Budd said.

Still, organizers of the tournament were concerned with the Israelis' safety, not from stick-wielding Yugoslavs but from Kurds angry at the country's alleged role in kidnapping their political leader. Security for the Israelis was very tight, and two policemen were always on the same hotel floor with the team, Eizenman said.

The Israelis, coached by Simon Yakobovitz, who was once an assistant coach with the Soviet Wings, played a Canadian-style of hockey that featured strong positional play and solid hitting, Budd said. Most of the Israeli team play for Metulla in the Israeli junior league, with only one boy from Tel Aviv making the national team.

Scuttlebutt out of Israel suggests that Tel Aviv, which recently lost its mini-rink, may be getting an Olympic-sized rink soon, "but I'll believe it when I see it," Budd said.

In the meantime, Budd will continue his association with the Israeli team, raising funds to help it attend tournaments and keeping his eye out for a competent goaltender with an Israeli passport.

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The Inside Back

ספרותנו

מאת: יעל זליגר

חילדה שברחה מחמלחמה, מאת: מאירה ביין ורות קמארה, ספריית פועלים, סדרת לקורא הצעיר.

כבר נכתב רבות על כך שאנו חיים בעידן של אנואיזם צרוף; "יחילד חזה חוא אניי". וגרוע מזה, עידן שבו ילדנו חשופים לטלוויזיה שמתיימרת לחציג נכונה בפני ילדים את עולמנו. טוב, אם כן, לגלות ספרי לילדים, כתוב יפה, עם מסר אנושי-ציוני וכן מידע לימודי בעל ערך.

חילדה שברחה מחמלחמה חוא ספר על מלחמה, לכאורה לא שלנו ולכן כותבות המחברות: "אולי יש ילדים בישראל שחושבים שרק כאן, בארץ, יש מלחמות, פגועים ופצועים. זה לא כך. בארצות רבות במלם יש מלחמות והרג."

במרכז חדרמה ילדה קטנה, ליה שמה מארץ רחוקה, בוסניה, שעוברת ימים קשים של סבל, רעב, פחד והרג בעיר ששמה סרייבו. ובכלל מאוד כדאי לילדים קוראי עברית לקרוא על ליה מפני שסיפו חטוב של חסיפור מוביל ישירות לנושא אחבת ישראל.

ובכן, חוריה של ליה מחליטים שאת בתם צריך להוציא מסרייבו. בתחילה חשבו לשלוח אותה לדודה בניו-יורק אלא שיש חשש שבניו יורק ליה תשכח מהר מאד שחיא יחודיה שכן חדודה בעצמה כבר לא זוכרת את יחדותה. וכך חוחלט לשלוח את ליה לישראל. אמת, גם בישראל בעיות ואולי לא כל כך בטוח אבל "בישראל שומרים חיטב על ילדים." ליה שלנו תיסע לשם."

חפרידה מחחורים קורעת לב. נחמה קטנה..גם חחתולה חאחובה, קוטקה, נוסעת עם ליה לישראל. בתחילת חמסע אנחנו פוגשים בפקיד לא כל כך לבבי שגוזר שאת חחתולה צריך לשלוח במטוס כמטען עם חמוות'דות. בשלב זח, אין ספק שחקוראים חצעירים יבכו עם ליה על מר גורלה.

במטוס עוד פליטים מסרייבו ובניחם איש נחמד שליח מבקשת לאמצו כדמות סב. ויש גם חלווח מצויינת ומיך טרי. חמטוס נוחת בנמל חתעופה בן-גוריון, "יומיד נשמעה מוסיקה בכל חמטוס - מלים של ישראל: יחבאנו שלום עליכם". ילדים אחדים מתאו פמים. לא כולם, חקטנים נראו מבוחלים - גם ליה," וכאן מחל ותחלוך חקליטה.

חילדים (וחחתולה) נוסעים עם שרינה חמדריכה לחוות חנוער חציוני בירושלים. גם "סבא" עולה לירושלים.

ליה, כאשר חיא מספרת על חימים חראשונים בישראל, איננה זוכרת כל פרט אך בסך חכל, חיא אומרת: "יחיה בסדר.". לעומת סרייבו, בישראל יש חשמל, לא חיו אזעקות ולא חיו חפצצות בלילות. חיו מים בברזים, אוכל טעים (אף מקשואש שליח לא אוחבת), מדריכים נחמדים, טיולים יפים, לומדים עברית, ובערבים סרטים משעשעים לילדים. "סבא" מכבד את ליה בביקורים, אך בעיקר, בעיקר טלפונים אל ומחחורים!

יתכן שחמחברות, מאירה. ביין ורות קמארה מגוימות קצת בחצגת ישראל כמקום מפלט נטול בעיות לכל יחודי חעולם ומן חראוי חיה לומר איזו מילת נחמה לילדים חלא יחודים בסרייבו שאינם יכולים לחימלט מאימת חמלחמה. כמו כן, פה ושם נשכחה בספר חעובדה שיש בישראל גם תושבים לא יחודים ("יאל תבכי קוטקה. שם כולם יחודים, כמו משפחה גדולה.") אך כללית, זהו ספר ממולץ לילדים קוראי עברית, כבני שבע עד תשע. הספר כתוב באותיות ברורות, מנוקדות והתחביר פשוט וחמשפטים קצרים.

חסיום? ראשית, מסתבר ש"סבא" אינו סתם איש בא בימים מסרייבו אלא סופר שכתב ספרים ידועים על יוגוסלביה וחוא זח שבזכות מאמציו ושקריו יצליח לאחד את חמשפחה ולחביא גם את אמא ואבא של ליה לישראל. סוף טוב.

מי ייתן ועושה שלום במרומיו יביא שלום על כל חילדים שלנו ועל כל ילדי חעולם.

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About families

Dear Susan,

I am confused about a child's tendency to lie and its possible significance. My son is seven, and I have noticed that he tends to lie when he feels insecure. Do you have any suggestions?

Dear Reader,

Your question addresses a fundamental element in a child's development – the fact that lying is a completely normal behavior in children of a certain age.

Children of four, five and six may lie as part of their propensity to see the world as larger than life. The lie may be understood as embellishment and elaboration, and reflective of the child's tendency to see the world in terms of polar opposites.

During these years it is important for parents to stress to the child the differences between the real and the imaginary world. Children need to explore these differences in their play as well as in their day to day contact with people.

At age six or seven, children begin to develop a social conscience. They may exercise these newly developed perceptions by playing both judge and jury simultaneously. This is when they can develop a rather pronounced sense of right and wrong, which can result in profoundly judgmental attitudes and behaviors.

At age seven, children begin to master tasks and relationships. Sometimes a child's struggle to gain control over their world seems insurmountable, so they exaggerate their achievements.

As a parent, you need to appreciate your child's struggle. This is his way of articulating these worries and coping with the challenges he faces. In a child of this age, this insecurity may also manifest itself in stealing, which will often be a cry for attention.

Indulge your child's imagination, and try to get to the bottom of his concerns. Encourage dialogue, rather than acting out. If your child has perfectionist tendencies, try to make him understand that it is okay to be imperfect. Above all, teach him to admit to his behavior, whether it is good, bad or otherwise, and to have the courage to bear the consequences.

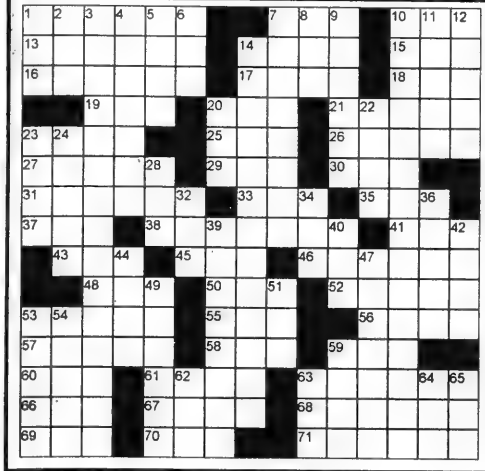
I want to thank you for your loyal following during the past few years. I have enjoyed writing for *The CJN*, who gave me total creative licence to explore developmental and family issues. In the past year, it also supported my writing about more controversial issues, and I want to thank *The CJN* for being so open-minded and courageous in its support of these family issues.

Since *The CJN* is making some changes, it is time for me to say goodbye. To the readers and to my family who have encouraged my writing, I want to say a special thanks.

I wish you all well and applaud *The CJN* for encouraging new talent as it so generously did with me.

Sincerely,
Susan Leventhal

Susan Leventhal is a family, marital and individual therapist, who has been practising for more than 19 years.



The Canadian Jewish news

The Great Escape

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

Across

1 Exodus tribe (6)
7 Lincoln or Ford (3)
10 Ma's mates (3)
13 Tune out (6)
14 Sole (4)
15 In ____ (amazed) (3)
16 Country of Passover 1943 uprising (6)
17 New Age Irish singer (4)
18 Exodus "serpent" (3)
19 Before (3)
20 Sinai and Horeb: abbr. (3)
21 Teyve's tater tot (5)
23 Make ___ dash for (hurry towards) (4)
25 Flightless Australian bird (3)
26 One who attempts (5)
27 Intimate partner (5)
29 Workout locale (3)
30 Japanese dough (3)
31 Exhausted (6)
33 A pop (3)
35 Mossad employee: abbr. (3)
37 All Orthodox rabbis (3)
38 Attended to, as a sprained ankle (7)
41 Shocked cries (3)
43 Coen brothers' workplace (3)
45 Con foe (3)
46 Region of Africa's west coast (6)
48 Jordan slower (3)
50 Interior Dept. division (3)
52 With 2-down, second self (5)
53 Fluent Hebrew speaker, often (5)
55 Clever (3)
56 Perlman of "Cheers" (4)
57 Goldsmith's word (5)
58 Wide shoe size (3)
59 Quilting ____ (3)
60 Jewish publishing co. (3)
61 Oomph (4)
63 Like Joan Rivers' or Larry King's voice (6)
66 Mauna ___, Hawaii (3)
67 Concerning (4)
68 "Amen!" (6)
69 London's East ____ (3)
70 Owns (3)
71 Troubled plea (6)

Down

1 Tear (3)
2 See 52-across (3)
3 Biblical fast food? (15)
4 Got on the *Exodus 1947* (7)
5 Coastal bird (4)
6 Actor Beatty (3)
7 "And the bush was not ____":Exodus (8)
8 Unspecified amount (3)
9 Shorenstein's specialty (6)
10 With 64-down, Exodus event (15)
11 Left one's dreams behind (5)
12 Literally, "order" (5)
14 Exodus cry (13)
20 Billy's "When Harry Met Sally..." co-star (3)
22 Length times width (4)
23 Brandeis grad (4)
24 Heston's Oscar role (5)
28 Grind (3)
32 Shallow art (3)
34 Play masseuse (5)
36 Number of pilgrimage festivals (5)
39 Part of Hanukkah celebrations (8)
40 Actress Zadora (3)
42 Poet Teasdale (4)
44 "Gone With the Wind" plantation (4)
47 "So soon?" (7)
49 Passover meal? (6)
51 Ship yes (3)
53 Conquer Masada (5)
54 Brother of 24-down (5)
59 _____ fide (4)
62 "This ____ travesty!" (3)
63 "That guy!" (3)
64 See 10-down (3)
65 Rival of Ben & Jerry (3)

(This week's answers are on page 43.)

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This painting by Elie Benzaquen entitled *"A Special Story,"* captures the spirit of *The CJN's* third annual Passover Literary Supplement. A selection of Benzaquen's work is featured throughout the supplement. Please see page B2 of the supplement for a description of the young artist and his work.

PASSOVER

A Literary Supplement

PROSE

Alvin Abram, ✎ What If...
Deborah Durbin, ✎ The Magic Seder Plate
Robin Glube, ✎ A Passover Lesson
Ibolya Grossman, ✎ A Mother's Kiss From The Grave
Penny Levine, ✎ The Story of Passover
Maurice Myerowitz, ✎ Sanctification and Greek Dessert
Muguette Myers, ✎ The Narrow Escape
Joseph Peretz, ✎ The Inspection
Ron Ruskin, ✎ The Ice Kiss
Vera Schiff, ✎ The Pledge to the Maharal
Ruth Stern Warzecha, ✎ Wanted: Vibrant Young Rabbi

POETRY

Brenda Spigelman Ajzenkopf, ✎ The Telling
Sharon Baltman, ✎ Spirit Flame
Ruth Bernard, ✎ Alchemy
Abraham F. Bloomstone, ✎ Jerusalem Eternal
Baruch Cohen, ✎ Glory to the Hebrew Language
Louise Cohen, ✎ Being Jewish
Melanie Craig, ✎ The Judean Desert
Sandy Cytrynbaum, ✎ For Isaac
Anrew Fainer, ✎ Irving and Leonard in the Back Seat of Car
✎ This Photograph
✎ Let's look at that Photograph Again
✎ Saying No to Hollywood
Beverley-Ann Girvitz, ✎ Edith's Sabbath Candles
Jerrold Karch, ✎ Passover Prayer
Morton Manilla, ✎ Hannah Senesh
✎ Kohelet
✎ Broken Vessel
Ruth Panofsky, ✎ Immigrant
Rose Romberg, ✎ Where Birds Sing
Tamar Rubin, ✎ Remember,
✎ Memories,
✎ A Reflection,
Pearl Saban, ✎ The Plum Tree
Jean Vegman, ✎ Flâne et Nostalgie:
✎ Avenue des Pins, dans l'Est
✎ Avenue de l'Esplanade
✎ Rue Bagg
SaraYeres, ✎ A Visitor at the Seder

NON-FICTION

Rabbi Shlomo Jakobovits,
✎ A Cecil Roth Centenary

Section B

The Canadian Jewish news

Passover Greetings

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clients and friends
a Happy Passover.

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"Learning"

Elie Benzaquen

Telling us the messages they keep in their hearts

It is wonderfully exhilarating to observe how deeply compelling is the need for a large number of our readers to write, to recount memories, tell stories, write poetry, simply to loosen the reins of imagination and let fly the winged steeds of their innermost thoughts and aspirations.

The CJN's Third Annual Passover Literary Supplement was a great success. It again attracted submissions far in excess of the number we could publish. Many of those submissions soared high with the eagles, using bold, rich imagery and stirring strong, powerful emotions.

The rules that governed our decision-making process were quite simple. We chose well-written, imaginative pieces that were eclectic and widely representative of subjects and writing styles, each work featuring some aspect of unique point and spark.

As in the preceding years, at least half of the entries, both prose and poetry, explored and delved into Holocaust-related themes. But unlike previous years, the majority of these authors were not the survivors themselves, but their children and grandchildren. The links in the chain have been forged.

We received a number of submissions from very young authors. Thus we reproduced a representative sampling of those submissions as well.

Especially gratifying, however, was the fact that we continued to receive works from new writers, from people who had never sent us their writings before. We deliberately chose to highlight some of these "first-timers" in the supplement.

In a departure from past practice, we have also included two important works of non-fiction in the supplement, by Rabbi Shlomo Jakobovits and Wendy Goldblatt Schneider.

As a visual punctuation and complement to the prose and poetry on these pages, the supplement also features the artistry of 33-year-old artist, rabbi, sofer (scribe) and film animator, Elie Benzaquen. As the depictions of his work will attest, Benzaquen possesses rare talent and great skill. He focuses on traditional Judaic themes. In doing so, he brings to life, with a certain sweet and sublime innocence, the tenderness and beauty in many of the key symbols of our heritage and in many of the key relationships in our homes and families.

Passover is the perfect time to "roll out" our Literary Supplement. The poem, inserted in this editorial, by Brenda Spigelman Ajzenkopf, entitled *The Telling*, explains why.

Writing is telling.

Some authors prefer the leeway of verse; others prefer the cadence and the format of prose. But each author is telling us of the messages they keep in their hearts. The Passover seder is also about *telling*. That is its key purpose, to enable us and our children to understand that as we sit round the table, we are all, in a sense, as Elijàh, peering with his ancient eyes from the past and far into the future of Jewish history.

MBD

The Telling

Why is this night unlike all others
Are questions the youngest must say
We recline, we pray, we ask the Almighty
Please deliver us from Egypt this day.

Bitters and herbs are ours to consume
To remember the Exodus then
We eat, we drink, we cross the waters
Are pursued by Pharaoh and his men.

The Haggadah reading commands that we tell
How our ancestors toil, how they cry
We plead, we bend, we climb with Moses
And receive the tablets at Mount Sinai.

Elijah is here my father sings out
All bear witness as he flies
We tremble, we hide, we wait as he nears
We peer down through his ancient eyes.

By Brenda Spigelman Ajzenkopf

A Mother's Kiss From The Grave

By IBOLYA GROSSMAN

I went back to Hungary in the summer of 1989 to attend the 45th memorial service for the Jews who had been deported from Pecs, my birthplace. My parents had been among the deportees.

After the service, I travelled to Budapest where I heard a story about close friends who had resided in the same apartment building as I had. I went back to the old building at 16 Nepszinhaz St.

Before my escape from Hungary with my son, we lived in this seven-storey building. Visiting a few elderly couples in the building brought back sad memories.

This building was already very old before the war, but at that time it was still in good condition – clean inside and out. It had courtyards in the front and back, housing more than 300 people in 92 units. Children were not allowed to be noisy and pets had to be kept inside the apartments.

This was the house from which my young husband had been taken in 1943. He was sent to a forced labor camp and later killed.

This was the house where I had been frightened by every knock on the door, afraid that the police or the Nazis had come for me. In this apartment I slept fully dressed on top of the bed, ready to hide if the Arrow Cross bandits (Hungarian Nazis) came for me during the night.

It was from this house that we were taken on Oct. 15, 1944 and brought to a racetrack, rounded up with many thousands of other Jews from across the city. Threatened by machine guns, we were held at the racetrack for two days, without food, water, or a roof over our heads.

Later we were taken to the ghetto in Budapest.

On Jan. 18, 1945, the day of our liberation, I staggered, starving, back to the old apartment building to beg for some food from the superintendent.

This was the house I escaped from in 1949 with my young son, but we were captured and I was jailed. The opportunity to escape again came seven years later and this time we were lucky.

For years I had nightmares about Hungary. I dreamed I returned there and I couldn't get out again. I didn't want to go back, despite the fact that my late husband's parents still lived in that old building on Nepszinhaz Street.

When I finally visited the place in 1989, it was in very bad shape. Tall beams had been installed in many places to keep the building from collapsing and the walls were dirty and peeling everywhere. Weeds were growing between the worn-down red cobblestones of the courtyards, garbage was piled up in the front and many dogs were roaming about, barking loudly.

When the daughter of one of my former neighbors learned that I was in Budapest, she organized a get-together with some other young women who were also childhood playmates of my son. They had all resided in the old apartment building when they were children.

On a summer afternoon we met in the Hauer Pastry shop. I remembered the shop from many years back for its excellent tortes.

Although I hadn't seen them since they were little girls, I was still able to recognize the young women. Like my son, they all had teenage children.

Over a cup of good coffee and a slice of dobos torte we talked about their lives in Hungary and my life in Canada.

Marta, one of the women, mentioned that her 20-year-old daughter had recently been married. She recalled her own wedding day some 20 years earlier and how she had missed the presence of her mother who had died years before.

Then Marta told an unusual story about a strange encounter she had had the very day of her wedding.

Late that afternoon, a car stopped in front of Marta and her new husband's home. A short, graying, middle-aged woman got out and went through the open gate of the garden straight toward her.

"I'm looking for Galambos Marta," she said.

"I am Galambos Marta. Can I help you?"

Then without a word the little woman hugged Marta warmly and planted a kiss on both of her cheeks.

"I have wanted to do this for a long, long time," she said, "to kiss you and thank you for saving my life."

"How did I save your life?" Marta asked in astonishment.

"It was your parents," the woman answered.

Marta stopped to gather her thoughts and then continued. She recounted the woman's story which had taken place during the war.

Continued on page B4

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A Literary Supplement

Passover Greetings

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The Judean Desert at Night

The beauty of your harshness
stirs my soul
Sitting under the stars in the Judean Desert
That desert sky of my dreams
the stars ... the night
Your stillness hides a secret
The secret of our past,
The mystery of what will come
I hear voices in these rolling hills,
desert hills of dust and rock
Who can tell about your soul?
I smell it in the dust
of the cool night wind
The dogs know about it, they howl
Perfect emptiness
Like a Bedouin I want to belong to your land
learn to respect your nature
Tonight I will sleep
in your outstretched arms
and let you envelop me
in the desert night.

by Melanie Craig

"You will keep the feast of unleavened bread, which you will eat during seven days, in the month of spring, as in that month you left Egypt..."
(Exodus - Chap. 23, 15)

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The taxi driver took pity on her

Continued from page B3

It was 1943, and a young woman walked aimlessly through the streets of Budapest. Finally she flagged down a taxi. When the driver asked where she would like to go, she started to cry.

Between sobs she said that she was Jewish and lived on the outskirts of the city. She was afraid to go home because her parents had been taken away with the rest of the Jews that day. She had nowhere to go.

The taxi driver took pity on her and offered to take her to his home at 16 Nepszinhaz St. for the night. He lived there with his wife and baby daughter.

The one night stretched into many months. The taxi driver and his family hid her, despite the fact that his wife was also Jewish.

They lived at the back of the building on the third floor. Across from them lived a man who belonged to the Arrow Cross party. He was hostile and dangerous and everybody in the building feared him.

One day, he took the taxi driver's wife and another Jewish woman from the house to the nearby square and shot both of them in the back of the head.

The driver's wife wore a heavy winter coat with a thick fur collar standing upright. That collar saved her life. By some miracle, the bullet got stuck in the fur, unable to penetrate its thickness.

"The taxi driver was my father and the baby girl was me," recalled Marta.

Unfortunately, Marta's father was captured and sent to a concentration camp where he died. The woman who was hiding in their home ended up at Auschwitz, but she survived. After the war, she went to Israel where she married and had a family.

On that summer night, Marta's wedding day, the woman's wish – to kiss and thank the child of the family who hid her and saved her life– finally came true.

Marta finished her story. Tears gathered in my eyes as I recalled her parents, people I had known very well. Then hugging her I said in a low voice:

"Do you know, my child, that it was your mother who kissed you on your wedding day through that strange woman?"

"I thought so too, Aunt Ibi," Marta answered.

"But how did she know your new address?" I asked her.

"She went to the old house on Nepszinhaz Street to inquire about us from the superintendent. But the super was new and couldn't give any information. So she sent her up to Susie's parents who still live on the second floor. Because Susie is my best friend, her parents knew my address."

I talked a while longer with these women, reminiscing about their childhoods. Then we said our farewells. I was sad, knowing that this was probably our last meeting and I would not see them again.

I have nothing left in Hungary – only painful memories. I do not intend to go back again.

A Literary Supplement

Passover Greetings

For Isaac

A head on my shoulder,
My arms encircle his warm
little body,
My fingers entwine his
golden curls.
My child's child.

Born in love
And born in freedom,
No need for his silken curls
To leave his mother's side.

Memories of curls
That tumbled round his
mother's face.
What we give, we owe to many:
Fathers, driven to despair,
Mothers, tears in angst-filled eyes,
These, remembering tumbling
curls
Would smile to see him now.

Once a child of golden curls
Child half-orphaned, loving
mother –
Only love! No food to give
A child of eight, a child who
wandered
Across the land, across the sea.
Eating, sleeping, when there was
A friendly hand, a bit of work.

A father, helpless, desperate,
Nights of terror blind his eyes,
Lacking money for a bribe.
Chestnut curls, not ten years;
Abandoned, left to menial tasks,
While he went on to find for them
A new way, a new life.

Small sweet heads with auburn
curls,
Hidden deep in fragrant hay.
A wink, a handshake, and
a wagon
Lumbering on across the border.
A mother strong and loving,
looking
Selfless to the future, for
her family,
Knowing no survival whence
she came.

A head on my shoulder,
My arms encircle his warm
little body,
My fingers entwine his golden
curls.
My child's child.

Dearest child, what we give
Is not what we ourselves created,
But a gift that others gave,
Fleeing peril, hate, unrest.
Dreaming of a better world.
It is ours to pass to you.
It now is yours to guard.

by Sandy Cytrynbaum

The Plum Tree

i. Young boy – a son and brother –
you are a mentor and protector
to so many.
Uprooted at an early age –
father deceased, mother struggling to raise
a young family.

ii. The streets of your village
are awash with scholars
who study with the great rebbe –
Talmud, Mishnah, Chumash, Halachah.
You peer through the dusty cheder windows,
longing to join them.
You are too young yet.
And yet, you are too old…
The branch that your mother
and siblings cling to for support.
You must bear fruit for the others,
and labor to do so.

iii. Nature can be merciless at times,
giving and then taking away,
wiping out traces of life and beauty.
In time, a dreadful storm comes,
wiping out that cheder, that village…
your dear ones.

iv. But you, thank God,
have been able to root temporarily
in other places.
And slowly, slowly, you awaken
after that harsh, stormy winter.
Weakened, you are warmed by the sun;
your fragility begins to heal.
And you are replanted yet again.

v. A husband. A father.
A mentor and protector once more.
You move sliently into your verdant garden and kneel,
shovel and soil beside you.
You recall Leviticus 19:23.
"And when you arrive in the land,
plant all manner of fruit trees…"

vi. You are giving back to the earth,
enriching it with new life. A plum tree.
Roots clinging to the cool earth, the tree grows,
flourishes…its branches strong.
Over time it bears fruit, and more fruit.
You harvest from its sweet gifts –
again and again,
repeating the cycle each year.

And you remember your roots…

vii. "And he shall be like a tree planted by
the rivers of water,
that bringeth forth his fruit in his season;
his leaf also shall not wither;
and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

Psalms 1:3

by Pearl Saban

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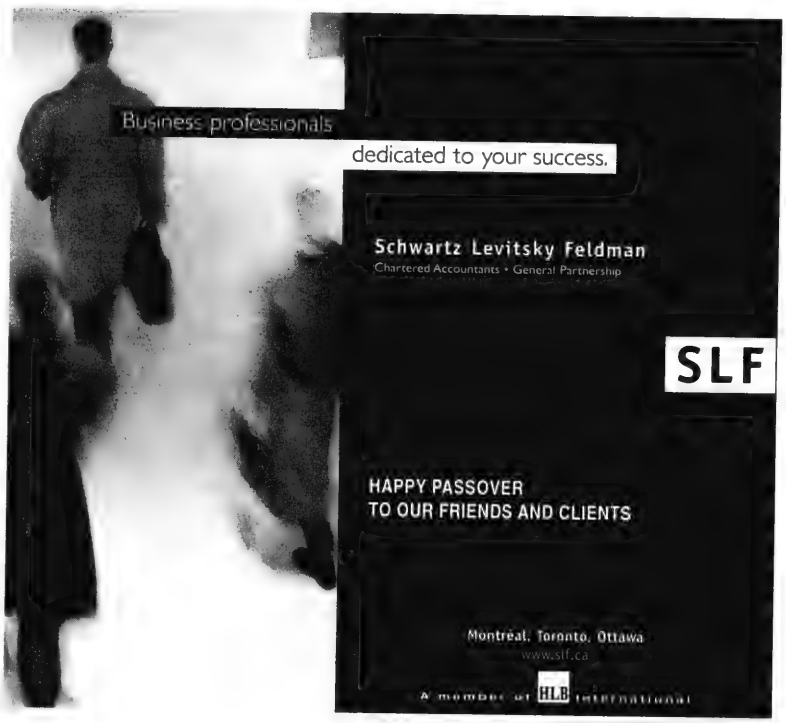
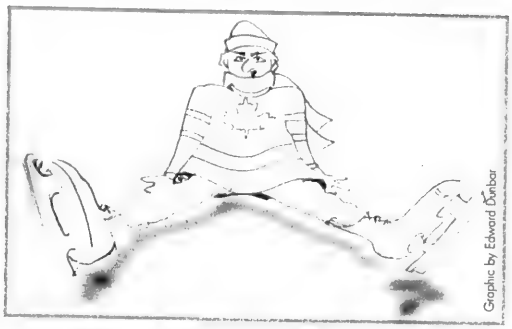


The Ice Kiss

By RONALD RUSKIN


Graphic by Edward Barbar

Before Chanukah my bubba complained of terrible pain. It had always been there but with the cold it ached to move.

"Arthritis," Bubba said. "I should go, like Dr. Cole says, to Florida and lie in the sun. Burning heat will do my joints good."

"Go before winter comes, Bubba."

"But Reuben, Tatilla. You're all by yourself."

The cold air cut her breath short and she wheezed. Outside, cold winds twisted her back so she limped. Nights, she drank brandy and rubbed Ben-Gay on her body. She snored in the bed beside me and exhaled alcohol and wintergreen fumes in the dark. Mornings, she rose before me and made breakfast for my parents. When I came to the kitchen they had gone and she set down a cup of hot tea, cod liver oil, an egg and toast, and read the *Toronto Star* with her thick accent.

"Careful. Ize. Go slow to school. It's very izey."

"Ice, Bubba." I pointed to the newspaper. "Say icccce."

"Ize," she said. "I can read by myself fine."

Trucks spun out of control; people broke legs on ice and froze to death. She told this to me every morning as I ate my toast. She warned that I could get sick from cold, catch pneumonia, and die young.

"Reuben. Come here. Give me a look before you go. A kiss too."

She made a daily inspection before school, checking my hair, face, nose, tongue, then my coat, gloves, toque, scarf, and boots.

"Bubba. Don't worry." I kissed her. "Florida. Remember?"

"Reuben what are you hiding?" she paused. "In behind your back, hanging with white laces. Show me, you little *tyvel*."

Reluctantly, I pushed them to the front. "Skates," I said.

"Skates? Those leather boots with knives on the bottom?"

"These are my good friend Danny Gold's ice-skates."

"Ize skates? Ay. Those are butcher knives. For ize?"

"For ice. Iccce."

"Answer a question. Why do you have his ize-skates?"

"He says to use them!" Such lies I told. "Whenever I like. I'm a good skater."

Bubba ran her finger along the sharp edge of the skate blade. "Gevalt! With this you kill a chicken."

"I need to play with the boys," I said. "Skating is fun."

"Fun? Vas is das fun?" Bubba said. "With such big feet?"

The honest truth was I never skated before. Danny Gold's boots were three sizes too big, with no ankle support. The big lout! I had to beg him to give me his boots. I needed practice. Lacing them on the hall rug and standing still 10 seconds was agony. But who cared? My parents were too busy with work to buy me skates and Bubba hated winter because it reminded her of the Nazis.

When I opened the door to leave, Bubba grabbed me "Ssh! Listen!" She told me a story about a boy who played hockey until a puck hit him in the head and both eyes fell out. I escaped before she finished – her stories ended in blindness, death, paralysis, or total idiocy. Lullabies she never had. Nighttime she put me to bed with tales of incurable diseases, children wheezing in iron lungs, orphans starving in icy beds, Jews fleeing the Nazis just like Pharoah.

Someone, Bubba said, had seen Hitler after the war – he had moved to northern Ontario, near the Jewish camps. I had strange dreams. Winter was Satan's shadow that lay beyond the snow. To fight back, Bubba told hideous stories.

"Ize is the dybbuk," Bubba said. "Don't let him get you!"

When I lit the menorah at night she caught me with my fingers in the fire. If you moved your fingers quick through the flames; it gave a warm tickle and blackened your skin.

"Gott, Reuben, you'll burn your face off! That's what."

"I'm keeping the dybbuk away. See? Look. He's not here yet!"

Bubba hit me so hard I saw stars. "Don't give the dybbuk ideas."

***

Towards December, the light shifted. Bubba said that evil hovered over the hard earth and bare, dark trees. Satan painted the sky blue and purple, and planted ice and snow so that we would fall and die. Ice and darkness were in the beginning of the world, it was written in the holy books. But I did not believe her and I prayed for that color of light; I rushed to the window and pressed my cheek and lips against the pane for the frosted kiss that brought ice. The first ice formed a thin skin over the brown earth, black and clear or frosted white.

Sliding across ice in my boots, I dreamed. I turned, I did figure-eights, I leaned close to the ice, I skimmed side and back like the older boys when they played hockey.

My problem was that my parents worked and Bubba hated ice.

Ice was the devil's work. She threatened to take me to Florida for the heat.

"Bubba," I said. "You go first. Dr. Cole says go to Florida for Passover."

"What does Cole know? Come with me and you'll get color in your face."

Continued on page B7

A Literary Supplement

Passover Greetings

I lost sleep over Florida

Continued from page B6

***

I lost sleep over Florida. Dreaming of lying on a towel with Bubba spreading olive oil beside me made me sick. She was hunched up with brown walnut skin and prune eyes that grew milky with age. In the nights she smelled of whisky and wintergreen and her false teeth chattered about salt water and Florida sun. I prayed for ice to come in December and stay until May; I wanted cold air to bite my cheeks and I dreamed of flying over ice like the older boys.

Bubba didn't understand. She spoke Yiddish and I spoke hockey.

Before and after school, whenever he would let me – which wasn't often – I tried on Danny Gold's skates at the outdoor rink. I held the boards and tiptoed along the ice. I was a lousy skater. I fell to the side. I fell on my head. My ankles ached. I had swollen knees and a bleeding nose. I couldn't turn and it was impossible to stop. Danny's skates were huge and my feet were small: I was already sliding in his skates, not to mention on the ice.

The worst part was Bubba. The first week, she limped to the rink. Such a pair of invalids! We hung onto the boards; I hobbled onto the ice like a cripple and Bubba yelled in her accent.

"Reuben? Don't be meshuge! What's a Jew to do on a goyish hockey tink?"

"Rink! And don't say that! Normal people skate. Who told you to come?"

"Reuben? This is what you do after school? Go already, fall down. With Danny Gold's skates? Gevalt! On ize yet, such torture? A sickness will come!"

"You want me to fall. I'll fall. Watch me platz. Will that make you happy?"

I was dying of shame. I let go of the boards and dove forward, first with my left foot, then my right. I dug Danny Gold's skates into the ice and gritted my teeth. Half-running, sliding. Who knows what spirit possessed me? I closed my eyes.

I heard Bubba rant in Yiddish. "You'll crash, you'll get concussion and never walk or talk again."

I lurched madly ahead and swirled into a world of ice. I didn't care. I wanted to skate like the goyish hockey players, unafraid.

***

Two months before Passover, Bubba's pain got worse. At the time I was worried that the Stanley Cup finals would end up on a seder night and I would miss the playoffs. One day, I came home after skating and Bubba was gone. My room stunk of wintergreen and brandy, and there in the bed beside me was Bubba, under the covers in the dark, a nightlight on.

On the night table was a glass of water with her dentures, like two married turtles. She shifted in bed.

"Cold everywhere. In my joints," Bubba said. "So, how was your skate?"

"I flew today," I said. "Dr. Cole says you should go to Florida."

"What does he know? I take pills and still the pain."

"Bubba?" I came closer. "Can I get you some hot tea?"

"It's not hot tea I need. It's the ize in my chest. Give me a kiss, little skater."

"An aspirin, then." I kissed her. "You look sick, Bubba." She tried to smile.

"It's nothing," she sighed. "Reuben, how can you love the cold so much?"

She died that night, and the next day she was buried. Before the service we saw her one last time and my mother whispered to kiss Bubba goodbye. Her forehead felt frozen.

When we got to the cemetery, there was fresh snow around and the sky had turned blue and purple, the color of the devil. It was bitter outside but I was warm in my toque, scarf, jacket and boots, just like Bubba wanted.

The cantor shivered as he sang K'El Maleh Rachamin, and I cried and couldn't stop when I felt the sadness in the air. They shoveled in the smoking, fresh dug earth and my Bubba was gone.

But in the cold and snow I felt her kiss forever and I prayed that there were also angels in the ice.

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A Literary Supplement

Passover Greetings

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"The Siblings"

Elie Benzaquen

Remember

Listen to the silent sounds,
Hear unspoken words.
Listen to six million voices,
and remember.

Watch the evil that never was,
see what never happened,
Live the horrors our brothers lived
and remember.

Listen to a silent world
see so many evils
gently soothe a baby's cry
and remember.

Listen to the silence; and sing
Hear unspoken words; and speak
See what never happened;
and remember, remember.

by Tamar Rubin

Memories

If I could capture every ray of sun in my palm, and laugh back its warmth in my mind whenever I felt cold, I would never be frozen in this time, in this ghetto.

If I could capture every bird's song in my heart and sing back its melody in my mind whenever I was lonely, we would always be together in this ghetto.

If I could take the sweet scent of a flower on my breath and breathe in its taste every time I felt hungry, I would never again have to starve in this ghetto.

If I could capture all the memories of another life and cram them into this cage that I live in and replay them over and over, like a silent film in my mind and soul, I would not suffer so much, here in this ghetto.

If I could just grasp the world and shake it, hard, maybe they would listen, or hear or understand, that I, Chana, am cold and hungry, here, alone, trapped and scared in this ghetto.

by Tamar Rubin

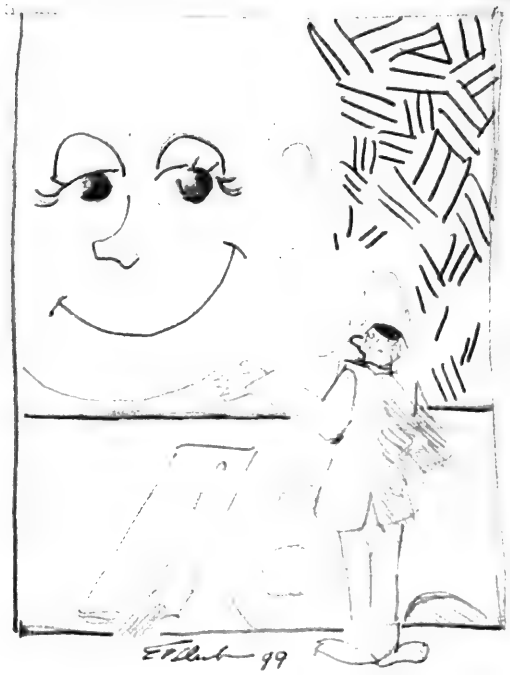
A Reflection

I stand here by myself,
a child all alone,
too old to move on,
too shamed to go home.
Lonely and crying,
I turn around,
to face my directions,
a peace newly found.
South is my childhood,
fading and cold,
a faraway kingdom,
dusty and old,
North is my future,
but too far to walk,
an open window,
sealed with a lock.
West are people,
emotions, and wings,
a place for bravery
courage and kings.
East is someplace
out of my reach,
a place that is yonder,
a place without speech.
a piece of heaven.
a slice of sky.
They call it Zion
and hopes are high.

by Tamar Rubin

A Literary Supplement

Passover Greetings



The Magic Seder Plate

By DEBORAH DURBIN
11 years old

"Hey, Sandy, are you ready to go to the store?

"Ya, Rachel, I'll be right there!"

Oh, hi! I didn't see you there. I go to West Prep school...

"Rachel, let's go."

"O.K. Sandy."

Gee, being here in the store reminds me of something. I'll tell you about it. About a year ago I was here at this store. I was looking at seder plates. One of them had a picture of a man on it. The man looked like my zayde. I've never seen him, just pictures. He died a few months before I was born. Anyway, I decided to buy the seder plate.

Then I went home. When I got home, I went to my room. A small version of my zayde came out of the seder plate. It said "Hi! I've come to see you."

"I've got to tell my parents," I said, running out of the room.

"No!" he said in a firm voice. "This is between you and me."

"OK I won't tell anybody," I said. "But, why?"

"Not important," he said. "First things first. Now, where can I sleep?" he asked.

"I have a doll house," I said, and took him downstairs. He liked it but said it was too girly.

I said, "I can take you when I go to get furniture for my doll house tomorrow, but you have to sleep here tonight."

When we got to the store the next day, I pretended zayde was a doll for my doll house. That way he could tell me what he wanted in his room. He chose a gold iron bed with a blue blanket, a dark brown desk, a night table and a white work light. He asked me how I was going to pay for it.

I said, "I got a $100 birthday present from your wife."

"Oh" he said. "How is she doing?"

"Great!" I said.

Next I bought all the doll house food the store had.

"How are you going to pay for this?" he asked.

"Early afikoman money," I said. "I asked my parents, and stop worrying so much. I won't buy anything I can't afford."

When we got home, we set up the furniture. For a week we had fun together. I said good night to him before I went to bed. I played doll house with him. (It was really fun because he could walk and talk himself, not like my other dolls.)

One day when I went down to say good morning, he said, "I have to go. I just wanted to see you. You are the only grandchild I've never met. Good bye Rachel. I love you," he said. Then he disappeared.

It's funny, you know. People hope to welcome Elijah on Passover, but this year I didn't need him. I had my own miracle.

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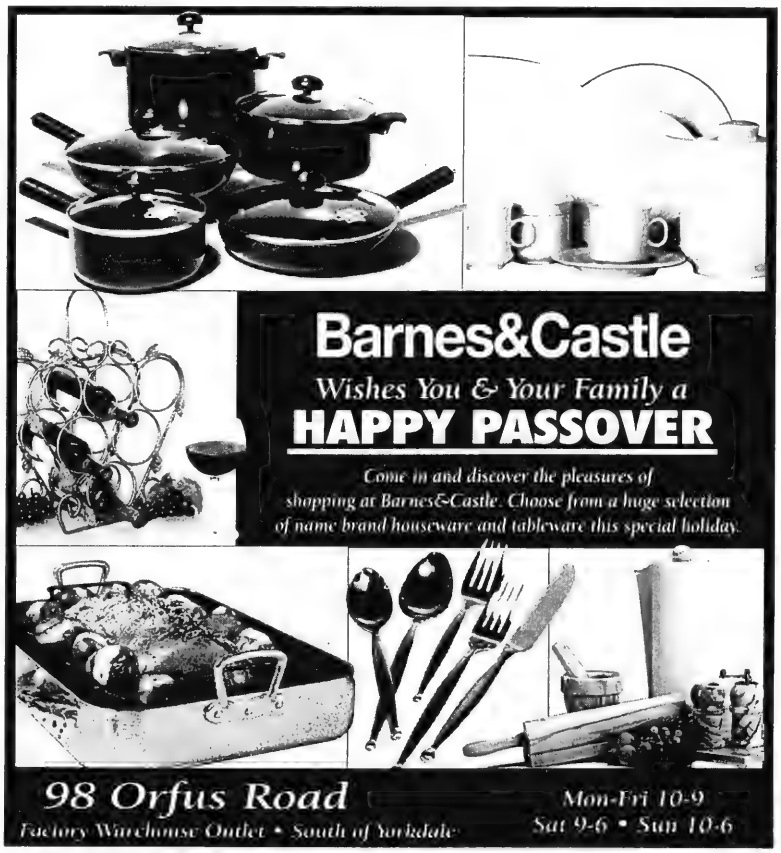
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Sanctification and Greek Dessert

By RABBI MAURICE MYEROWITZ

I don't remember ever seeing my grandfather smile. Certainly he never hugged me, or any of his grandchildren. Not a kiss, not a gift not even a pleasant word. A stern man, perhaps his experience in the Russian pogroms had robbed him of any feelings of affection.

My grandmother was in total awe of him. His five children, of whom my mother was the eldest, at best tolerated him, but there was never the slightest hint of endearment between them.

When he and his family, having escaped Russian persecution, arrived in the thriving English northwest port of Liverpool, the Jewish community had already been established there for some years, and characteristically welcomed them and the many other families who had managed to reach those friendly shores. Rental homes were found for them on Moon Street in the heart of the Jewish district; semi-detached houses, small but neat, each with different colored drapes, so that their occupants would more easily recognize them. They were given a little money to help them start a business. Some traversed the cobblestoned streets with a wheelbarrow and old clothes for sale. Others sharpened knives or sold blocks of salt. My grandfather filled a small suitcase with shoelaces, polish, brushes and the like, and went knocking door-to-door to sell his wares in order to make a living for his family.

The years went by and the suitcase graduated into a store, that although closed on Sabbath and festivals, made for a comfortable existence. His friends had also been modestly successful, yet they all remained on Moon Street, a happy little self-imposed ghetto, strongly, if not fanatically religious, and now, in their own turn, helping their co-religionists who had managed to escape the anti-Semitic barbarism and torment of a newly created terror called Nazism. For this was the 1930s and the whole world trembled on the brink of destruction.

My grandparents spoke mainly Yiddish and as little English as they needed. We children, of course, spoke English in school, unless we wanted to discuss a teacher or some non-Jewish classmates in less than a complimentary manner. Then we would revert to mameloshen, the mother tongue, that wonderful mix of many languages and colorful phraseology that no one who was not Jewish could possibly understand. We were able to gossip about them, laugh at them, even throw in a few choice curses; and although they may have suspected that they were the brunt of our sneers, they could not comprehend a word and were unable to prove the allegations that they felt were justified. Having grandparents who spoke only Yiddish proved to be a real advantage.

My parents sent me to the local cheder, afternoon Hebrew school, three times a week. There, together with my friends, I began to study the translation and meaning of our prayers. We all could already read Hebrew fluently, as the result of attending synagogue worship with our fathers on a regular basis, and had no problem in following the services. The rabbi never had to call out page numbers for us.

Our teacher was a pleasant young man, who also led our Sabbath services, as he had a fine voice; he gave sermons, read the Torah, blew the shofar on Rosh Hashanah, married the young, visited the sick, attended funerals and, in addition to all this, acted as executive director of his small congregation. He came from the Welsh valleys that produced so many rabbis, cantors and teachers, and he spoke English with the beautiful lilt of that musical centre of the British Isles.

He taught us many new English words and phrases. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob became our patriarchs, their wives were suddenly matriarchs. Together they were transformed into ancestors. Yom Tov was now a festival, Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement and Kiddush, he informed us, meant sanctification. We were only 6 or 7 years old, yet we already had a fine command of the English language, thanks to our Hebrew teacher, the Reverend Isaac Hoffman.

Passover was fast approaching and we quickly learned the Four Questions in Hebrew, English and Yiddish, in order to satisfy parents and grandparents alike. We had also studied the table of events at the seder, as it was now our duty to direct the course of the ceremony: Wash the hands, break the middle matzah, eat the bitter herbs; and of course, to start the seder, say Kiddush – the sanctification.

I was the eldest grandchild. None of my cousins could yet read as fluently as I, as the next in line was only 5 years of age. And so, on that first seder night we returned from shul and sat down at the table that was, itself, truly a "thanks offering to God, Who had brought us out of the land of Egypt;" with the finest silver my grandparents possessed, seder plates, flickering

Continued on page B11

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Grandfather gazed at the scene before him

Continued from page B10

candles pointing their flames heavenwards, a whiter-than-white tablecloth, decanters of wine, all in an atmosphere of spiritual warmth and family togetherness.

Grandfather stood at the head of the table, gazing at the scene before him, like a general surveying his troops. Each of us was examined from head to toe, the girls in their new dresses, the boys wearing their new pants and shirts. Shining faces, shining shoes, clean hands and pure hearts, the season of freedom was upon us; the time had come to recount the story of the Exodus, and to lean in comfort.

The general grunted "Nu?" a Yiddish sound that could mean anything you wanted it to, from "How have you been keeping since we last met?" to "I hear you sold the store because business was bad." This "nu," however, was directed at me, and meant, "So what are you waiting for? Let's begin already."

My father nodded encouragingly to me; my mother smiled nervously. All eyes were focused in my direction and I heard myself say in a tiny voice that seemed to be coming from many miles away: "Kiddush, say the sanctification."

There was a moment of deathly silence and total disbelief.

Grandfather shot up out of his chair. His beard jutted forward menacingly. His face was red. He was glaring at me as though I were a soldier found guilty of cowardice in the face of the enemy.

"Sanctification?" he shouted, as though the word was a personal insult. "Vos heist sanctification?" (What's the meaning of sanctification?) And then, in order to teach me properly how to introduce the seder, and to embarrass me thoroughly in the presence of all the family, he made it very clear how a little boy of seven should play his part. "Az mer kumt fun shul macht men kiddush." ("When you come from shul you make kiddush.")

In other words, "Speak mameloshen, and never, ever translate into English or any other language."

I was devastated. My parents tried to comfort me, but in vain. The salt water that symbolized the tears of the slaves in Egypt was nothing compared with the real tears coursing down my cheeks.

Eventually, we reached the part of the seder that all children look forward to with great anticipation – the search for the afikoman – a piece of matzah that is hidden and must be found before the seder can continue. Everyone looked at me, waiting for the announcement that would send the little ones running in all directions in a frenzied endeavor to find it, because the one who did so would receive the promise of a gift in exchange. Well, I had never received a gift from grandfather on Pesach or any other holiday. And, to coin a phrase: "Why would this night be different from all other nights?"

But this was not the main reason I refused to announce: "afikoman," and explain what it was. You see, I didn't have the courage, because my teacher, the Reverend Hoffman, had taught us that afikoman was a Greek word meaning dessert or entertainment.

Young though I was, I imagined my grandfather's fury. Sanctification was one thing. Greek dessert would have been the last straw, the final insult. He would have yelled: "Voss heist Greek dessert?" and had a heart attack on the spot. I wanted no part of it. I closed my eyes tight and pretended to be asleep. I wondered what new translations the Reverend Hoffman would teach us for next Pesach. It didn't bear thinking about.

And then I heard those final words of the seder: "Next Year In Jerusalem," and I prayed hard it might be so. After all, in Israel Kiddush would be Kiddush, afikoman would be afikoman. No more sanctification, no more dessert, no more English, no more Greek. Just good old Hebrew. Freedom at last!

Edith's Sabbath Candles

My mother's Sabbath candles,
They were such a magnificent sight,
My mother's Sabbath candles,
How brilliant they shone that night.

She would bless our home and family,
Behind the fingers – shrouded face,
Tears mixed with joy and sorrow,
On the face of our Sabbath Queen.

My mother's Sabbath candles,
Haunt me, now that she is gone,
Her head-covering and the apron,
The covered challah, salt, knife, and wine.

Sweet memories, take me back…
To childhood; I had my mother then,
My mother's Sabbath candles,
Not dimmed by the passage of time.

by Beverley-Ann Girvitz

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Where Birds Sing

It is written
You took us out of bondage,
gave us manna and parted the Red Sea
yet You rebuked Your angels
because they sang while
Egyptians drowned.
You cried: "Why do you sing?
They too are My children."

Sovereign of all that exists
forgive my presumption
for my mind is veiled.
You did decree:
"Thou shalt have no other gods."

For moments in time
we flourished and once again
man became complacent,
self-worshipping . . . still, You
showed mercy.

Your chosen people survived
the Inquisition, Stalin and Hitler.

Moans from innocent souls
echoed in heaven's chambers,
human ashes turned grass grey
I wept in silence.

Surely Your intervention
softened the gentile heart
and behold . . .
The State of Israel reborn!

Pioneers turned swamp and sand
into orange groves, carob trees,
fields of corn and young forests
where birds sing.
"If you will it, it is no dream."

With heads bowed, we embraced
the Western Wall in silent prayer
of thanksgiving.

Hands joined, rhythmic feet danced
the Horah, voices soared in song.
"Hatikvah!"

Such rejoicing, such profound
sense of freedom I had never known
and I, I have dignity!
I belong!
Still blood flows.

Today I feel Your anger.
It grieves me.
But not all of Your children
have fallen from grace.
I kow You to be a merciful God.
"Give Me ten righteous men," You said.
Are not our houses of worship
brimming with righteous men to
temper Your displeasure?

God and God of my Fathers
once again I ask Your pardon
for my doubt-divided mind.
But I am frightened for my people.
Your creatures, Your Yerusholayim.

Every corner of our sphere
echoes of lust, greed and persecution.
Once again Hitler's graven image
looms . . . swastikas flutter in the winds.
Will the predators never be stilled?

I have seen Your wrath.
With one thrust the lights went out.
Has the time come for another Ark . . . ?

by Rose Romberg

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Alchemy

Out of the shadow of time brutally you descend upon me
Gray, cold-damp November. Harbinger of long, stark winter
Your forecast of the icy season is not my affliction.
For I am plunged into grim dismay in blue-sky Florida,
or in sun-kissed New-Age California as I try to escape you.
You torment me in my routine life in chilly Toronto.

No need for a calendar. Carved into my soul are you, oh evil night.
November ninth of hellish memory the date.
Around you stalks the remaining month like the angel of death
and screams me awake to your looming presence.
They named you, Kristallnacht! What cruel irony, a paradox.
Crystal reflecting shimmering sparkle, but you depict man debased.

Mob hatred, ruptures morality in volcano of shattered glass.
Yesterday's prayers like burning tears flicker in holy ashes.
Unleashed frenzy penetrating the very fibre of time
A paradigm, the licence for Third Reich atrocities to follow
Bellowing smoke writes history's ultimate shame.
Death rattles in volume and still the world looks on.

But I am alive to avenge the beloved souls in sacred honor
Not in like; I will not be pulled into Satan's sphere.
In freedom of choice I flee anguish and impotence of depression
and seek out victims of present tyranny.
Orphans of raped Bosnia tenderly I hug and feed
and sell your widows' hand-knit rainbow colored socks.

Embargo child Aisha one in my heart with Ari of the Holy Land.
A sandwich for the homeless of our city's streets.
I hail Amnesty's fight for justice in the Argentine.
Sixty years almost to the day this upcoming anniversary
and at last torment is transformed; guilt surrendered
Know my beloved slain your white light is the victor.
Love the Alchemist.

by Ruth Bernard

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The Story of Passover

By PENNY LEVINE

Passover begins for Jews in the fall. That's the time we receive our Jewish calendar and say, "Oy! Passover is late this year."

The next people to discover this news are Air Canada, Delta, U.S. Air and any other airline that flies to Florida. The length of a winter's stay in Florida is dependent on the dates of our first and second seder.

So here we are back home in April, shopping for matzah, sweet red wine, chocolates and flowers. It's in between seasons, so we can wear the same outfits we wore for yontef. A couple of calls to friends and we have the six extra bridge chairs we need.

So it is 6:15 p.m., and we're in a small traffic jam because everyone is going in the same direction. Mothers and kids are let off at the door as Daddy looks for a parking space.

Jimmy, the doorman of the condo, looks especially good tonight. The family enters the house with smiles and shouts of laughter. Bubbie appears from the kitchen looking gorgeous with her Florida tan and a smile from ear to ear, feeling wonderful that once again the family is together.

"Hi Bubbie," scream the children.

"It's my turn to say the four questions this year."

"No it's mine," says the little one while twirling her dress with her candy-painted pinky.

Happiness and the smell of Jewish food cooked with loving care fill the room.

Mingle and schmooze for a bit and it's time to sit.

Aaron, who is 14 years old, is upset that he still has to sit at the kids' table.

"Aaron, this is not negotiable until you're 18 years old. When you're responsible enough to vote, you can sit with the adults," says Zayde as he takes his place at the head of the table.

Gentlemen, start your engines!

And the seder begins. Hands washed, wine cups filled, seder plates brimming over with the necessary trimmings, the family begins to read the Haggadah. Some in Hebrew, some in English, they take turns going around the table.

Seven children take turns saying the four questions which makes it more like the Spanish Inquisition. What they really want to know is, "When are we going to eat already?"

Cousin Jerry reads one extra paragraph and we still don't know if it was by accident or on purpose. Jason doesn't say too much since he's a little drunk from the wine and is beginning to break out in a rash.

A couple of dayenus, a discussion of hard times to remind us why we are here and then dinner is being served. Gefilte fish, chopped liver, eggplant, peppers, pickles, cole slaw, pickled salmon and that's just for starters. Soup alone or with a knadel, mandeln, matzah meal, carrots, turnips, egg noodles and dill. Chicken prepared 11 different ways. How about veal? Let's not leave out meat balls, roast tongue, and while we're at it, pass the brisket please. Diet coke, diet 7-up, regular coke, 7-up, some apple juice for Jason and seltzer for Zayde. Fruit, exotic and local, macaroons, sponge cake, pareve chocolates, apricots, jelly roll and a cup of tea. You did it again Bubbie and we love you for it.

Zayde stands up, which means it's time to find the afikoman. Bonds are low, but the children won't suffer. Any price they name they will get. You see it's not that they shouldn't know the value of things, it's just that Zayde can't say no to his grandchildren.

It's 11:20 p.m. Jason is asleep on the couch. There are still some crumbs and empty tea cups left on the table. Bubbie is in the kitchen.

Tomorrow night history repeats itself, and so it does in the fall and next April and on and on. We will always observe and never forget. Thank you Bubbie and Zayde. See you next year, God willing, same place, same table.

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A Visitor at the Seder

To a simchah out-of-town my aunt did go,
The bus she took because of the heavy snow.
A horrible accident on the highway took place,
Some injured so badly you couldn't recognize their face.

My aunt survived but a terrible bang on her head she got,
She lost her memory, even her name she knew not.
With no identification and nowhere to go, her fear grew,
But the Magen David necklace she wore told her she was a Jew.

The Jewish Agency gave her an apartment and even some money,
Not knowing who you are or where you belong isn't funny.
She looked in the mirror "Who's that stranger looking at me?"
No matter what she did she couldn't jog her memory.

We mourned for my aunt as we thought she had died,
Our favorite aunt we'd see no more – we cried and cried.
We thought about her every day and every night,
Her heart and good deeds made her a shining light.

Pesach was coming, there was so much to do,
Without my dear aunt we were a pitiful crew.
The Jewish Agency called if we'd take a guest as we do every year,
We agreed – maybe a guest at our seder would bring us some cheer.

Imagine our shock and astonishment when we answered the door,
My mother screamed, turned pale, and fainted on the floor.
"She looks just like my sister," my mother said,
"Could this be her, could she be brought back from the dead?"

We asked for her name which she did not know,
She told us about the accident that happened in the snow.
We knew it was her without a doubt.
By her actions and kind words that came out of her mouth.

We sat down to the seder around a beautifully set table,
To her utmost surprise to read the Haggadah she was able.
She joined us in singing the familiar tunes and drank four cups of wine,
As the evening progressed she felt like she belonged there all the time.

We pulled out our photo album with pictures of her,
Slowly but surely her mind started to stir.
She stayed with us throughout the entire week of the Pesach holiday,
The familiar sights, sounds and smells brought back her memory day by day.

We are, thank God, once again a happy family,
All because of the mitzvah of hachnasat orchim, you see.
The moral of this whole story is clear to me,
Invite a guest to your seder, you never know who they might be.

by Sara Yeres (11 years old)

"The Art Lover"

Elie Benzaquen

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What If...

By ALVIN ABRAM

There was fear in their eyes. There were six of them – two men, a woman, a teenager and two children. Their clothes covered their scrawny bodies but could not hide the hunger on their faces. They peered over the rubble at the high brick wall that separated them from freedom. Then they heard a truck approaching, and they tried to make themselves as small as possible to avoid detection. As the truck rumbled by, guffaws of laughter and the guttural sounds of spoken German came from the open windows.

Then silence.

A small voice said softly, "Now."

The six ran across the road to the wall and dived for the ground, praying their movements had not been detected. They weren't.

"To the tree," the small voice said.

The six crawled on their stomachs the last hundred feet to the tree beside the wall and huddled under it.

"Wait," the voice said now. She slipped behind the tree and the others heard the scraping of masonry. Then she returned, "Yankel," she said.

"Yes, Rachel?"

"Go. After you've gone, I'll seal the wall and return to the bunker."

"Are you not coming?"

"Not yet. Now, get started before the patrol returns."

There was movement and four of them disappeared behind the tree. Yankel hesitated. "How old are you, Rachel?"

"Fourteen."

"Only 14." His voice broke. "How many times have you done this?"

"I don't know."

"Why is it you don't save yourself? If you continue, you will get caught. They'll take you to the *Umschlagplatz*, the railway station, and you will never be seen again. Come with us. You have done enough."

"Not yet. Soon. There is no more time. Go so I can close the hole in the wall."

"Bless you, Rachel. Bless you."

"And you too," she whispered. "Remember, you must be out of Warsaw before daylight. Go east."

Yankel hurried behind the tree and made his escape. Rachel replaced the bricks, then swept the earth of any footprints. Satisfied, she peered across the road to where she had to be before the patrol returned. Quickly she crawled beside the fence to a point directly opposite her destination, noticed the headlights of the patrol truck approaching, and ran. On the other side of the road she flung herself into the ditch and froze in fear as the truck came alongside her and seemed to take forever to pass. After a few minutes, she made her way back to the sewer beneath Gesia Street.

When she reached the safety of the sewer, she breathed a sigh of relief. She smiled to herself. "Close," she muttered as she entered the bunker.

"Everything went well, I see," a young man said.

"Yes, Samuel. They're gone. I hope they make it."

"At least they have a chance. If they stayed here, they would surely have died. And you, Rachel. It's time for you to go."

"Why? I won't get caught."

"Yes, you will. You've tempted fate too often. The next trip could well be your last."

"Why?"

He made a sound of exasperation. "Look. Soon there will be no more trips, anyway. Soon the Germans will attack, and when they do, we will all die. You're too young to fight. You've done your share. The next trip, you must go."

The following Sunday, Rachel escaped from Warsaw. The next day, April 19, 1943, the Germans launched an attack on the Jewish ghetto.

* * *

There was much laughter at the table. Rachel's three children, their spouses and her grandchildren were celebrating. It was not anyone's birthday, but it was a joyous occasion – the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw uprising. The family had given Rachel a present – a trip to Israel. Rachel was a widow. Her life had been one that had brought a good deal of pride to her family and this was a way of showing their

Continued on page B17

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A Literary Supplement

Passover Greetings

She had always wanted to go to Israel

Continued from page B16

gratitude. Rachel had always wanted to go to Israel, but put it off for one reason or another. Now, widowed for several years, she had no excuse and was looking forward to the experience.

The laughter died and everyone was pleased with themselves. "So, Mother," one of her children said, "what are you going to do in Israel besides tour?"

Rachel smiled. A mischievous smile. A smile they had all seen many times before when she was about to say something funny, but this time what came out was not so much funny as preposterous. "What if … what if some of the people who I helped escape from Warsaw lived in Israel? What if … we could meet again?"

"How?" everyone said at once.

"I don't know. But wouldn't it be marvellous to see them again after all these years?"

"It's a nice idea, Mother," her son said, "but not possible. Even if there were some who did live in Israel, they would be scattered from one end to the other."

"You're right. But what if…" Rachel tilted her face upward and closed her eyes. "What if I was to put an advertisement in the *Jerusalem Post* and say who I was and what I had done." She opened her eyes and smiled at everyone at the table. "And told them to meet me somewhere."

Everyone laughed.

"Are you really going to do that?" one of the children asked.

"Yes."

* * *

The words were carefully composed so that those reading the ad would understand that Rachel was interested in meeting only with those she herself had helped escape from the Warsaw Ghetto. Her maiden name was shown and the dates were listed. The rendezvous would be in a restaurant that she named on Dizengoff Street in Tel Aviv on a Sunday at one in the afternoon.

The day of her departure arrived, and as she was being driven to the airport, her son asked if she expected anyone to respond.

"In case the ad was missed the first time, I put it in a second time. Do I expect a response? I don't know. Next Sunday, I'll find out."

* * *

Rachel arrived at the restaurant before one. It was about three-quarters full with Sunday lunch-goers. There were children sitting between their parents and many elderly people. Some alone, some together. All had food on the table and were talking animatedly in Hebrew. A few looked like tourists, but she couldn't be sure. She sat at a table by the far wall so she could see who entered, and waited. The waitress asked her if she wanted something, and she said not at the moment. She glanced at her wristwatch and noticed the time. It was past one.

A few times someone entered and rushed to a table and everyone became excited and laughed. Rachel smiled when someone looked at her, but her attention was on the door. She looked at her watch and realized that it was 1:30. No one had come, she thought. She tried not to show her disappointment and she stood to leave.

A young man hesitantly approached her from one of the tables. "Excuse me," he said in broken English. He seemed to be struggling for the right words.

"Yes?" Rachel said.

Continued on page B18

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floods of rage
Against the world's abuses,
Calls on all four winds
Of heaven to praise life!

This language, Hebrew,
A Jubilee horn overflowing
With love and hope
Is our morning star
Whose innermost flame
Burns with justice and freedom.

by Baruch Cohen

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A young man approached

Continued from page B17

"Excuse me. Is ... is your name Rachel?"

At her nod, the young man's eyes danced and he smiled the broadest smile Rachel had ever seen. Then he turned to the people in the restaurant and announced excitedly in Hebrew, "It's her! It's her! She's come!"

Everyone in the restaurant seemed to rise to their feet at the same time. They rushed to surround Rachel – the survivors, their children and their grandchildren. In English, in Hebrew, in Yiddish and in Polish, Rachel was introduced to children with her name.

What if ... became a joyous reunion.

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A Literary Supplement

Passover Greetings

FLÂNE ET NOSTALGIE

Avenue des Pins, dans l'Est

La vie pousse la ville
et la ville la vie
à oublier la rue du quartier où jadis
les nouveaux arrivés s'unissaient
aux anciens

Dans la langue commune
ils qualifiaient de verts
ce qui n'étaient que bleus

Sous le gris des pignons
aux escaliers battus de neige
l'épicerie sentait bon
le hareng
le pain noir

Les noms scellés aux briques
encore font louange aux saints
au parc
ou à l'arbre géant prince des conifères

Et si au vent des migrations
la synagogue abandonnée
retentit de voix aimées
c'est que sa théâtrale destinée
garde pieusement l'âme des émotions

Jean Vegman

Avenue de l'Esplanade

I. – Sapience

Comme jointure ancienne
de maint onguent massée
le portail ne proteste plus
et le jardinet
dort sous les balcons

L'écho seul
perdure les ris de l'enfant
venu voir l'aieul
et le chuchotement
issu du fond de l'âge
s'abîme au delà des grilles

Chercherai-je
en traversant la rue
la sagesse disparue

II. – Avenir

A l'escalier des immigrés
le ciment remplace le bois
et l'espoir a déménagé

Aux plus hauts degrés
la lenteur de l'attente
éternisait le mal
d'enfanter une seconde vie

L'effort combattait la souffrance
et l'homme se fondait
dans le creuset d'airain
où se forge un métal qui n'attend pas demain

Gravir
les échelons glissants
de l'avenir
semé de froidures

Jean Vegman

Rue Bagg

Elle se terminait en impasse
la rue Bagg où je vivais
à mes débuts montréalais

Une chambre chez l'habitant
du cent six
avec la fenêtre sur cour
et le soleil de mes vingt ans

Le bloc à présent démoli
me rappelle l'escalier gris
qu'il fallait monter lentement
d'autres marches
à l'abri des intempéries
voulaient être gravies

Ah, si c'est Hymie qui t'envoie
voilà la clé
Reviens avec tes valises Je dois
sortir
Tu remplaceras un étudiant
que j'héberge et qui est en
vacances
Voici ta chambre

Dès mon retour de la gare
j'ai presque tout mis sur le lit
les bagages la gabardine
mes lainages trimbalés
en plein mois de juillet

Sortir respirer à l'air libre
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Explorer le boulevard

Puis comme il se faisait tard
et que la faim me tenaillait
à un comptoir je m'installai
pour manger dans du pain de seigle
et de la moutarde sucrée
de la viande brûlante et fumée

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Happy Passover

A Passover Lesson

By ROBIN GLUBE

I was 7 years old the first year I participated in the search for the afikoman. For years I assumed that Jewish law put an age on the tradition. In fact, it was only after my first born was four and wanted to participate that my wife proved my ignorance to me.

In no Jewish literature to date does it state an age limit for children. Unfortunately I never had a chance to ask my parents the reason for the age restriction. In retrospect, I am certainly glad I was old enough to appreciate my whole first experience.

Normally, I would not remember such a minute detail within the vast experiences of my childhood. The tradition itself did not cause a religious awakening, nothing traumatic happened on that particular Passover, and I wasn't even the lucky kid to find the hidden matzah. Actually, not finding the afikoman is part of the significance of that particular Pesach, significance that has given me my own meaning for the holiday, and one that has been a contribution to the passionate, successful lawyer I have become.

The seder that particular year seemed especially long. The butterflies in my stomach didn't seem to fly away, even after I completed my usual high-pitched rendition of the four questions. In addition to the queasy stomach, I was just getting over one of the worst flus I can ever remember having.

Despite all my ailments, I was determined to be the finder of the afikoman that April evening. My strategy: to watch every move my grandfather would make in order to follow him to the special hiding place. But, like most 7-year-olds, I hadn't quite developed any lengthy attention span, and my plan was interrupted by an art lesson from my older cousin. She was showing me the fine art of making snowmen with my gefilte fish, toothpicks and cherry tomatoes. It must have been somewhere between Frosty's body and my grandmother's brisket that my grandfather made his move and announced that the afikoman had officially been hidden.

Alas, dessert was over and the children were dismissed from the table. That always heralded the beginning of the search. The actual hunt itself is a blur. I remember plenty of running and laughing, some shoving and pushing, and a trip to the bathroom (not for searching purposes). Within 10 minutes, the game was over, and my big cousin Avi had found the afikoman. He was 14 with the height (and mouth) of an 18-year-old. He flaunted his unleavened finding for what seemed like eternity. He began a family poll on what each member thought he should do with his new found "fortune."

Like after any other traumatic experience, I first went into shock. For weeks I had been daydreaming about the moment I would bring back the half-piece of unleavened bread to my grandfather and be awarded with the precedented shiny silver dollar. My next reaction was panic, considering that I pre-owed that dollar to my older sister. She had lent me money for some baseball cards I had bought the day earlier. Most vividly I recall feeling a sense of injustice. This was Avi's fourth year in a row winning the prize. He had so many advantages over me that I couldn't possibly have matched.

I was about ready to throw him and his stupid poll as far as my scrawny arms could manage, when my grandfather called all five of the grandchildren into the living room.

"A whole ceremony dedicated to this ego-inflated victor," I screamed in front of the entire seder table of relatives.

And with that, I crossed my hands into my chest and put on the biggest temper tantrum any parents had ever seen. I screamed out many things in those moments of temporary insanity, including a list of disadvantages I had compared to my opponents. My grandfather listened to me with a smile on his face that only made me angrier. It was obvious he was offended by immaturity and misbehavior on such a

Continued on page B21

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I knew my zayde meant business

Continued from page B20

pious holiday. I knew I was in for it when he demanded I follow him into the living room immediately.

As I had never heard my zayde raise his voice before, I knew he meant business. My tantrum ended just as abruptly as it had began. He sat down on his Archie Bunker-type armchair. All the grandchildren placed themselves cross-legged on the floor; all except Avi who stood tall and proud beside the armchair ready to begin his award ceremony.

The obvious ending to that Passover would have been for Avi to have boastfully accepted his reward, while I got punished for the schtick I pulled at the seder table and my sister blackmailed me for months over the dollar I owed her. But the one thing both Jewish holidays and grandfathers have in common is that they both try to make sense of adversity and trauma. It was with this last point that my grandfather began his speech.

"My dear grandchildren, it has been brought to my attention by the little barrister among us that hiding the afikoman inside the top of the curtain put some of you at a disadvantage. Avi and Sara have a height advantage over Solomon, Joey and Natalie. A home turf advantage could also go to Avi and Natalie considering they live here and are more familiar with the hiding places in the house.

"I also realize that I should have made the hunt stop while Joey was off in the washroom. This gave the rest of you extra time.

"Lastly, Sara and Solomon are not wearing their glasses tonight, and where I placed the matzah made it almost impossible for them to see it.

"It seems a shame that the hunt tonight turned out to be so unjust. Do you realize that matzah itself is a symbol of justice? It has become a symbol of liberty and a reminder of the unleavened bread which the Israelites prepared in such haste when they fled from Pharaoh in Egypt. Passover itself is a symbol for little boys and girls, even for grownups and grandparents, of their own search for freedom. Remember, our flight from Pharaoh reminds us that we can break any chain of discrimination which keeps us in bondage.

"But tonight a special little boy reminded me that discrimination is always taking place and that we have to continually fight against what we know in our hearts to be unfair.

"Now children, I hope you have understood what your crazy old zayde has told you. I cannot give the reward only to Avi tonight. I think we are all winners because of what we have been taught by one of your cousins. I will give each of you one quarter. Thank Joey for this gift. Thank him for both gifts."

Twenty-eight years later I can still feel the pride I felt after my grandfather's memorable speech. It is funny which experiences from childhood profoundly affect one's path in life. As a lawyer, I am constantly pleading discrimination and injustice cases. I fight for freedom on a daily basis. But this has not stopped me from taking every Passover holiday to remember why such a passion can never die.

Spirit Flame

Yahrzeit lamp. Memorial. *Ner neshamah.*
I call it — Spirit Flame,
lit every year on the anniversary
of a dear one's death.
To call them up
to talk to them
to weep, missing them.

After my brother Lawrie died,
he came to my farm in a dream.
He never came there in life,
our paths too divergent.

He sat in my kitchen,
on the counter, chatting,
reassuring me he was okay,
convincing me
he'd just gone
out one door, but
he'd be back
through another.

On Lawrie's birthday,
ten years later,
our sister, Lynni,
had a male child.

Lawrie's spirit
casts light far
beyond the yearly flame.

by Sharon Baltman

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The Narrow Escape

By MUGUETTE MYERS

I was born in Paris. As Jews during World War II, we were hidden – my mother, my brother and I – in a little village in Burgundy, 150 kilometres southeast of the French capital. My mother occasionally had to go to Paris for a day and she took the bus that went through the village and straight on to the city. On this particular day, as she prepared to board the bus, her heart sank. To her misfortune Mr. Gaston Ravère, the village drunk, was also boarding the bus.

When sober, he was a harmless soul who wouldn't hurt a fly, a gentle, quiet person. However, when he was drunk (which was most of the time) he staggered about the village singing guardhouse songs at the top of his lungs and talking nonsense to whoever he met. Since he was so loud when inebriated, everyone tried to stay out of his way.

That day, when he saw Maman on the bus, he zigzagged over and sat heavily down next to her, almost landing on the floor in the process. Maman tried to ignore him, but he would have none of that. For once, he had a captive audience and he was going to make the most of it.

He started innocently enough, by recalling at length the story of his life. Then he looked around the bus and noticed several German soldiers: "Regardez-moi ça (look at this)!" he said to my mother "Y'a des Boches partout (there are Huns everywhere)!"

Maman tried not to listen to him, but he kept poking at her to get her attention. Then he was silent for a few kilometres and she thought he had fallen asleep. How wrong she was! Suddenly he stirred, narrowed his eyes to tiny slits and bellowed: "N'ayez pas peur Madame Bella (don't be afraid), personne ne vous fera du mal tant que je serai là (no one will hurt you as long as I am here)! *Moi aussi je suis Juif* (I am also a Jew)!" – That wasn't true of course; he was a Catholic, but he believed he was speaking out of solidarity with my mother.

Maman thought she was going to faint. Thank God most of the people on the bus were dozing, and either those who were awake didn't pay much attention to a drunk, or they chose to ignore his ranting.

After this outbreak, Maman pretended to sleep the rest of the way and arrived safely at her destination. Afterward whenever she had to go to Paris (which fortunately wasn't often) she made sure that Gaston Ravère was nowhere in sight.

"Daydreaming" *Elie Benzaquen*

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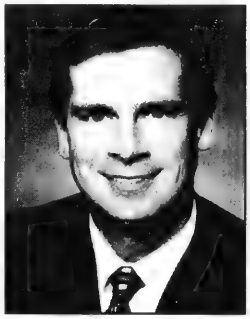

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A Literary Supplement

Passover Greetings

HANNAH SENESH

A soul of infinite beauty
and such a savage ending.
How many souls? So many
that Your treasury was empty.
One night Israel danced
with the Eternal. The moon
was as full as it would ever
be. You did not see them
at the border of the trees.
She professed not to believe.
But Your Presence inhabited
her Being. You were caught
with her in a great welt
of blood beneath her skin.
And yet You loomed
above her like a cloud
knowing You would find
another one as innocent
to bear Your Name.

by Morton Manilla

KOHELET

He was a witness to the city.
He sat in the assembly
and he watched the dissemblers.
And in the gathering place
of God, they conspired
to divide the world
between them.
He smiled and laughed
with them, and his thoughts
were concealed. And his silence
did no honor to his Lord.
And he marvelled at the fire
that burns in the souls
of prophets.
Words coiled in him
with the venom of serpents.
Dreams sprang up
like tangled gardens.
Tempests filled the nests,
of mountains, and he knew
he had been given strength.
But the spirit of Heaven
did not descend to him.
And he could not find
a way to break the bonds
of fear. And the Lord
mocked him with signs
and visions. And he sat
at the table of sinners
and he drank the wine of fools.

by Morton Manilla

BROKEN VESSEL

Why did Jonah
beg to die when
Nineveh repented?
His mind could not contain
the idea of the Lord.
He lay on his bed
like a drowning man.
He would not eat.
He could not sleep.
While the city reverted
as he knew it would.
The reason that he hid
from God. Is there a plan,
he asked himself? Or,
random stories I compose.
For a prophet there's no part.
But the Lord pursued him
anyway. I chose you
to make my Name
a living thing
among the peoples
of the earth. A summer's
day. A gentle rain.

by Morton Manilla

"Still Life"

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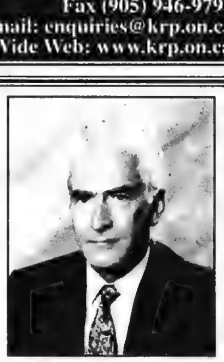

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The Search Committee
Julius Katzenkopf, President
Congregation Goshen
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Only finalists will be contacted for interviews.

Two weeks before Passover, the search committee of Congregation Goshen of Mariposa interviewed the third of four candidates in the synagogue's boardroom. Present were Mr. Julius Katzenkopf, president of the synagogue, Yossi Johnston, the shul's biggest philanthropist and Sam Groszkortz, the shammas.

As the applicant entered the room, Katzenkopf was scanning the resume and was impressed with this applicant's excellent credentials. Then he looked up at the man and frowned at what he saw. Although the applicant had an imposing bearing, Katzenkopf was disappointed at his wardrobe. The young rabbi was wearing dusty old sandals over socks and a suit in need of dry-cleaning. Julius Katzenkopf did not approve of slovenliness even if the resume was excellent.

Groszkortz made the introductions and began to speak. "Please be seated, Rabbi Rabein. Am I pronouncing it right?"

The young man sat down, took off his hat and put it on his lap. Katzenkopf immediately noticed the rabbi's handsome face had a definite glow of health. He even looked a little like a younger Charlton Heston.

"I pronounce it Ra-bane with the emphasis on the second syllable," the application said, "but it's not my original last name."

Johnston asked, "Your family changed it?"

Katzenkopf was sure he noticed a slight lisp in the rabbi's voice. Public speaking was a crucial part of a congregational rabbi's job and a lisp was another black mark against this unpromising applicant.

The young man began to fidget with his hat. "Well, I never really knew my parents much after the age of six. I was raised in a foster home." His lisp seemed to get worse with his nervousness.

"That's terrible," Katzenkopf commiserated. But he was really thinking that there was probably some scandal in the rabbi's background – another black mark. Obviously, this rabbi's chances of landing the plum position of Goshen's rabbi were getting slimmer with every comment he made.

The young man added quickly: "It wasn't really my parents' fault. Times were tough. They decided to split up and then they got back together. But they couldn't keep me, even though they really wanted to.

"My foster home was pretty decent, though. My foster mother Betty is a WASP blueblood, but she loved me as if I were her own. She paid for speech therapy; you may have noticed that I have a slight lisp, and she made sure I got into Princeton. But after I graduated, I decided to explore my roots and enrolled in yeshiva. That's in my resume along with the kiruv work I've been doing, bringing other Jews back."

After checking the list of yeshivot and social service agencies on the second page of the resume, Katzenkopf looked at the top of the first page. "You give your address as 226 Levi Lane. Isn't that Aaron Cohen's address?"

The young rabbi answered. "Aaron is my brother, my biological brother. I found him on the Internet recently after I decided to contact my family. While I'm job hunting, my wife and I are staying with him."

"Who's Aaron Cohen?" Johnston asked.

"Yossi, you know him," said Katzenkopf. "Aaron Cohen. He comes to the brotherhood minyan on Sunday mornings. He's a labor negotiator. He ended that strike at the auto plant last month."

"Oh yeah! Ron Cohen. Sure, I know him," said Johnston.

Katzenkopf was surprised and impressed by the family connection. Aaron Cohen was a respected member of the congregation and the community. If this Moshe Rabein was a brother of his, even a long-lost brother, you couldn't write him off as rabbi material, yet. For the first time, Katzenkopf smiled at the applicant.

"Wait a minute," exclaimed Groszkortz, the shammas. "If Ron Cohen is your brother, then Dr. Miri Kolev the obstetrician must be your sister."

The young rabbi smiled. "Yes, Miri is my big sister. She tried to keep track of me after I had to leave home. But of course, I don't remember. Anyway, since both my brother and sister live here in Mariposa and are members of Goshen shul, they encouraged me to try for this pulpit position."

"Well, you seem to be on good terms with both of them after such a long separation," said Katzenkopf.

The young rabbi stroked his hat brim, thoughtfully. "To be perfectly honest, Mr. Katzenkopf, things

Continued on page B25

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The rabbi paused and continued

Continued from page B24

would be ideal if my brother and sister would completely accept my wife, Tzippy."

"And why don't they accept her, Rabbi Rabein?" asked Katzenkopf.

"I want to be perfectly upfront with this committee. You should know from the beginning that my wife Tzippy is a convert. Her father used to be a Unitarian minister. But lately, he and I have had long talks about Jewish philosophy. And he just started taking classes at a Lubavitch community centre. But that doesn't really answer your question. Unfortunately, both Ron and Miri have a hard time accepting a convert as a newly found sister-in-law. But they're trying their best, and I'm sure in time, they'll come to love her."

The rabbi paused and continued, "I also know, gentlemen, that some shuls wouldn't hire a rabbi like me, one who was raised as a non-Jew or one who's married to a convert. I had no intention of trying out for this job when I first heard about it, but my brother Ron assured me that your congregation is different. He said you accept people for what they are, not where they come from. He said your synagogue is a friendly, accepting place so I decided to apply."

Despite his misgivings, Katzenkopf was impressed by Rabbi Rabein's candor. He continued reading from the resume. "It says here you used to be a sheepherder and a magician."

"Well, sheepherding was only a summer job and I worked as a magician at kids' birthday parties to help pay my way through university. I didn't want to be a burden to my stepmother after all she did for me. I think I still remember a few magic tricks. Want to see me turn my umbrella into a snake?" He pulled a collapsible umbrella out of his briefcase.

"No, no, it's okay," said Katzenkopf. "I'm sure your magic tricks would go over quite well with our youth groups; but what I'm really interested in, Rabbi Rabein, is knowing your long-term goals."

Katzenkopf scanned the papers in front of him. "Your resume is unfocused. You seem to have wandered around with no direction in your career. Even though your character and professional references speak glowingly of your leadership qualities and breadth of scholarship. I somehow don't get the feeling that we could count on you to stay with us, permanently. If we were to hire you, Rabbi Rabein – Do you mine if I call you Moshe? – how can we be certain that you won't wander off after a few years?"

Rabein looked Katzenkopf straight in the eyes. "Mr. Katzenkopf and gentlemen, I can't deny that my upbringing has been unusual, not typical for a community leader's, but I see it as a plus in the work I've dedicated myself to and I want you to know that if you decide to hire me, I would do my utmost to help bring the congregation and indeed the entire Jewish community closer to God. This I believe is my purpose in life. But what I cannot promise you, gentlemen, is a long-term commitment. I've talked with my wife and we decided that eventually, we would like to make aliyah and live in Israel."

The passion in the rabbi's voice impressed Julius Katzenkopf. Such idealism reminded him of his own youthful dreams, but he cleared his throat and said, "Young man, your love of Israel is admirable and all that, but not suitable for our needs. Your commitment should first be to your congregation. Our mandate is to find a rabbi who will stay as our spiritual leader for a long time. Rabbi Josephson, of blessed memory, was our rabbi for 40 years. We do need some young blood, and I admire your natural leadership qualities and your honesty. I will also say your being Ron and Miri's brother reflects very well on your chances.

"If you could see fit to change your mind about this impractical attachment to Israel, I think there is a distinct possibility that we might consider hiring you. Do you agree with me, gentlemen?"

Both Johnston and Groszkortz nodded in agreement.

"Katzenkopf continued. "Well, Rabbi Moshe Rabein... nu, what do you say to that?"

The young man slowly stood up, put his hat back on and said, "I'm not sure, Mr. Katzenkopf. It's a very tempting offer. Perhaps I could get back to you with a definite answer after I talk it over with my spiritual advisor?"

Sam Groszkortz spoke up. "And who is your spiritual advisor, Rabbi?"

Moshe Rabein smiled benevolently. "The Almighty, blessed be His Name, is my spiritual advisor."

The Congregation Goshen personnel committee gazed at him in silence.

Rabbi Rabein extended his hand in turn to each committee member. "Thank you. It's been a sincere pleasure meeting each of you."

The three men uttered brief goodbyes and Sam Groszkortz saw the Rabbi out.

After the door closed behind them, Katzenkopf fell back into his chair and exclaimed to Johnston, "My God, that's all the shul needs, a religious fanatic for a rabbi!"

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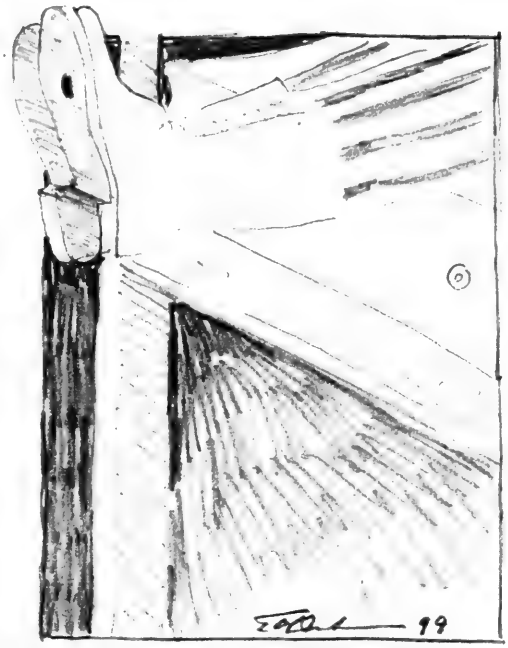
The Inspection

By JOSEPH PERETZ



More than a year has elapsed since we arrived in this wooded area of the French Ardennes, south of the Belgian border. The year was 1943. By now, we were used to life in the forced labor camp.

My service in the Belgian army a few years earlier made it easier to adapt to the rigors of camp life. A good sense of humor also helped. One evening, during rollcall, while the soft autumn breeze played with the yellow golden leaves of the birch trees outside the barbed wire surrounding the camp, we were given the news.

The *Lagerführer* (commandant), dressed in his khaki uniform with a red, white and black swastika armband and black polished boots, told us about the impending inspection and ordered a thorough clean-up of the barrack.

He informed us that the *Oberstandarteanführer*, coming straight from Berlin, will honor his camp with an inspection. Very proudly, he added that this officer was a personal friend of der Führer; and was recently decorated by him with the iron cross with swords and diamonds, obviously one of the most coveted awards.

This last bit of information did nothing to allay our fear. A sense of foreboding took hold of us. What harsh treatment would ensue from this inspection? What changes could we look forward to?

We scrubbed and cleaned for hours. It was a clear, moonlit night. My scary thoughts were interrupted by the monotonous droning of high-flying aircraft. My prayers and gratitude went out to those brave Allies who were getting even with those responsible for our predicament.

Continued on page B27

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Immigrant

Soon after his arrival
in this country
my Bolshevik grandfather
a brazen young man
of twenty-two
bit into the thick yellow
peel of a banana
and consumed it
entire
much later
when he learned
that the fragile fruit
ought to be
pared carefully
from its smooth outer skin
and its softness
enjoyed on its own
he hid his humiliation
in a planished exterior
that concealed
a tender, fleshy
centre of self

by Ruth Panofsky

A Literary Supplement
Passover Greetings

The door of the barrack flung open

Continued from page B26

Despite the apprehension and the rumbling in my hungry stomach, my curiosity was aroused. I could not wait to see this famous individual whose imminent arrival set the entire camp command abuzz.

Finally, the moment has come. The door of the barrack flung open. The guard in his green uniform with black and silver SS insignia on his collar, steel helmet deep over his eyes, yelled "Achtung." All 40 of us jumped up and stood at attention in front of our bunk-beds.

The inspector has arrived: The guard stood aside to give way to our illustrious visitor, accompanied by the camp commandant.

The bluish-gray overcoat covered his rather short body, down to his highly polished boots. He seemed to have no neck, reducing his stature even further. His large hook nose complemented the long visor of his alpine style cap. A leather belt and shiny brown holster completed his martial regalia.

As he strutted past us, his cold steel-grey piercing eyes looked through us as if we were invisible. The fragrance of his after-shave lotion blended with the scent of the freshly scoured wood of the plank floor.

After glancing around the barrack, he stopped and in a loud voice proclaimed: "I gather that you are all treated well" and asked if we had any complaints.

The irony of his question struck me. My eternal sense of humor got the better of me. I raised my hand.

He looked at me with a stunned expression, then lowered his eyes to the obligatory yellow Star of David pinned to my chest.

With a derisive sneer, he barked: "Was ist denn los?" Loosely translated: "What is your problem?" "Herr Oberstandauternführer" I said, addressing him in German by his full rank "Mein Bett ist zu kurz." (My bed is too short.)

Our camp commandant, standing beside him in his best dress uniform, shocked by my audacity, his face crimson, his eyes bulging with rage, stared at me with looks that could kill.

The silence following my complaint was deafening. The tension was palpable as all eyes in the barrack were focused on me.

After a few seconds, which seemed like hours, the inspector ordered me to lie down on my bed.

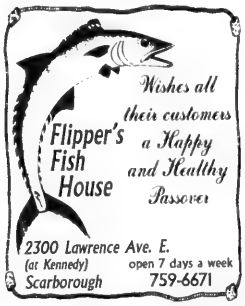
I hoisted myself to the upper bunk, where I slept for the past year and stretched out to the full length of my over-six-foot body, my legs protruding a few inches over the foot board. I became painfully aware of the now exposed hole in the sole of my worn-out workboots. My heart was pounding. All kinds of horrible thoughts ran through my head. Maybe this time I had gone too far. Would he pull out his Luger and shoot me in front of everybody? I did not want to die. Not yet.

Slowly he looked up at me. Our eyes met. He cleared his throat and stated:

"Das Bett ist nicht zu kurz, der Jude ist zu lang" (The bed is not too short, the Jew is too tall).

He suddenly burst out laughing at his own joke. The tension broke and a relieved lagerführer jöined in the laughter.

Even the SS guard was grinning as he opened the door for their exit.



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A Literary Supplement

Passover Greetings

The Pledge to the Maharal

By VERA SCHIFF

Herta and Olga were inseparable friends. Both were born into families who had a taste for the refined things of this world and the ample means to afford them.

Herta was an only child. Olga had a brother 10 years her senior, so that she too grew up alone, the centre of her parents' affection.

Both sets of parents doted on their daughters, and considered only the best good enough for them.

Both girls were born in 1927, during the heyday of the Jews of Czechoslovakia. They lived in close proximity to each other, in one of the most exclusive residential districts of Prague. Their early years were filled with visits to theatres, operas, ballets, summer vacations at the Adriatic Sea and winter holidays in the mountains.

Their friendship was the cornerstone of their lives.

Their parents practised a reformed version of the Jewish faith, but they still insisted that the girls be versed in Jewish religion and history. That is how they came to know the saga of the Great Rabbi Loew of Prague (the Maharal) and the golem.

Herta and Olga were fascinated with the mystic story. They extracted a promise from their teacher to take them to the tomb of the great Maharal, who is buried in the ancient cemetery of Prague, long closed for it is overcrowded. The tombstones heave; some have toppled. Still, the resting place of the Maharal is separate, distinguishable by a marble tombstone as befits the burial vault of a great leader, teacher and benefactor of his flock.

The girls would return to the cemetery and try to envision the Jewish world of Prague of long ago. In their imagination, they visualized the great Maharal, the golem, and life in the embattled ghetto. Neither girl understood why they felt so intrigued by the old cemetery and the myth of golem.

Both girls turned 12 years of age in 1939. For their birthday, the girls each received a gold chain with a pendant of the Star of David. They had wished for identical ones but Herta's was somewhat larger and differently engraved than Olga's. The joy of receiving their necklaces was short-lived.

Once again, the Jews of Prague were threatened, only there was no leader of the stature of Maharal. The year 1939 also marked the Nazi invasion of their homeland. The persecution of the Jews began almost immediately. One of the early orders required the Jews to turn in all their gold and valuables. The adults quickly collected all they had and delivered it to the authorities. The parents forgot about the necklaces, but in any event, the two had agreed to refuse to part with them. They hid them deep in the back of the drawers of their desks under a pile of notebooks.

Soon the deportations of the Jews of Prague began. Only Herta's brother Frank fled to England. Shortly before the spring of 1942, when all signs pointed to an impending removal of the Jews from Prague, the two girls decided to seek a magical rescue of their own.

Each girl wrapped her Star of David meticulously in a page torn from a prayer book and sealed the pages with glue. They then set out for the old Jewish cemetery, where they went straight to the grave of the Maharal, said a fast prayer, beseeching the great rabbi for his help on their journey into the unknown.

They begged for their own invisible golem, who would bravely defend and protect them. They had to be brief, because the curfew affecting Jews of Prague forced them to be home before dark.

The girls wanted to leave a token of their respect and devotion at the grave of Maharal and buried their Stars of David at the foot of the tomb. Herta on the right side, Olga on the left. They dug deep holes, and then placed the well-wrapped stars in them. They covered the site carefully and pledged to the Maharal to uphold the Jewish faith, asking for his blessings for the arduous journey that lay ahead of them. They promised each other to meet at the tomb if and when they returned from what awaited them.

From here, each went her separate way. Olga went to Auschwitz, to Bergen-Belsen, where she contracted typhus and died. Herta was deported to Theresienstadt, then to Auschwitz and ultimately to the labor camp of Ravensbrueck. She was liberated there, half dead, by the Allied armies and sent to Sweden to recover. Eventually, almost restored to life, she returned to Prague.

Upon her return to Prague, Herta, the sole survivor of her family, could not visit the grave of the Maharal. But one day she plucked up her courage and decided to retrieve the memento she had left in the cemetery.

As if God-sent, Herta received a call from Olga's brother Frank, a soldier in the Allied forces, who had also returned to his homeland. Herta was happy not to have to visit the mysterious cemetery on her own. She confided her little secret to Frank, who smiled between tears. He already knew that his family had perished.

Continued on page B29

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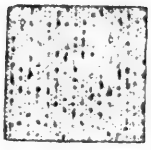

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A Literary Supplement

Passover Greetings

Passover Prayer

The blood of the sheep no longer decorates the doors of the chosen
And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where you are
As we pass the matzah and the bitter herbs
And when I see the blood, I will pass over you
And the youngest stands and recites the Ma nishtanah
And the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you
And mother passes the charoset to father and then to mother and then to father
When I smite the land of Egypt.

As evening spreads its blanket of gray across the sky
Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread
And family by family arranges itself around a table
And ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations
And hands are washed and prayers are said
I have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt.
And wine is blessed and wine is tasted and drops are spilled
And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses.

As songs rise up beyond the rooftops
I will sing unto the Lord for he hath triumphed gloriously
And voices are heard beyond the walls
But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea
No longer will pharaohs, whether old or new, keep us silent
And the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord, and his servant Moses
For now we are strong and the seder is all.

by Jerrold Karch

They opened the parchment

Continued from page B28

When they reached the grave, Herta set about to dig up the pendant she and Olga had buried four years earlier as amulets, pawns for their safe return. Following a long search, they found a wet parchment on the left side. All excited, they opened it.

Inside was the Star of David, the way Olga had parted with it. Herta's pendant was not there. No matter how long they dug, it was not to be found.

One year later, Herta and Frank married. They left Europe and settled in Australia, there they raised a daughter and a son. The girl was named Olga, in honor of the other little girl who had placed her faith in the magic powers of the Maharal.

When little Olga reached her 12th birthday, her parents gave her a special gift: the Star of David that had been destined to protect her aunt.

In spite of their wealth, Herta and Frank considered the Star of David, hidden and then retrieved from the gravesite of the Maharal their greatest asset.

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Irving and Leonard in the Back Seat of the Car

I saw the clip of Layton and Cohen, as they were, a younger man and a young man,
filmed on a Montreal winter day by the National Film Board of Canada going into the
back seat of a large black sedan,
smoking cigars and looking like they just had a steak and a drink.
Later they'd get laid,
write a poem about it and correct history.
Those were good days when there was a country that needed a film board,
and more than a few poets on the payroll.
Verse, industry and peacekeeping would steel and refine the soul of the nation and a good
part of the world.
If a poet writes, "Let there be light," there will be light.
These weren't Brando and Steiger in the back seat.
Layton and Cohen, were both contenders.

I wanted to be them.
Suzanne, or more realistically her younger sister, would also take me down to the river.
For my brother Irving, I'd resurrect the six million.

Of course, I also wanted to be Bobby "poet of the ice" Orr.

by Andrew Fainer

This Photograph

This photograph is gathering dust.
There is a Jew acknowledging his god's dominion.

Wearing tallit and tfillin
He is hunched over in his final prayer and humility.
There is a Nazi.
He laughs with the lust and vulgarity of healthy young men who do not fear retribution.
The background is lined with victims to be,
Who for the moment reflect the letting of blood of this child of the covenant.

Curse the Jew with laughter.
Kill the Jew. But curse the Jew.
The bearer of the twisted cross curses the god of the Jews,
God to this Jew.
This Jew did not die fearing evil men,
But while making his god holy.
Wipe the dust away,
reflect what laughter does not hide.

By Andrew Fainer

Let's Look At That Photograph Again

Although I never knew this brother Jew, I had assumed he was eternal because
God was Eternal and Almighty, in spite of the obvious.
I imagined him learned, pious, heroic, the declaration of God's oneness and
sovereignty on his lips, never thinking himself forsaken.
His blood sacrifice promised redemption.
I imagined myself to be that Jew, and went to learn the scripture and the
practices.

However now that some Canadian soldiers have taken their own pictures in
black Somalia, I realize the photograph was a war trophy and I'm much less
certain as to what I saw.
Having been haunted into religious impersonation, and now unlikely to join
Islam, I have to look again at that first picture.
I see now only that they were men in Nazi uniform.
They laughed while the man on his knees wrapped in phylacteries and draped in
prayer cloth waited to be murdered by them.
They were not at all unhappy to have this moment of natural supremacist glory
captured in a photograph by a brother Nazi.

Chassid, Mitnagid, Maskil, Socialist, Zionists ... Simple Jew,
Brother Jew could have been any Jew, and condemned by the Third Reich to
destruction, he could have been a part Jew, a past Jew.
The tallis and tfillin might have not been his.
Down on the ground encircled by mocking murderers and helplessly doomed
family, his eyes if opened could only look up to Heaven.
He did not pose for a picture. He was posed.

The hearty young soldiers asked no questions of the Jewish props of cloth and
leather and voice of prayer.

by Andrew Fainer

A Literary Supplement

Passover Greetings

Jerusalem Eternal

biologically orphaned
survivors of a cruel history
this phoenix of a people …

wings now dipping
in slow descent
our collective ancestral
heart beating
in tune
with our
Israel-loving-soul
home TO YERUSHALAYIM
it's really our ascent

climbing over the Carmel
as we zero in on Zion
overflying Mount Moriah
will our eyes be worthy of
her splendor?
Shall we merit to behold
and gaze and stare
to hold and claim
such emanation rare?

Last night was the eve
of joyful expectation
but today is: The morrow of the
happy perception …
"May HIS KINGDOM SOON
BE REVEALED and
BE MADE VISIBLE TO US"

Today it will come true
it shall
it will
become the Miracle
Divinely given
Reality
YERUSHALAYIM
at last
we have come
HOME AGAIN TO YOU

by Abraham F. Bloomstone

Saying No to Hollywood

Amazing. My friend Issie said no to Spielberg, no to bloody Hollywood.
The casting call went out to all with a 50-year-old tattoo.
Planned distribution is limited to holocaust museums,
but you never know – Issie is a handsome man, it could be a big break.

Maybe not.

After *Schindler's List* a lawyer informed Spielberg that Justice requires testimony free from hearsay.

So a small volunteer Jewish army have filmed interviews
with 38,000 survivors,
one person-universe at a time,
before their time runs out.
A gray Jewish head talks and a couple of younger Jewish heads listen
and roll film.
38,000 times, so far.
Roughly 26 years of 24 hours a day of film that's now being indexed
and catalogued.

Near the end of this bloody century,
the Swiss have been forced to disclose the numbers and names
of 15,000 accounts dormant since 1945.

Aged war monsters are being placed on trial for their Western citizenships.
Even the French have begun to place on trial skeletons who still have
flesh on them.
Small justice, late justice, Small justice, last justice, is still some justice.

But Issie refuses to be in the movies, even at the request of kin
much closer than
Spielberg who break bread, share his life and his house and
are touched by his soul.
They wish for him to speak and heal.

The children know only the names of his dead.
What they would do to bring them back.
But, they can only bring new life to life.

And in his arms, with the faded numbers never intentionally hidden by
long sleeves, he
cradles the children's children as if they held the light of God's presence,
And that he is in Paradise.

by Andrew Fainer

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from toppling mounts
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in fine balance
it guides my steps

by Louise Cohen

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A Cecil Roth Centenary

By RABBI SHLOMO JAKOBOVITS

More books on Jewish history have been written in the 20th century than in all previous centuries combined. And the historian who produced the most is Cecil Roth.

Roth was born March 5, 1899, in London, England. His father was a businessman who was well-versed in Jewish matters. With the help of hired tutors, he imparted to his children a thorough knowledge of Hebrew, and nurtured them in the observance of Orthodox Judaism.

By the time Cecil Roth turned 18, World War I had raged for three years, and in England every male of that age was pressed into military service. Roth was hardly the military type, but he was nevertheless drafted and sent to the battlefront in the Flanders section of Belgium – the war theatre which later became immortalized as Flanders Fields.

Throughout his army service, he kept a small Chumash in his pocket. His colleagues, Jewish and non-Jewish, looked to him for religious guidance, and sometimes also for directional guidance. During a particularly ferocious German counter-attack, the order was given to withdraw quickly. As the British column retreated along a winding road, Roth confided to his commanding officer that in his opinion, they were marching towards the enemy, perhaps to death, not away from it. His alarm was passed up the chain of command, and fortunately, the order came down to reverse direction immediately.

After the Allied victory, Roth entered Oxford University, where his field was general history, with specialization in Italian studies. He mastered the Italian language and excelled in Italian history and art. In due course, he also became fully conversant with Hebrew, Spanish, Ladino and French, and also attained a working knowledge of classical Greek and Latin. In those years, the universities did not yet recognize Yiddish as a full-fledged language; so it did not become part of his repertoire.

Roth's first scholarly article was published in 1921 when he was a second year undergraduate. Its title, *The Jews of Florence* signalled his two special fields of future interest – Jewish history and Italy – and for the moment, Italy was in the forefront.

Just one year after the appearance of this article Mussolini marched on Rome and became dictator of Italy. Jews disliked fascism, and for Roth, who so admired Italy, this was a disheartening and frightening development. However, at first, Mussolini was on the whole, a benevolent dictator. Ten years later, when the Nazis came to power in Germany, Mussolini's disdain for Hitler enhanced his standing among Jews.

So Roth continued his Italian studies. His doctoral thesis, published in 1925, was called *The Last Florentine Republic*; the work immediately earned accolades and awards in Italy and an invitation to lecture in the United States.

Roth visited Italy frequently, at times living there for an entire year. In 1930, he published his *History of the Jews in Venice*, for which the city of Venice duly honored him.

In 1934, Hitler engineered the assassination of Engelbert Dollfuss, chancellor of Austria, as a prelude to taking over Austria. Thereupon Mussolini warned Hitler that if the Nazis marched into Austria, Italy would fight them. To reinforce his threat, Mussolini assembled an army of 50,000 at the Austrian border. Hitler, not yet ready for war, backed away, and Austria was saved, for the moment. Thus it turned out that throughout those pre-war years, fascist Italy was the only power which stood up against German expansionism.

Two years later, a similar German threat was directed westward. In violation of the Versailles Treaty, Hitler threatened to march into the Rhineland, which bordered on France and Belgium. Unlike Italy in 1934, France and Britain did nothing and Germany reconquered the Rhineland without a shot.

Mussolini was appalled at this Allied weakness, and thereupon he swung to the German side. In 1938 when Austria again became the target of Germany, and then Czechoslovakia, Italy was on Germany's side. The Fascists even instituted in Italy a great deal of

Continued on page B33

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He repudiated all honors he had attained

Continued from page B32

anti-Jewish legislation adopted from Nazi Germany.

At this point, Roth spoke out. He repudiated all Italian honors he had attained over the years, cancelled his membership in Italian learned societies, and returned his Italian medals. He kept only the artifacts he himself had purchased. Among these was one item of particular interest – a set of keys which, in the Middle Ages, had belonged to the city of Florence and was used to lock and unlock the city gates. The keys had mysteriously disappeared and for centuries were thought to be lost. They suddenly turned up in 1934 on Sotheby's auction block, almost unnoticed by the major bidders. Roth gleefully bought the set, and then let it be known that he would one day present them to the mayor of Florence.

Word of all this somehow reached Winston Churchill. In 1944, after Italy had joined the Allied side against Germany, the British prime minister planned an official visit to Italy. He contacted Roth to ask whether he, Churchill, could be the bearer of these keys and present them to Florence. Roth respectfully declined, insisting the time was not yet ripe for such an act of goodwill; they were still too close to the era of Italy's collaboration with Nazi Germany. It was a rare thing for someone to say no to Churchill.

The keys remained in the Roth collection for over 45 more years, before their final presentation to Florence. During this period, they were on public display several times at the Cecil Roth Museum in Toronto.

After the war, when the Italians had disowned Mussolini, they took the initiative and returned to Roth the membership and medals he had repudiated in 1938. More Italian honors were subsequently conferred upon him, including the President's Order of Merit, the highest award in Italy.

Even during the period when Roth's focus was on Italy, he devoted substantial time to Jewish subjects. Already in his student years, he published a translation of Tisha b'Av Kinot, and this work was adopted as a textbook in certain university courses.

The topic of Marranos also interested Roth immensely throughout his career. He travelled to Spain, Portugal, Holland and other countries to pursue research in this field, and in 1931, he produced his monumental work, *A History of the Marranos*. This book revealed an abundance of hitherto unknown historical data, and it profoundly influenced future scholars. It even had an impact on the life of the writer himself. From then on, Roth became primarily a *Jewish* historian, and he henceforth directed the bulk of his energy to Jewish subjects.

At one and the same time the book manifests the details of his factual research as well as the heated emotions generated by the awe-inspiring phenomenon it relates. The cruelty of the "holy" Inquisition is incredible, and the steadfastness of the Jews against whom it was directed is even more incredible. Tens, perhaps hundreds of thousands of Jews tenaciously maintained their Judaism in secret, generation after generation, without synagogues or schools or suppliers of kosher food or Jewish books, and always at risk of torture and death upon discovery. The Jews who ultimately managed to escape, immediately established congregations in their cities of refuge – Amsterdam, Hamburg, Antwerp, London, Salonika, New York, and many more.

In the book, Roth finds instances of underground Jews in other times and other places, but he leaves no doubt that the magnitude of the marvel in Iberia has no parallel in Jewish history, nor in any other history. He published a further work on the subject in 1937, called *The Spanish Inquisition*.

Books and monographs flowed from Roth's pen in a constant stream, and many of them have been translated into several languages. One tally lists over 600 titles. And behind each printed chapter lies a wealth of painstaking research. There is hardly a page which does not reveal some hitherto unknown fact or occurrence.

Some historians concentrate on discerning trends or finding causes. Roth, though cognizant of the broader developments, focused his energy on specific names and happenings. He described himself as a detective, digging deep for the evidence, and then sorting out the many pieces to ascertain in full detail what actually had happened

Continued on page B34

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Some felt he was aloof

Continued from page B33

in each particular episode of history. When asked why he devoted himself to this laborious task, he responded, "Because it is such fun."

Roth's mastery of English was outstanding, his choice of words impeccable; however, the reader would indeed be well advised to keep a dictionary at hand, for many terms are used which are beyond the vocabulary of average individuals.

This elevated level of language was an irritant to some of the audiences before whom he lectured. There were those among his listeners who felt that he was aloof and distant, and this was reinforced by his unusual hairstyle and his eccentric mannerisms. Nevertheless, he was in high demand as a speaker, and he addressed numerous audiences throughout the lands of western civilization. His sophisticated sense of humor always added a subtle flavor to his lectures. He repeatedly complained of the low fees paid to lecturers – sometimes no fee at all, only expenses, and sometimes not even that. Once, when asked on what he would speak that evening, he responded, "On an empty stomach."

Roth's writings show an unusual degree of diversity. Some of his works cover broad topics, such as *A Short History of the Jewish People*, and *The Jewish Contribution to Civilization*. Both of these, though published during the Depression, proved to be best-sellers. Other works focus on narrower fields, such as his *History of the Jews in England*, *History of the Jews in Italy*, *History of Jewish Art*, and *Personalities and Events in Jewish History*. Still others concentrate on the history of Jews in specific cities, such as Oxford and Verona, or specific eras, such as Medieval England and the Renaissance. Several works deal with individuals or individual families. Among such titles are *Menasseh Ben Israel*, *Duke of Nazos*, *Benjamin Disraeli*, *Gracia Nasi*, *The Rothschilds*, *The Sassoons*. Some works were commissioned by specific organizations; among these are *History of the Jewish Chronicle* (of London), and *History of the Great Synagogue* (of London).

His *Jewish Book of Days* chronicles the events of the past 17 centuries according to the days of the calendar on which they occurred. Roth produced the Soncino Haggadah, was editor-in-chief of the *Standard Jewish Encyclopedia* and of the 16-volume *Encyclopedia Judaica*, and published articles in *Encyclopedia Britannica*, in *Cambridge Medieval History* and in other such multi-volume works.

Where there was intellectual controversy he waded into it enthusiastically. After the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, he wrote a historical study on the subject. From the evidence, he drew the conclusion that the writers of these scrolls were the Zealots, a militant sect who subsequently generated the disastrous rebellion against Rome. Nearly all other scholars attributed these writings to the Essenes, a totally different group, very passive and peaceful. Six years later, during the excavation of Masada, Yigal Yadin unearthed new evidence which totally vindicated Roth's position and forced his opponents to concede.

Roth records history as an impartial chronicler, in keeping with the discipline of high-level scholarship. Yet his commitment to Judaism and to belief in Divine Providence comes through repeatedly.

Most historians see the unfolding chain of human events as a series of causes and effects. Roth rejects this secular analysis. In his *History of the Jewish People*, he emphatically states that no rational explanation can suffice to account for the unique panorama of the Jewish experience. In one of the most eloquent arguments found in English literature for belief in God, Roth offers history itself as the convincing evidence. Also, he repeatedly emphasizes the role of observance as the key to Jewish survival.

With Hitler's rise to power in the 1930s the infamous blood libel of Medieval days claiming that Jews participated in ritual murders made its odious comeback. The Nazi, Julius Streicher, promulgated this slander in Germany, and echoes were then heard elsewhere. In 1759, Pope Benedict XIV had requested that a study be conducted to establish whether the blood accusation bore any validity. A cardinal was

Continued on page B35

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Document discovered 175 years later

Continued from page B34

entrusted with the task, and he prepared a detailed report. It concluded that Jews never practised ritual murder, and that the charge was pure fabrication.

That study was presented to the pope of the day, then filed away in Rome, unbeknown to the entire world. Roth discovered this document 175 years later, and his monograph on it was published in 1935. The Jewish Board of Deputies, the governing body of British Jewry, thereupon arranged for Roth to present his new work to the current pope personally, in a private audience at the Vatican.

The pope, Pius XI, was pleased to have an Englishman converse in fluent Italian, and showed intense interest. The audience lasted 40 minutes, which is exceptionally long, and at the end of it the pope pronounced a blessing in Hebrew. But Pius XI, almost 80 at that time, was already frail and inactive, and it is doubtful that he took any concrete steps.

In 1928 Roth married Irene Davis. Her background was similar to his, and they proved to be a most compatible couple. By then the Roth household had become a veritable museum. Throughout his life, Roth sought out artifacts and manuscripts, and in due course his collection achieved world fame, particularly in the fields of ketubot, menorot, and haggadot. Irene shared Cecil's enthusiasm for these objects, and was happy to share her home with them.

The size and the constant growth of this collection necessitated the purchase of a large house, and the bulk of their earnings was dedicated to this end and to constant acquisition of new finds, especially Judaica. It ultimately turned out that what had drained their resources in early life provided income to sustain Irene in her quarter-century of widowhood after Roth's death in 1970.

In 1963, most of the collection was sold, with the proviso that it remain in Roth's possession for life. Part of the collection was purchased by the Shopsowitz brothers of Toronto and donated to Congregation Beth Tzedec to establish the Cecil Roth Museum in that synagogue; and part was purchased by the family of Sir Montague Burton, one of Britain's richest Jews, who lived near Leeds, and this segment was donated to the University of Leeds.

From 1939 to 1964 Roth was a lecturer in Jewish studies at Oxford University. For that period, he moved back to the city of his student days. His home became a rendezvous for local students and visiting scholars, and he and Irene proved to be mainstays of Jewish life in Oxford.

Once he was on the university faculty, one of Roth's first acts was to institute special arrangements for observant students to take their exams on days other than Shabbat and yom tov. In his own student years, the university would not accede to any such request. Roth himself simply did not write whichever of the exams were scheduled for those particular days. Even so, he graduated with first class honors, but students who were less brilliant than he had to suffer adverse consequences.

In 1959, the Tito government invited Cecil and Irene to Yugoslavia to see the Sarajevo Haggadah, and to edit it and write a book about it. This much celebrated Haggadah had been produced in Spain about 100 years before the expulsion, and was brought to Sarajevo after the expulsion. It now reposes in the Sarajevo National Museum. When the Nazis occupied that city, the curator feared that they would confiscate it, so he hid it. A German officer indeed did come and demand to have it. The curator told him that a previous German officer had already taken it, and thus the Haggadah was saved.

Seventeen years later, as guests of the government, the Roths were accorded a royal welcome, and were shown inside the national buildings and the local synagogues. In the evening, there was a performance at the Belgrade Opera House, and to their utter astonishment, they were ushered in and seated in the presidential box. As they entered, the audience rose and applauded.

Roth later told his wife that the audience must have thought he was President Tito. To which Irene responded, "Definitely not, you don't look like him in the slightest. They applauded *you*."

Roth worked on this Haggadah for a year, and the resultant book, the *Sarajevo Haggadah*, was published in 1960.

Upon reaching retirement age in 1964, Roth left Oxford and took up residence in Jerusalem. He had been appointed editor-in-chief of the forthcoming *Encyclopedia Judaica*, an assignment that would require about six years. He also accepted a part-time appointment in history at Israel's Bar-Ilan University.

He arrived in Israel in September 1964, and a month later adversity struck. An individual with extremist views circulated a vicious personal attack on Roth's integrity as an observant Jew. He quoted from a passage in a book Roth had published 28 years earlier, in an era when Bible criticism was much in vogue. Roth repeatedly took issue with Bible critics, and in this particular passage he cited their view, as is normal in such context, and immediately proceeded to demonstrate its weakness. This agitator selected that part of the passage which cited the unacceptable view, and, omitting the main part of the passage, which reflected Roth's own position, circulated the deceptive quote and added to it his own distortions.

Unfortunately witch-hunting is a popular sport, and as in the case of the blood libel, the impact of it does not depend on whether it makes sense. Contrary to all logic, the calumny became a cause célèbre in Israel, with numerous debates in newspapers and discussion halls. Roth, accustomed to courtesy and truth, was devastated, and the experience shattered his high assessment of Israel's intellectual standards. Bar-Ilan steadfastly supported him during the ordeal, but within a month he succumbed to a massive heart attack and gave up the lectureship position.

From then on, as soon as he was able to return to work, all his energies were concentrated upon production of *Encyclopedia Judaica*. His health was failing, and he secretly realized that he was in a race against time. He ardently wanted to complete this monumental work during his lifetime. And indeed he did: the editorial task was finished in May 1970. Cecil Roth died on June 21.

The government of Israel accorded him a state funeral. Among those at the head of the procession were then-president Zalman Shazar and Menachem Begin, followed by numerous luminaries of government, the rabbinate, and academia. The first volume of *Encyclopedia Judaica* had rolled off the press the previous day.

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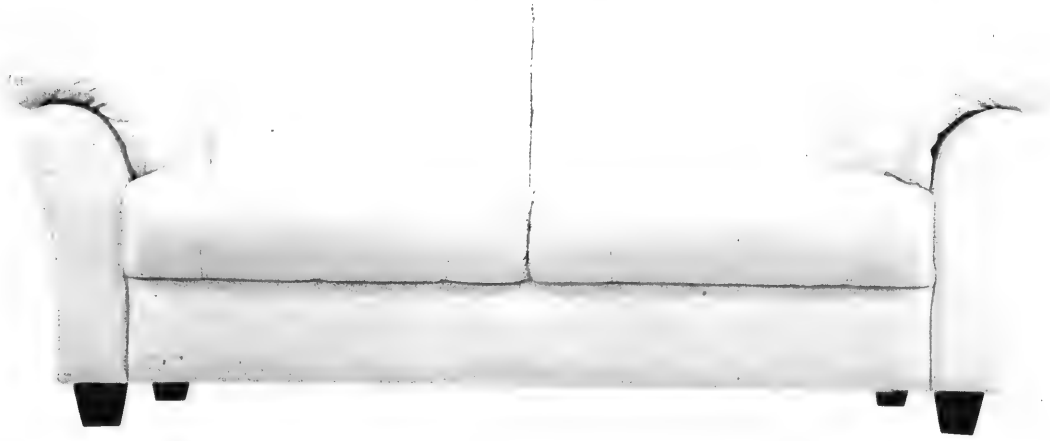

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This Week

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Holocaust museum may be derailed

Ukrainian-led effort could disrupt plans

By
DAVID LAZARUS and PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporters

TORONTO — A Toronto-based Ukrainian organization is spearheading a campaign among Canadian multicultural groups to press the federal government for a museum to commemorate genocide throughout the 20th century.

The move has prompted concern in the Jewish community that such an effort could derail efforts to establish a dedicated Holocaust museum. The proposal could also pit various ethnic communities against each other, with each vying for inclusion as a victim group at the expense of others.

John Gregorovich, chair of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, said he has pulled together about 20 organizations in a loose coalition called Canadians For A Genocide Museum (CFAGM). They have met three times since October to discuss what would go into a genocide museum and how to get political support for the project.

The majority of CFAGM's members and observer groups are European in background, including the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC), which supports a genocide museum, but there are Asian participants, Canadian First Nations and Palestine Heritage Canada (PHC). PHC's representative James Kafieh, former head of the Canadian Arab Federation, serves as secretary of Canadians For A Genocide Museum, Gregorovich said.

The group includes representatives from both the Armenian and Turkish communities. Armenians accuse the Turks of responsibility for the century's first genocide in which tens of thousands of Armenians were slaughtered.

Canadian Jewish Congress had been invited to participate in the organization, but the Jewish group never responded to the invitation, Gregorovich said.

Manuel Prutschi, national director of community relations for Congress, acknowledged the invitation but said "our clear impression was that this was an effort to dilute the national Holocaust museum project, so we didn't see any way to be productively involved."

Although no official announcement on any Holocaust museum has been made, Congress president Moshe Ronen said Prime Minister Jean Chrétien assured him during his recent visit to Poland that "an appropriate site" would be found for the Holocaust museum, which would be run under the auspices of the Museum of Civilization.

Continued on page 21

COUNTER DEMONSTRATIONS
Rabbis Slomo Brin, Michael Melchior and Yehuda Gilad [from left] outside the Yugoslav Embassy in Tel Aviv last week protesting Serb policies against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. Inset are Israelis outside the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv protesting NATO policies. *[Israel Sun and Isranet photos]*

INSIDE

On Yom Hashoah V'hagvurah we contemplate *The Legacy*.
Please see page 9.

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33 parties officially running in Israel's elections — please see page 31

The News in Brief

CANADA

Dinner Honors Foundation

VANCOUVER — This year's Jewish National Fund (JNF) Pacific region Negev Dinner will honor the Earl and Jennie Lohn Foundation, and raise money for the Ghetto Fighter's House in Israel. Over 350 guests are expected at the dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel, April 11. The Lohn Foundation has supported many Jewish and general charities in Vancouver and in Israel.

New Federation President

VANCOUVER — Robert Willmot has been named the new president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver. Willmot moved to Vancouver 10 years ago from Ottawa, where he worked for the external relations committee of the House of Commons, and later for the Canada-Israel Committee.

ISRAEL

Kosovo Aid Offered

JERUSALEM — Israel has offered humanitarian aid to refugees fleeing the fighting in Kosovo. Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon said he had appealed to the governments of Albania and Macedonia for permission to land an airplane carrying humanitarian aid.

Court Censures Minister

JERUSALEM — An Israeli court censured the labor minister for what it termed his "cynical" enforcement of a law barring work on the Sabbath. The judge said Eliyahu Yishai, a member of the Shas party, was abusing his power by selectively enforcing laws that suited his religious outlook. The judge noted that while ministry officials were actively seeking to prevent businesses from operating on the Sabbath, little or no action was being taken to enforce other laws intended to protect the well-being of workers. Yishai said he would appeal the ruling.

WORLD

U.S. Releases Funds

NEW YORK — The U.S. State Department has released $4 million to provide food, clothing and medical treatment to needy Holocaust survivors in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany will administer the aid, the first to be disbursed from the Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund, which was established last year during an international conference on Holocaust assets.

Children Must Testify

NEW YORK — A U.S. federal appeals court has ruled that an Orthodox rabbi's adult children must testify against him before a Newark grand jury in a criminal investigation believed to involve financial impropriety. The family appealed a judge's decision to force the children to testify. The family had cited Jewish law, which prevents children or parents from testifying against each other.

British Bank Implicated

LONDON — The manager of the French branch of Britain's leading commercial bank, Barclays, not only acted as the Nazis' banker during World War II but also volunteered to hand over Jewish staff members, according to documents found in the U.S. National Archives.

Poles Sue Germany

NEW YORK — A group representing some 22,000 Polish victims of the Holocaust plans to sue the German government for about $1.2 billion. The group includes former Nazi slave laborers and concentration camp prisoners. The lawsuit is expected to put more pressure on the German government, which earlier this year began overseeing an effort by 12 leading German companies to create a fund to compensate former slave workers.

Meanwhile, officials representing Polish Jews living in the United States recently met with Polish governmental officials to establish a mechanism for the restitution of private Jewish properties in Poland.

Mormons To Help

SALT LAKE CITY — An accounting firm assisting a Swiss commission in its search for Holocaust assets has turned to the Mormon Church to help identify Holocaust victims. The Mormons, who posthumously baptized more than 400,000 Jewish victims of the Holocaust, maintain extensive records of Jews.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF TORONTO

Notice of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Take notice that a meeting of *Members of the Jewish National Fund of Toronto will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 25, 1999 at ***The Vaughan Estate, Main Ballroom, 2075 Bayview Avenue, Toronto.***

Sandy Posluns *(President)*

*All contnbutors to Jewish National Fund are regarded as members.

British University Bans Jewish Authors

LONDON — A British university has banned Jewish authors from courses at its campus in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The University of Lincolnshire and Humberside has confirmed that books by Jews, as well as those that mention Jews in their bibliographies, are banned by its affiliate in the Gulf state.

In addition, the British Council, a state-run organization designed to promote British cultural achievements abroad, also conceded that it acquiesces in the censorship of works by Jews to accommodate "local political, religious or moral publishing laws."

The Board of Deputies of British Jews, the umbrella organization of British Jewry, expressed outrage and is seeking to have the matter raised in Parliament.

One Jewish official accused the university – one of the newest in Britain – and the council of "putting profits before principles."

A university official initially insisted that the school had never allowed censorship in the United Arab Emirates, but he later admitted that "there is a small amount of censorship which applies to all universities in the UAE."

Tragedy Has Struck

An extraordinary woman in our community—a 50 year old, single mother of 10 children, has tragically passed away after a serious illness.

Her modest salary as a secretary for one of our local Jewish Day Schools, allowed her to barely cover the basic family expenses, let alone the cost of expensive medical treatment and nursing care.

The children have been left with about $200k in debts and no further means of financial support. Funds are required for basic necessities such as food, clothing, housing and Jewish education.

The family desperately wants to stay together, with the older children taking on the responsibility of raising and ultimately marrying off the younger ones and themselves.

We appeal to you to support our community's efforts to establish a trust fund for these children. All cheques over $10 will receive charitable tax receipts. In the spirit of Jewish compassion and generosity at this holiday time, please open your hearts and donate generously. Thank you.

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Premier's brother poses questions for Quebec's Jews

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Gérard Bouchard, the Quebec premier's brother, had a lot of questions for the Jewish community.

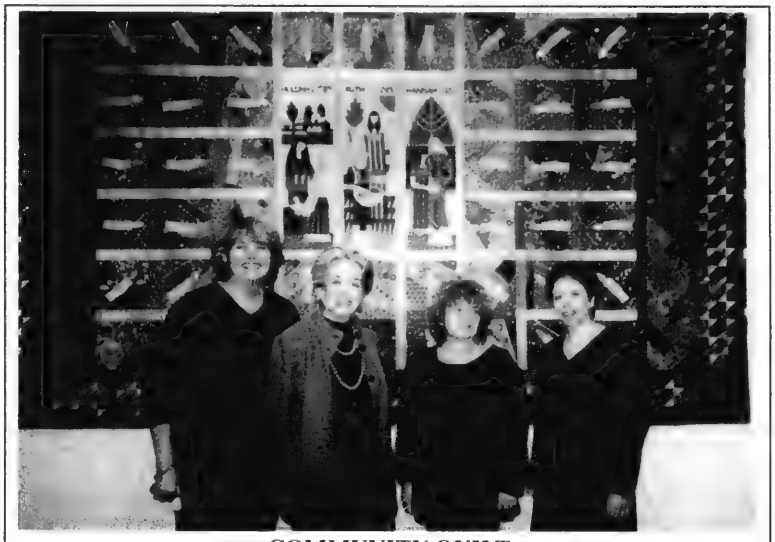
He initiated a conference for French and Jewish Quebecers because he wanted to know why, as a minority, Jews are not more sensitive to French Quebecers' fears for the survival of their culture; why they seem to focus on anti-Semitism in Quebec and not in English Canada; and why they do not have more sympathy for Quebec sovereignty when they themselves have such an attachment to Israel.

The questions, never directly answered, represented a moment of frankness during a day-long conference entitled Les Relations judéo-québécoises: identités et perceptions mutuelles, organized by the Jewish Public Library (JPL), Dialogue St. Urbain, and the Institut interuniversitaire de recherches sur les populations (IREP), headed by Bouchard at the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi.

The event, held at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, drew almost 200 people, many of them French Quebecers. While some were academics or specialists, a large proportion were from the general public, apparently attracted by interviews Bouchard and co-organizer Pierre Anctil of Dialogue St. Urbain had given to *Le Devoir* and *La Presse*.

Anctil believes the turnout reflects a growing interest among

Continued on page 25



COMMUNITY QUILT

Jewish Women's Federation exhibit community quilt at the Leah Posluns Theatre. Present for the quilt's installation in the theatre lobby were (from left) Diane Uslaner, director of cultural programming at the BJC; Dorothy Shoichet, president of Koffler Centre of the Arts; Haya Nativ, designer and project coordinator; Janis Katz, chairperson.

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From the editor's desk

Forever, eternally alive

Nisan stretches the heart. At the middle of the month, when the moon is at its fullest in the early night sky, we assemble with family and friends to recount how an ancient tyranny was vanquished.

We celebrate Pesach.

Barely one week after Pesach ends, on the 27th day of Nisan, when the moon is pale and thin, we assemble with the community to recount how a modern tyranny was vanquished.

We commemorate Yom Hashoah v'hagvurah.

The end of the ancient tyranny set the human soul soaring onto a new terrain of freedom and dignity.

The end of the modern tyranny, as we know, set the human soul, seared by horrific suffering, also onto a "new terrain," but one previously unimagined and unimaginable, of state-organized genocide.

We are obliged to remember and to recount for all generations, the ending of both tyrannies.

Helping us to remember the vanquishing of the modern tyranny are an increasing number of personal "recountings" made suddenly more urgent by the passage of more than 50 years since the end of World War II.

In this column, I shall draw readers' attention to four such "recountings" that have recently come across my desk.

With the passing of the years and the passing of the survivors, so too are passing the direct, first-hand, living memories of the Shoah.

It is our duty, therefore, as Jews and as civilized and civilizing human beings to ensure that those memories, when no longer living, remain forever and eternally alive.

The purpose of this column is to take some more steps along the path of fulfilling that duty.

It is of course, deeply true that no written matter, poetry or prose, can communicate or express to someone who was not there, the experience and horrors that were, effectively, incommunicable and inexpressible.

But how else, other than with our writings and our stories, can one generation speak to the next and hope to preserve for it the memories that were formed in the generations that came before?

* * *

Sometimes it is easier to read about the Shoah for shorter, but more concentrated periods of time than it is for longer, more prolonged ones. Sometimes poetry enables one to more readily read about the Shoah.

Beyond Lament: Poets of the World Bearing Witness to the Holocaust, edited by Marguerite M. Striar, Northwestern University Press, 1998, is a powerful, compelling anthology of nearly 300 new and previously published poems. It offers beautifully styled, touching poems from a number of internationally renowned poets. Among the poets included in the collection are Canadians Shel Krakofsky, former *CJN* columnist, and Seymour Mayne.

A new and stirring work by the "next" generation, the children of the survivors, is *The River Midnight* by Lilian Nattel, Knopf Canada, 1998.

With the same literary and emotional force achieved by Anne Michaels' *Fugitive Pieces*, a few years ago, Nattel has crafted a tour de force. Widely reviewed and widely acclaimed, *The River Midnight* brings to life aspects and evocations of the eastern European shtetl world that was destroyed.

Like Michaels', Nattel's work is all the more moving because it is the affirmation and testament of the child to her parents.

More traditional testaments are those of the survivors to their children. Some survivors are so determined to record their memories and memoirs, they find a way to publish them themselves.

Two such survivors recently sent their memoirs to *The CJN*.

Morris Bitterman, the retired ritual director of the Beth Tikvah Synagogue in Toronto, born in Kroscienko, Poland, has written *Amcha: The Remembrance of a Holocaust Survivor*. The Hebrew word amcha, meaning your people, was the code word spoken between survivors after the war to assist in identifying fellow Jews. The book is a narrative that carries the reader from Bitterman's childhood in Poland, through the war, to Israel and to Canada.

Stanley Hochman, retired businessman in Toronto, born in Demblin, Poland, has written *Personal Memoirs World War II*. Hochman is a talented poet. His memoirs are more of a pastiche, a collection of different essays and poems in English and Polish, than a narrative of the past.

Both Bitterman and Hochman are writing for the record and for their children. As Bitterman writes in his introduction, "This book is written so that we might know and remember [the millions of others who did not survive]. This story is not primarily about courage or luck or any personal attributes. It is about the constant presence of evil and its place in the world. We must forever oppose it. *We must never forget.*" (Original emphasis)

One hopes that the proliferation of testamentary and other kinds of "recountings" means that rather than the "memory" of the Shoah fading over time, it is becoming ever more entrenched in the Jewish and western cultural/historical/educational/literary psyche.

MBD

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LOST BUT NOT FOUND

These two archival photos were left in a store in Toronto. They were sent to the offices of *The CJN* by Jake Anhang in the hope that if we would publish them they might be seen by the person who inadvertently left them behind. Please call Ruth Goldsmith at *The CJN*.

Greater Toronto Area

Filer honored with lifetime achievement award

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Justice Sam Filer was honored recently with a special human rights award for lifetime achievement, presented by the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada at a luncheon held at the Sheraton Centre during the League's international symposium on Hate on the Internet.

Filer, who has amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a rapidly deteriorating neuromuscular condition, is paralyzed and unable to speak without mechanical assistance.

That has not prevented him however, from continuing to work from the Bench.

Secretary of State for International Financial Institutions Jim Peterson helped to pay tribute to his personal friend.

Peterson said that the special chapter of the Talmud, Ethics of our Fathers, "amounts to a virtual catalogue of Sam's values.

"Do not separate yourself from the community; and in a place where no leader can be found, be that leader, " Peterson quoted, referring to his friend.

Peterson noted some of Filer's many achievements: He was co-founder of the Canadian Committee of Lawyers and Jurists for Soviet Jewry, a national leader in the Soviet Jewry movement, chair of both the national Civil Liberties Section of the Canadian Bar Association and its Ontario branch; and a member of the national executive of Canadian Jewish Congress.

"He played a strong leadership role in human rights in the community and nationally – always a gentleman, gracious and prepared to give the benefit of doubt – never judgmental except from the Bench."

Reminding the audience that "hate is not just a Jewish issue, but one that goes to the very heart of what constitutes a civilized nation," Peterson said Filer worked to combat hate in all its forms, including Holocaust denial, anti-Semitism, the Arab economic boycott, and all issues affecting or demeaning any single group or person.

Peterson thanked Filer, saying, "From each of us I say to you: You have made a difference/ to what we have done/ the values we hold/ in the good that lives on."

Dr. Lawrence Hart, president of B'nai Brith Canada, described Filer as an extraordinary human being. "You are a role model for all of us to strive to do better in both our personal and private lives."

Reading from a message from Rabbi Gunther Plaut who was unable to attend, Rabbi Dow Marmur said the tribute to Filer "is a recognition of the outstanding communal service that marked the life of not only Sam, but [his wife] Toni as well."

He gave special praise to Filer's colleagues in the judiciary, "who have made it possible for him to continue his work and strengthen his lease on life."

Patrick LeSage, chief justice of the Ontario court's General Division, also praised Filer's wife, Toni Silberman, saying, "Toni, you deserve and are entitled to share in the honor being bestowed on Sam today."

LeSage spoke of Filer's early days in Saskatchewan: "Sam is a representative of Saskatchewan's greatest export – that is talent," he said.

Filer was appointed to the District Court of Ontario in 1984. Three and-a-half years later he was diagnosed with ALS.

LeSage emphasized that the disease does not affect intellectual functioning, vision or hearing. "Sam is as astute, aware, knowledgeable, bright and wise today as he was yesterday, as he was a year ago, as he was 12 years ago prior to his diagnosis."

Marvin Kurz, national co-chair of the League for Human Rights, Harriet Morris, who chaired the tribute luncheon, and Hart presented the award. The citation recognizes "your outstanding professional accomplishments and your unfailing commitment and contributions to the advancement of human rights and social justice locally, nationally and internationally."

Silberman spoke on her husband's behalf from a speech he had prepared. Thanking those who paid tribute to him, Filer said, "Knowing the calibre of the previous recipients, knowing how their efforts and achievements, individually and collectively, have irreversibly altered the course of human rights in our society and have changed the way we treat one another, is the source of my humility."

Filer commended his colleagues on the Bench and in the legal profession. "That I continue to work as a judge is a testament to the courage of the judiciary in regarding me in terms of what I can do, rather than what I can't – and [to those] who recognize that though my means of access to the seat of justice is restricted, it does not necessarily impair my ability to administer it."

He said the cornerstones of human rights – freedom, justice and peace, fairness and equality – are founded on the concepts of human worth, mutual respect and the sanctity of human life, the full range of ordinary, everyday activities in the lives of ordinary human beings.

Silberman concluded with a personal message, using the Yiddish expression, "bis 120 – may you live to 120." She noted that their daughter Jaimie was heard to say about the award, "Lifetime achievement? But Daddy's only 63. It should be an award for half a lifetime achievement!"

Silberman said it was a point well taken, adding, "We – the children and I – with the help of God and the continuing support, love, friendship and encouragement of our family and friends, will continue to do everything in our power to ensure that Sam delivers on the remaining 57 years."

Others participating in the tribute luncheon included Ontario Chief Justice Roy McMurtry; Frank Dimant, executive vice-president of B'nai Brith Canada; and Rochelle Wilner, co-chair with Kurz of the International Symposium on Hate on the Internet.

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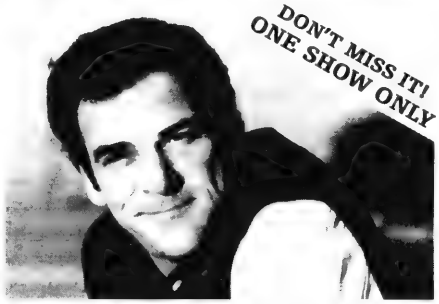

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Harnick says he won't run again

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Ontario Attorney General Charles Harnick, one of three Jewish MPPs, announced last week that he won't seek re-election in the next provincial vote.

Harnick, 48, who has represented the substantially Jewish riding of Willowdale since 1990 and is the only Jewish member of the Tory government, said he's stepping down "to pursue other professional opportunities" and to spend more time with his family.

A lawyer, Harnick has been visible on the Jewish scene. He is active within Canadian Jewish Congress and the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem.

He barely won his riding the first time. But in 1995, he trounced his Liberal opponent, former Canadian Jewish Congress president Les Scheininger, by more than 9,000 votes, and was appointed attorney general and minister responsible for native affairs.

In a statement released to the media last week, Harnick said his decision was not made lightly. He paid tribute to Premier Mike Harris and said he would "do everything possible to assist the re-election of his government and the election of my successor as Progressive Conservative candidate in Willowdale."

He also touted his achievements: restructuring Ontario's Legal Aid Plan; reducing the backlog of criminal court cases; introducing the Victim's Bill of Rights and the Office for Victims of Crime; establishing specialized Domestic Violence courts; and creating the Family Responsibility Office to ensure that spouses meet their financial obligations to their partners and children.

Charles Harnick

In some circles, Harnick won plaudits for a program that puts some first-time young offenders before a community justice panel rather than a court.

It was Harnick who bore the brunt of the government's about-face on compensation for the three surviving Dionne quintuplets.

Moments after Harnick stated he won't run again, David Young, a former vice-chair of the North York Board of Education, announced he will seek the Tory nomination in Willowdale.

Young, 42, spent six years as a trustee of the board. He is also active in the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem. He and his family are members of B'nai Brith and Beth Radom Congregation.

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POETRY CONTEST

Middle school students of United Synagogue Day School entered the Royal Canadian Legion Poetry Contest. Two winners were from the Richmond Hill campus. Seen above are Carrie Groskopf, grade 6, and Jaclyn Cepler, grade 8, receiving certificates from Bill Renwick, a representative of the Legion. A special honor goes to Cepler who placed third in the entire zone.

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Greater Toronto Area

Lubavitch conference draws over 1,000 women

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Spreading the message of Lubavitch and Jewish practice is a family affair, often made possible by shlichim or emissaries, according to Goldie Plotkin, rebbitzen of Chabad Lubavitch of Markham.

Many of the outreach activities we have seen here include mitzvah mobiles, the sukkah at City Hall, and information booths about kosher shopping and Jewish festivals at major supermarkets.

Plotkin was banquet chair at the International Lubavitch Women Emissaries Conference, held recently at the Lubavitch World Headquarters in New York.

Over 1,000 women attended, she said, from throughout the United States and Canada, and from such far-flung locations as the former Soviet Union, Thailand, China, Congo, Japan, and Uruguay.

They spent a weekend learning Torah, taking part in workshops on such subjects as professional development, time management, how to teach the laws of family purity, and how to found and develop day camps, mikvot and preschools.

The experience, she said, was "like giving water after Yom Kippur. It was [a gathering] with people that understand you, that know what it is like to struggle with raising kids in places where there are very few, if any, other religious kids."

One of the most impressive parts of the conference, she said, was the baby room, where 250 babies were cared for by a rotating series of babysitters. Each mother was issued a beeper that went off when her baby needed her.

At the same time, the emissaries' daughters, between the ages of nine and 12, held their own convention, where they had the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas and experiences with other youngsters.

Children part of work

There is also an annual convention for male shlichim and their sons.

Plotkin stressed that emmisaries involve their whole family in their work. Both parents teach, establish institutions and programs, and work to bring people closer to observance.

The children, even at a very young age, are taught that they, too, are a part of the work. They help host Shabbat and holiday meals, and understand that their parents are out a good deal of the time, and that they must "share" their parents with an endless stream of guests and demands.

It is difficult, Plotkin said, for the wife, who has to perform her responsibilities as a shlichah, to run a household and care for her family.

"We have to always be at our best," she explained – "the way we look, our clothes, and our house that always has to be clean, because there is always someone dropping in."

Lubavitch youngsters often start out by working at summer camps and going to small communities to help out wherever they are needed.

For those young men and women who want to be shlichim, an involvement in these activities becomes an essential element of "the checklist" of characteristics sought for in a partner.

A special office established for couples who want to become shlichim "makes a shidduch," Plotkin explained, between what the couple wants to do and what openings are available. For instance, one couple might like to work for an established Chabad community, while another might want to start a new one.

Each family is almost completely on its own financially – Lubavitch headquarters does not pay salaries, housing costs, or travel expenses.

Rebbitzen Goldie Plotkin of Chabad Lubavitch of Markham chaired the closing banquet of the 11th International Lubavitch Women Emissaries Conference in New York.

The late Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, encouraged his followers to go to different communities to bring Yiddishkeit to Jews who perhaps had never had exposure to it. For the shlichim, it is a source of pride and duty to carry out this wish.

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Dry Bones
THE PITIFUL TV FOOTAGE OF AFRICAN REFUGEES FLEEING TRIBAL GENOCIDE...
ARE FINALLY OFF OF OUR TELEVISION SCREENS
THEY'VE BEEN REPLACED BY PITIFUL SCENES OF EUROPEAN REFUGEES...

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Shoah

The difficulty in commemorating the Shoah is not the lack of testimony. It is, rather, the lack of comprehension. No matter how hard we try, no matter how firm the resolve, the individual human mind cannot grasp the singular, horrifying detail of the evil perpetrated by the Nazis and their collaborators: six million.

We therefore seek associative devices and cognitive aids to help us try to grasp that detail.

Someone once suggested the following: If we were to set aside merely one minute of our time for each of the six million – surely one minute for each life is not too long an embrace of time – perhaps holding a pleasant thought, reading a poem, or casting an admiring glance at a work of art, we would have to set aside 12 years to complete the task.

If we were to set aside merely one hour of our time for each of the six million – is one hour too much to ask for a human life? – perhaps reading a story to a child, going for a walk with a friend, or planting a row of flowers, we would have to set aside 702 years to complete the task.

If we were to set aside merely one day of our time for each of the six million – how unreasonable, after all, is one day when set against one life? – perhaps volunteering in a hospital, fasting, or meditating, we would have to set aside 16,854 years to complete the task.

No matter how hard we try, no matter how firm the resolve, the individual human mind cannot grasp the singular, horrifying detail of the evil perpetrated by the Nazis and their collaborators.

V'gvurah

But there are details that the mind can indeed grasp: for example, the resistance and the heroism of the oppressed against their oppressors. At every age, in every situation, in camps, villages, cities, fields and forests, there was resistance. Much of it has been chronicled; much of it has not.

For the resistance of which we know and for the resistance of which we will never know, let us sing the chorus of the anthem composed by Hirsh Glick that has come to symbolize the details that our minds do indeed grasp.

Never say that there is only death for you,
Though leaden skies may be concealing days of blue,
Because the hour we have hungered for is near,
As we march, the earth shall tremble: We are here!

Kosovo

Yom Hashoah v'hagvurah is the commemoration of the attempted genocide of an entire people, the uniquely Jewish disaster that we call the Holocaust. But in the history of mankind, the attempted genocide of an entire people has not been uniquely directed at the Jews. Alas, as these words are being written, the world is witness to the brutalization, if not yet the genocide, of the ethnic Albanian people of Kosovo. Singled out for expulsion and slaughter, more than a third of the entire people are now stateless and homeless, much like the remnant of the Jews after World War II. Many experts fear that within three weeks, all of the ethnic Albanians will have been expelled from Kosovo.

This is an offence to conscience, to history, to every value we Canadians hold dear. We therefore urge all Canadians to support the government and the actions taken by NATO, even if those actions are doomed ultimately to fail.

WISDOM OF THE AGES
"Speak to the children of Israel to tell them these are the animals that you may eat from among the creatures that are on the earth." (Parshat Shmini)

Ultra-Orthodox deserve no special rights

As if the government of the State of Israel does not have enough on its plate in trying to achieve peace with the Palestinians, the Syrians and the Lebanese, we now have the festering problem between the ultra-Orthodox on one hand and the Conservative and Reform Jews on the other. The Supreme Court of Israel charged with the responsibility of enforcing the rule of law has tried to mediate and modify the demands of the ultra-Orthodox consistent with its position as the final arbiter in a secular state. The frightening call for a civil war is heard from certain ultra-Orthodox quarters.

While Israel describes itself as a Jewish state, it is still first and foremost committed to upholding democratic principles. That includes the rights and obligations of all Jews, as well as Christian and Muslim citizens. Once democratic ideals are compromised and abrogated, then Israel becomes no better than its totalitarian and dictatorial Arab neighbors.

No one is denying the ultra-Orthodox the right to practise their faith as they see fit, but it cannot be at the expense of the rights of other citizens of Israel. Their position and influence in the Israeli Government should be proportionate to their votes, and not be used as a bartering chip to compromise the rights and freedoms of other Israelis.

In Canada and in the United States, and indeed in all other democratic countries, the ultra-Orthodox enjoy religious freedom at the same level as all free men and women, and their status in Israel should be no more and no less. To do otherwise, would threaten the rule of law and that would lead to the destruction of Israel more predictably than through wars with its neighbors.

Bert Raphael
Chairman
Canadian Lawyers & Jurists for World Jewry

A question on school funding for Liberal leader

On Dec. 17, you reported that provincial Liberal leader Dalton McGuinty indicated to the executive of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, that he "has no ideological opposition to ensuring public funds support Jewish day schools."

Yet, in a speech to the Ontario Liberal party provincial council in Kingston, Ont., on Oct. 16, McGuinty had this to say on education funding: "We're fighting for publicly funded, publicly delivered education... We're against voucher programs. We're against charter schools."

In light of this, I would like to issue an open invitation to McGuinty to kindly explain to the Canadian Jewish community how he would fund Jewish day schools.

Jesse Michaels
Toronto

'Just a Second' good place to donate clothing

Recently a good friend whose husband had died, asked me to find out if there was anyplace to donate good used clothing in the Jewish community in Toronto. I called Jewish Family and Child Services and was pleased to learn that they run a store called Just a Second at 4117 Bathurst St. at York Downs, Monday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Their clients and clients of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Service are able to shop at the store free of charge when they bring a letter identifying them.

Elaine Givertz
Toronto

Now there are two Internet cafes in Jerusalem

Re: "Night Life in Jerusalem" (*CJN*, Mar. 11). It was refreshing to read an additional perspective on Israel's beautiful capital city.

There is one piece of information I would like to correct. The article mentioned Cafe Strudel as being the only Internet and e-mail cafe in Jerusalem. This lovely cave-like cafe happens to be owned by a cousin of mine. However, as of May 1998, there is another Internet cafe at 9 Heleni Hamalka called The Net Cafe. This is also a very lovely cafe with entertainment, a book exchange, and even computer and e-mail lessons. This new cafe happens to be owned by a cousin of my husband.

Batya Eisen
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Perspectives

Legacy

By ELI HONIG

I have an early and hazy recollection of seeing my uncle and aunt when they came to visit me following my circumcision. I was 4 years old. I had been born in occupied France and subsequently hidden. My mother later told me that it was my uncle who had searched for a mohel in postwar Paris. I remember my bris and I remember my uncle.

I remember, years later in Montreal, sitting next to my uncle in shul, when he turned to me and said, "I don't know when I should tell Lipa." Lipa was his son, my first cousin.

I asked him, "Tell him what?"

He replied that he had been married before the war and had had a son, Shlomo. Both wife and son perished in the Shoah. I was shaken by his revelation to me. All I had known was that he had married my mother's sister after the war.

Isaac Gabel Roth, a survivor of nine concentration camps, was born in Czeszanow, Poland, in 1909. I only have sparse knowledge of his early life because he never spoke of it, not to me at least.

What I do have, is the cherished legacy of an uncle trying to share some of his wartime experiences with his nephew. For some reason he confided in me, even baring his soul on occasion. Perhaps it was because I had lost my father in Auschwitz, and he felt it his duty to take his place in some manner. Perhaps it was because my cousin Lipa was still too young to understand.

On another occasion, he told me of the time when he was with a large work party in a labor camp. An SS officer approached him and ordered him to sing. When he hesitated, the officer started to shout. My uncle asked him what he should sing and the reply was just to sing. And so he started to sing in a small voice:

Zol shoin zyne der geulah
Zol shoin zyne der geulah
Moshiach zol shoin kumen
Let the redemption come soon
Let the redemption come soon
The Messiah should come soon

The lone voice was slowly joined by others until the combined voices reached a crescendo – the tormented momentarily outwitting their tormentors. Their cry for deliverance rose from the abyss of despair.

Years later, I read of a similar incident recorded by Moshe Prager in his book, *Sparks of Glory*. The niggun, the melody, was familiar to me in my youth. I rarely hear it now, but whenever I think of it, the song and the story reverberate in my mind.

My uncle also recounted to me how he had managed to steal a bit of flour from the camp kitchen so that he might make some matzot for Pesach. He was baking them in a field when a German guard caught him. It was late in the war, and by this time the guards themselves were hungry. Miraculously, the guard accepted some matzah and let him go.

And I ask myself: What drove my uncle and others like him, to defy all human odds – to even contemplate such a venture. My mind reels.

I don't remember how old I was when I was sitting next to my uncle in shul and his face suddenly turned pale. He started to tremble. He pointed and said to me, "See that man over there? He was a kapo in our camp." My uncle's face portrayed sheer torture as he wrestled with himself. He wanted to scream to the highest heavens, to denounce the man on earth. And yet he also saw a broken Jew, who himself must have seen indescribable things before he became a kapo – a Jew who was trying somehow to redeem himself. I saw an impossible mixture of hatred and compassion, but my uncle kept his peace. And the scene still haunts me.

For a number of years after his wartime experiences and the loss of his first family, my uncle questioned, and for a time, lost his faith. He slowly regained it, perhaps as he built a new family and had another child.

May 27, 1987, marked shloshim, 30 days after my uncle's passing. I was in shul with my cousin, and at the end of morning services, I took notice of the old and large tallit that Lipa was folding. I must have been staring because he remarked to me that it had belonged to his father, and then he asked me if I knew the story. I didn't, and he proceeded to tell me.

It was 1946, in an open air market in Katowice, an industrial city in the south of Poland, an hour or two from Auschwitz. Isaac was out shopping when he saw a cart laden with vegetables. What really caught his eye, was the tallit that was protruding from under the produce. As recognition set in, he knew that he could not leave it where it was – he had to redeem it. He started bargaining with the vendor, explaining to him that he needed a bedsheet like the one lining the bottom of the cart. Finally, he succeeded in buying it.

> *'What really caught his eye, was the tallit...'*

Upon returning home, he examined the tallit, and to his horror he saw that it had blood stains on it. He was faced with a mindnumbing dilemma. How could he possibly wear this tallit, knowing all too well the fate its owner must have suffered? And how could this tallit, hallowed through the agony of its owner, not be worn?

He eventually settled on the only solution that he could live with – and this too must have tormented him. For as long as he lived, while both questioning and affirming his faith, Isaac Gabel Roth wore this tallit on three days each year – on the Days of Awe, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. And I marvel and I cry to this day. From what depths does the courage and faith of such a simple Jew come?

Yehay Zichro Baruch.

May his memory be for a blessing.

Original transport documents of Isaac Gabel Roth.

Opinions

An officer and a gentleman

In a month in which the Israeli Supreme Court was attacked for its continued activism, a recent ruling set a new standard for conduct in the military and civilian spheres.

Shira Herzog in Toronto

In what will be known as the Galilee Decision, the court, in its capacity as the High Court of Justice, overruled the decisions of the chief of staff and minister of defence to promote Brigadier-General Nir Galilee. In so doing, the court ruled for the appellant, a woman who served as Galilee's secretary during her military service several years ago and who claimed that he has used his position to coerce her to engage in sexual relations.

Galilee had been reprimanded at the time, but the current chief of staff, Shaul Mofaz, as well as his predecessor, Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, claimed that Galilee's credentials for the new position outweighed the moral considerations.

Like the American and Canadian armies, the Israel Defence Force (IDF) has a strict code against sexual harassment. In fact, as of last year, any sexual relations between an officer and a soldier under his or her command, are considered coercive. But as the recent debate in Canada has demonstrated, the code remains theoretical in the face of rampant harassment.

The recent court ruling in Israel is the most public airing of the issue ever held, and given the seniority of the court, the most significant.

The case resulted in an intense debate. Those who saw it as yet another intervention of the High Court in the decision-making process in the army ignored the long history of such interventions. If in the distant past, the court was prepared to accept "security considerations" at face value without a challenge, in recent years it has overruled the chief of staff and the prime minister on more than one occasion when security was used as the motivation for a controversial action. This is, however, the first ruling to challenge the chief of staff on appointments in the IDF.

The court's ruling has not yet been published in full, and its reasons have yet to be made public. But in effect, the court has stated that the conventional, narrow view of security considerations and military qualifications as sufficient grounds for promotion is inappropriate. The ruling serves as a clarion call to the IDF, saying that it has to catch up with the changed norms of Israeli civil society.

The ruling has been described as a watershed on more than one level. For women in the army, it is an important step along the road to greater responsibility and a more egalitarian standing. This is a far cry from the old, popular saying, "The good (guys) to the air force, and the good (women) to the pilots."

Predictably, there has been a sharp increase in complaints of sexual harassment since the Galilee case went to court. In a society in which the seniority of men in the military has given them an advantage in civilian positions as well, these changing norms are significant.

To understand its larger implications, the Galilee case has to be seen in the context of a broader debate on security in Israeli society. In a recently published book, *Security Concerns*, several authors argue that security is a far more complex concept than the straightforward measurement of the objective strength of the IDF. In the IDF itself, there is far more discussion today on military and political questions. On the issue of withdrawal from southern Lebanon for example, there is a diversity of opinions within the army. And most of the former generals who have gone into politics accept the establishment of a Palestinian state.

But on other issues, such as the position of the senior command, the IDF remains conservative and resistant to change. In the matter of Galilee's promotion, the chief of staff argued that he was indispensable, in spite of his violation of the code on sexual conduct. The court has ruled unequivocally that other, ethical, "civil" considerations are no less important than Galilee's military qualifications.

In this sense, the ruling has poured new meaning into the principle of civilian authority over the military. Dr. Yoram Peri, who has followed the relationship between the military and the civilian echelons for decades, describes Galilee as "one more important step in the changing nature of Israel from a mobilized society to a civil society".

The court made it clear that the chain of command stops not with the chief of staff, or even the minister of defence or prime minister, but with the judiciary as it reflects the values of Israeli society. As a senior military commentator said, "even a commander has a commander."

NATO bombings set a precedent

As of this writing, the bombing of Serb positions in Kosovo, and in Yugoslavia generally, has begun. It is difficult for me to articulate a position on the merits of the NATO initiative against the Serbs without the intrusion of Jewish/Canadian memories and concerns.

Morton Weinfeld in Montreal

The Serbs are today associated with the concept of ethnic cleansing, and with brutalities directed against Croats, Bosnians, and now Albanians in Kosovo. They – or more precisely, their leaders and some army units — are justly reviled for their brutal atrocities, including mass murder, mass rape and burning and looting of homes. NATO in all likelihood should have acted sooner.

But the issue has shades of gray; it is far from black and white. During World War II, the Serbs, like the Jews, were victims of the Nazi puppet regime in Croatia. It was the Ustasha Croatians who systematically murdered Jews, Serbs and Gypsies, in camps, on the streets and in the countryside.

But that was then. Now concerns for contemporary *realpolitik* and morality must be considered in apportioning blame. The Serbs in Yugoslavia draw their support largely from Russia – where instability and looming anti-Semitism threaten. And there is the indisputable evidence of the horrors of their ethnic cleansing, which would seem to require an immediate and harsh response. Many supporters of the raids, from Clinton on down, invoke the "lessons of the Holocaust."

What, if anything, can be said on behalf of the Yugoslav Serbs? To claim that others have also been guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity, notably the Croats, does not excuse them. Not for a minute. But some commentators, like A.M. Rosenthal of the *New York Times*, have pointed out two things:

First, the world is awash with dictators and thugs who oppress groups within their own territory, without drawing such a heavy response. Think of Turkey's treatment of Kurds, Chinese of Tibetans, Indonesians of East Timorese, Sudanese of its black population in the south. The tough defence of human rights on behalf of the Kosovar Albanians is selective. As Rosenthal put it, Clinton "may lose men and women in Kosovo, but was not willing to lose any trade with China." The Balkans are in Europe, and the victims are white Europeans. While the Allies can tolerate brutality elsewhere, they apparently draw the line in Europe after the experience of two world wars.

Second, there are many civil war situations in which force has been used, is being used, or may be required to put down rebellions or independence movements. Lincoln used force to defeat Southern secession. Canadian authorities used force to quash the rebellions of 1837-38, as well as Louis Riel's efforts to create a Métis homeland in the west.

As of this writing it seems likely that the European Union will issue a pronouncement strongly supportive of Palestinian independence. Suppose Yasser Arafat does issue a unilateral declaration of independence on May 4, or soon after, accompanied by an explosion of violence by both terrorist and Palestinian forces directed at Israel. Israel might well respond with force. Should Israel then be the target of NATO air strikes?

Seeming to promote Kosovar independence is a risky policy, in terms of European stability. The Balkans are full of restless national minorities. Some early cracks in NATO unity may reflect this realization. And what if the Basques, Corsicans, Catalans, Scots, and yes – Québécois – decide to declare unilateral independence from their "masters" aided with escalations of terrorist violence to drive home the point? Would they too have NATO's tacit blessing?

The air strikes at Yugoslav military targets have clearly set a precedent, quite dissimilar from the Desert Storm operation against Iraq. Iraq invaded a sovereign state; Kosovo is clearly a province. NATO rightly decided that enough is enough. The challenge for the west is to defend weak minorities while at the same time not opening up the floodgates of political instability and a new tribalism.

The hidden homeless

Exposing social problems in our society is never much fun, but reading about it is easier than holding the short stick on fortune.

It is no accident that the seder celebration begins, in effect, with an invitation to the homeless – or at least to those who have no opportunity to observe the holiday with food and drink. The reader holds up a piece of matzah and says *ha lachma anya*, Behold the bread of poverty! The door stands open for those unable to celebrate the festival. In that sense, Pesach is the perfect time to remind ourselves of the bitter reality of homelessness.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

The report by Anne Golden about homelessness did much to raise everyone's awareness of the problem. Her report stressed that a "typical" homeless person was no longer alcoholic, adult or male. Youth and families with children are now the fastest-growing groups in the homeless and at risk populations. These families accounted for 46 percent of the people using hostels in Toronto. In Toronto, where homelessness is a social disgrace, more than 1,000 people are on the waiting list for affordable housing. Holy Blossom Temple has been the pioneering synagogue by accommodating some 17 homeless people once a week for dinner, and a large portion of them for sleeping in the synagogue premises overnight.

Why is affordable housing so scarce? The Golden report says that the withdrawal of support by both the federal and provincial governments accounts for the absence of new social housing programs. Domestic violence, physical and sexual abuse, and the alienation of individuals from family and friends, have increased the incidence of this social scourge.

A family on social assistance spends about $200 of the "basic allowance" to maintain its housing. This leaves between $250 and $350 a month, depending on family size, for all other needs. Families find this situation extremely difficult. Any unexpected expense can easily lead to rental arrears and eventually to eviction.

Contrary to public impression, the homeless population is quite heterogeneous. There are men, women and children; there are young, middle aged and older people. Contrary to public impression, the city of Toronto is not alone responsible for the problem; surrounding communities contribute to it. Nearly 50 percent of shelter users in Toronto come from outside the city.

But any figures that we read about are, in fact, too low, for they do not take into consideration the "hidden homeless." These are people who have a place to sleep. But they crowd in with families and friends, so that there are uncounted instances where five or more persons of all ages live in a single room or other insufficient accommodation. They are not seen in the streets, but they are deprived, physically and emotionally, as if they had no place where to rest at night.

They make the obvious problem even greater and its solution more urgent. We have to become accustomed to surrendering a part of our income to provide a human framework for families that deserve better in our otherwise affluent society. The opening words of the Haggadah, cited above, are a cogent reminder of this need.

The Kirshner File

Diaries record torments of Nazi era

Victor Klemperer, a German Jew from Dresden, kept diaries about everyday life in Nazi Germany, never intending to publish them. However, in 1995, they were published in Germany to great acclaim, possibly because Klemperer's honesty and directness disarmed readers. The English edition, covering the years 1933-1941, is now in print under the title of *I Will Bear Witness* (Random House).

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

A professor of Romance languages and literature at Dresden Technical University, Klemperer was born in 1881 in Landsberg on the Warthe, the youngest child of a Reform rabbi. Following the example of his two brothers, he converted to Christianity. In 1906, he married Eva Schlemmer, a musician from a Protestant family. The couple were childless.

Klemperer's diaries, a window into a country seduced by a racist and imperialist ideology, are an unmitigated chronicle of despair and disillusionment. He records the harsh injustices Jews had to endure. He frets about his job. He complains about his increasing isolation. He embraces his Germanness but ruefully acknowledges his status as a reviled outsider.

Throughout his ordeal, he copes with depression. "It is shocking how day after day naked acts of violence, breaches of the law (and) barbaric opinions appear quite undisguised as official decree," he writes in 1933.

The anti-Semitic edicts he records come thick and fast through 1934. In Breslau, Jewish lawyers are forbidden to enter the courts. In Munich, Jewish professors have been prevented from setting foot in the university. "I feel shame more than fear, shame for Germany." And, in a revealing aside, he adds: "I have truly always felt like a German."

The atmosphere grows gloomier. "No one breathes freely anymore," he observes. "For us personally, everything is also heading for catastrophe." Klemperer refuses to think about tomorrow, and he rejects Palestine as a possible haven. "Anyone who goes there exchanges nationalism and narrowness for nationalism and narrowness."

In 1935, his faculty curtly dismisses him. But it takes him a year to draw an appropriate conclusion. "...the Jewish dream of being German had been a dream after all," he concedes. "That is the most bitter truth for me."

Swallowing yet another indignity, Klemperer discovers that, as a non-Aryan, he is no longer welcome at the reading room of the library. As 1936 peters out, he speaks of his impoverishment, financial woes and isolation from society. Midway through 1937, the last tatters of his illusions fall away. "I believe ever more strongly that Hitler really does embody the soul of the German people..."

New torments face him. He loses his driving licence in 1938. He and his wife are forced to move into a communal home for Jews in 1940. In 1941, when Germany makes it impossible for Jews to emigrate legally, he learns that he must wear the degrading yellow star armband.

Shafts of goodness pierce the darkness. A student turns up with rations they have been denied by the state. Consoling Klemperer after an anti-Semitic incident in which he has been branded as a "yid" by a bunch of unruly youths, an elderly porter assures him, "We're all human beings."

As *I Will Bear Witness* draws to a close, Klemperer expresses shock about the deportations of Jews to Poland. "They have to leave almost literally naked and penniless," he laments. And in the penultimate pages, he cites the passage of decrees which forbid Jews to use public telephones and impose further curfews on them.

In volume two of *I Will Bear Witness*, which will be published later this year, Klemperer takes his harrowing story up to 1945, when Dresden was pulverized by a massive Allied bombing raid. One supposes that it, too, will be mournful – yet instructive – in nature.

Troubling issue explored by historian

Anti-Semitism is an old story, but in Germany racist stereotypes evolved into a popular ideology of such lethal force that it culminated in genocide. Daniel Goldhagen, in *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust*, has elaborated upon this phenomenon. In *Ideology and Death: Why the Holocaust Happened in Germany* (Ivan R. Dee), John Weiss, a Catholic professor of history at Lehman College, cogently explores this troubling issue at greater length.

Weiss' thesis is that upper-class reactionaries, middle-class nationalists and lower-class populists used anti-Semitism as a weapon against the growing influence of democratic liberalism and economic modernization long before the Nazis demonized Jews. Lest he be accused of racism himself, Weiss wisely adds that about half of all Germans, mainly, but not solely progressives and leftists, categorically rejected racist violence.

Weiss begins with an analysis of the Christian foundations of genocidal anti-Semitism. Martin Luther's attacks against Jews were vile, but they were accompanied by a torrent of pamphlets issued by like-minded theologians. And, he points out, respected 19th century Lutheran clerics sought to reverse the civil rights Bismarck had granted Jews when Germany was unified.

In Weiss' view, the widespread dissemination of racist-tinged novels and political works – Gustav Freytag's *Debit and Credit* (1855) and Theodore Fritsch's *The Handbook of Anti-Semitism* (1896), to name but two – also fanned the flames of Judeophobia.

The rise of populist anti-Semitism, as exemplified by Wilhelm Marr's Anti-Semitic League in 1879, was definitely a factor in the consolidation of a new and virulent strain of bigotry defined by *racial* prejudice. The volkist movement, which Weiss claims had no real equivalent in other Western nations, was a form of racialist anti-Semitism which predated Nazism. Conventional anti-Semites were content to end Jewish civil rights, but volkists demanded that Jews be isolated or destroyed.

As Weiss suggests, volkist ideas permeated the German royal court. When Theodor Herzl asked the Kaiser, Wilhelm II, to use his influence with the Ottoman sultan to create a Jewish state in Palestine, he wrote on the petition how happy he would be to rid Germany of all "Yids." Wilhelm, too, promised to cleanse the army and government of Jews, and often spoke of the coming racial war pitting Aryans against Jews.

Weiss contends that the key to Hitler's accession to power was his ability to connect the welter of anti-Semitic myths to the practical dilemmas of millions of Germans. He argues that it was anti-Semitism that enabled the National Socialists to unite Germans from all segments of society but the left.

He notes that the Holocaust was "not simply a consequence" of World War II, since the destruction of the Jews was a Nazi war aim. But here we must be extremely careful. It is highly debatable whether the Nazis' eliminationist brand of anti-Semitism would have materialized had the war not broken out. Prior to 1941, Hitler's policy of choice, his fire-breathing threats notwithstanding, was to render Jews second-class citizens and drive them out of Germany.

Even Hitler's conservative opponents in the resistance were not immune to anti-Semitism. Some, such as Carl Goerdeler, the former mayor of Leipzig, believed that Jews were too visibly prominent during the Weimar Republic. Anti-Semitism was indeed deeply embedded in Germany, and *Ideology and Death* expounds on this theme.

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WEDNESDAY	8:30 - 9:30 pm	***Talmud Pesachim*** (Continuing...) with Rabbi Shulman

JEWISH THOUGHT & PRACTICE

MONDAY	7:30 - 8:30 pm	***Contemporary Issues in Medical Ethics*** (April 19 & 26, May 3 & 10) with Rabbi Sacknovitz — ***NEW***
	7:30 - 9:00 pm	***Is the Hebrew Calendar Y2K Compliant? Unlocking the Secrets of the Hebrew Calendar*** (May 31 to June 28) with Rabbi Shulman — ***NEW***
TUESDAY	8:30 - 9:30 pm	***Secrets of the Shema*** (May 4, 11 & 18) with Rabbi Diamond — ***NEW***
	7:30 - 8:30 pm	***A Tapestry of Customs - The Minhagim*** (April 13, May 4 & 11) with Chazzan Motzen
WEDNESDAY	7:00 - 8:15 pm	***Spiritual Journeys: 13 Principles of Faith*** (Continuing...) with Rabbi Shulman
SHABBAT	8:00 - 8:45 am	***Shabbat Shiurim*** (April 24, May 1, 8 & 29, June 5 & 19)
	9:30 am - Noon	***Pray and Learn*** with Dr. Elliott Malamet
	Prior to Mincha	***Parshat Hashavua*** with Rabbi Shulman

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7:30 p.m. Prayer Service, Brief Address and Commemorative Candle Lighting Ceremony

8:00 p.m. "The Long Way Home" followed by a question and answer period and open discussion facilitated by Gerry Ziedenberg

Non-Members Welcome Free Admission
Donations to Holocaust Education Programs will be accepted.

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

Explaining evil

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

Over the years, on the occasions that I have witnessed people pulled into the discussion vortex of "why bad things happen to good people," I have frequently been reminded of a comment made by Immanuel Kant.

He wrote that often, the way people try and simplistically defend God's ways is more scandalous than the question of innocent suffering in the first place.

And so the sophisticated educator may feel like Sisyphus in trying to ascend theodicy's mountain. Because for many Jewish children, the torments of the righteous are the black hole whither the commanding God also disappears, losing His moral right to dictate terms on any level.

Yet it is a very serious theological necessity to maintain that God is good; indeed the whole foundation of religious belief may hinge on that claim.

Clearly, there are times when arguments in theory just do not address living reality. Rabbi Irving Greenberg once expressed the problem of putting hypothesis before actuality: "No statement, theological or otherwise, should be made that would not be credible in the presence of the burning children."

Though Rabbi Greenberg's assertion is a very needed corrective to the confidence of those who might see in Hitler God's instrument of punishment, it too has troubling implications. The statement would place the traditional justification of God's actions on trial before a jury of innocent sufferers.

But can any idea withstand the emotion-charged atmosphere of such a courtroom? If conventional theodicy cannot survive in a forum such as Auschwitz, is it because traditional explanations are wrong, or because to argue them in front of burning children would be the height of callous insensitivity?

Torments of the righteous

Even more troubling is that the Holocaust has become, perhaps inevitably, but no less perversely for all that, the "feel good" story of our age. Recent films and works of literature regarding the Shoah have, one can't help but notice, evinced adjectives such as "beautiful," "provocative," "inspirational."

But gas chambers are not inspirational, and surviving the death camps is not the historical equivalent of the locker room pep talk at half time. How many novels, movies, conferences, courses, fundraisers, art exhibits – how many before the Holocaust has become just another cultural artifact, stripped of its ability to shock, void of its capacity to silence?

The dilemma has its subtleties as well. While it is easy to point a finger at more commercialized renderings of suffering – best captured in the repugnant and yet brutally accurate pun, "there's no business like Shoah business," the hyping of the Holocaust extends to the scholarly domain as well.

The recent controversy concerning Daniel Goldhagen's book, *Hitler's Willing Executioners*, is not simply academic squabbling over the book's thesis, which universalizes the ordinary German's complicity. It also reflects a certain uneasiness about the Holocaust scholar as media star and charismatic lecturer, commanding high fees and entrancing audiences worldwide (though this too, is nothing new, except perhaps for its scale).

And yet should not such research and subsequent debates reach a large audience? Is the popularity of Holocaust studies the beginning of its ethical dubiousness or evidence of the thirst for its educational relevance?

Students must recognize that we can't simply think our way out of the problem. Evil doesn't become fathomable just because we apply some philosophical categories or historical perspectives to try and explain it. Because when human beings try to "explain evil," the next temptation is to "understand." And that which can be understood can be forgiven.

Holiday fun 'n games

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The seders are over, but there are still a few days left before the kids go back to school. So here are some sites on the Jewish Highway that will entertain, challenge and even educate vacationing children (and adults too). Please note, that some of these sites require Java friendly browsers such as Netscape 4.5 **[http://home.netscape.com/download/index.html]** or Internet Explorer 4.5 **[http://www.microsoft.com/windows/ie/download/]**.

I particularly liked the Zigzag Jewish game site **[http://www.zigzagworld.com/games.htm]**. AlefBetGo challenges you to a Hebrew alphabet game. (It's much harder than it sounds.)

A Picnic with Friends isn't actually a game but a way to learn some Hebrew words while you create a picture. You are shown a country scene and if you click on the Hebrew word "nemala" you can drag an ant into the picture. You can do more Hebrew learning and decorating in Around the House **[http://www.zigzagworld.com/ah/ah.html]**.

Is there a budding artist in the family? The Pirchei site has several large coloring books on Jewish themes such as ones on Birkat Hamazon and Pirkei Avot **[http://www.pirchei.co.il/pictoral]** while Shema Yisrael's coloring books focus on Jewish Holidays **[http://www.shemayisrael.co.il/eishes_chayil/private/yomtov/coloring.htm]**.

The Melton Research Centre uses a game to teach one of the Rambam's most famous and important lessons: The Eight Levels of Tzedakah **[http://www.jtsa.edu/melton/tzedakah/ladder/game/]**. Roots and Me will quiz you about the Jewish calendar **[http://www.rootsandme.org.il/just.html]** or challenge you to learn more about the Jewish history of your corner of the world **[http://www.rootsandme.org.il/home.html]**.

At the Jewish Fun Page, you try to figure out some jumbled Jewish words and some (groaner) jokes **[http://www.geocities.com/Enchanted Forest/Dell/4430/jewishfunpage.htm]**.

(Question: Which burn longer, Shabbat candles or yom tov candles? Answer: None, they both burn shorter.)

If you want more games, puzzles and stories, try the Jewish Children's Web site Guide **[http://www. geocities.com/Heartland/Plains/7613/]** and Children's Judaica **[http://members.tripod.com/~ProudMommy/torah.html]**.

One of my favorite sites is Rafi Stern's Fun Trail **[http://members.tripod.com/~rafistern/puzzle.html]**. You can play the Aleph-Bet memory game (similar to the TV game show *Concentration*) or create a ridiculous poem with the Random Poetry Generator.

Remember those hand-held puzzles in which you try to rearrange the tiles to create a picture, or put the alphabet in order? That game has gone high-tech and now you can do the same virtual puzzle right on your screen **[http://members.tripod.com/~rafistern/puzzleboard.html]**.

Well, don't just sit there. Get clicking!

***

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at [mdm@inforamp.net].

Jewish quotations

***Two Jews, Three Opinions.* A Collection of Twentieth-Century American Jewish Quotations, edited by S. Brawarsky and D. Mark (Penguin, $34.99).**

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Books
Bernard Baskin

It is the inspiration of two New York City women, voracious readers who culled material from hundreds of books, newspapers, magazines, speeches, sermons and letters. What resulted was a cornucopia of 3,000 quotations, such as those that follow:

• I think the two greatest contributions of Judaism to the world are the values of justice and compassion ... the quest to balance these values has been the overarching theme of Jewish life. And what I find especially impressive is that justice is not the natural human condition. Power is. Revenge is much more natural than justice. – Alan M. Dershowitz, law professor.

• There is no commandment to hate the enemy in any Jewish source I have ever read or heard of. Christian polemics frequently make Jewish "justice" into "vengeance." When in 1961 the most horrendous criminal ever to be tried by a Jewish court was brought for trial to Jerusalem, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation featured a nationwide television program. It was entitled: *The Eichman Trial – Justice or Vengeance?* – Emil L. Fackenheim, professor of philosophy.

• My grandfather was born in Jerusalem, my father was born in Yugoslavia, my mother in Bulgaria. I was born in Greece, my wife in Germany, my son in Israel, and my daughter in America. This is what it is to be a Jew. – Unnamed man at a gathering of Holocaust survivors from Greece.

• You've got to be very close to God, you have to know Him very well to blaspheme Him. Only a deeply religious person can despise God, shake his fist at God and abuse Him. A blaspheming Jew is a believing Jew. And the camps were composed of these Jews in great numbers ... being an atheist in the camp was no easy thing. – Holocaust survivor who worked on clearance of the gas chamber.

• After Auschwitz belief in God may be difficult, but belief in man is impossible. – Dennis Prager.

• Wherever I may die, let me be buried not among the rich and famous but among plain Jewish people, the workers, the common folk, so that my tombstone may honor the simple graves around me, and the simple graves honor mine. ... The best monument for me will be if my books are read. – Shalom Aleichem, from his Ethical Will to his Family.

• A religious person doesn't "believe" in God, he has faith in God. One's relation to God is existential, not rational ... Pure reason will never get you beyond pure reason. But the more you pray, the more likely you are to have faith. That is why children are taught to pray, rather than being instructed in "proofs" of God's existence." – Irving Kristol, social critic, editor, and publisher.

• With a broad hint that the "Era of Moshiach" is upon us, the Lubavitch advertisers invite us to jump on the bandwagon, and "Be part of it!" Both religion and politics are trivialized by this manipulation of hope. Jews have maintained their disciplined religious civilization too long through too much painful history for it to be degraded by such cheapened rhetoric. – Ruth R. Wisse, professor of Yiddish and comparative literature.

• Who could have believed back in June 1967 that 30 years later Jews would be verbally and physically accosting each other over the right to pray by the Western Wall? – Joseph, R. Rackman, attorney and columnist.

• Without human participation, God remains incomplete, unrealized. It is up to us to actualize the divine potential in the world. God needs us. – Daniel C. Matt.

• I came into the world as a Jew and I want to leave it as a Jew. – Felix Frankfurter, justice of the United States Supreme Court; quoted by a former law clerk who said Kaddish at his funeral.

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BLANEY McMURTRY STAPELLS FRIEDMAN
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

Guest Voices

Real justice denied

By GREGG RICKMAN

If there was a lesson the world should have learned from the experiences of Switzerland over the past three years, that would be to think before one talks. Yet, in forgetting the recent past, the German chancellor has condemned himself to repeat it.

In announcing government backing for a humanitarian compensation fund backed by 12 German companies, to ostensibly settle slave labor lawsuits against them in U.S. courts, Gerhard Schröder declared one of the goals of the initiative was to "establish a basis to confront complaints, in particular class actions in the United States, and to destabilize campaigns against the reputation of our country and its economy."

Weak in his commitment to justice, Schröder has committed the same error Swiss officials did when confronted with similar claims against Switzerland seeking compensation for Swiss financial collaboration with the Nazis.

One would have thought that after three years of searing and unceasing attacks on Switzerland and its banks, the heirs to the perpetrators of the Holocaust would have learned a thing or two. Instead of reacting with emotion and disdain, one should act with reticence. Instead of appearing as stubbornly legalistic misers wishing to hold onto ill-gotten gain, one should act with generosity and repentance. Unfortunately, the Germans chose to conduct their game plan using the Swiss play book. They chose wrong.

Just as Swiss officials repeatedly hurt their own cause, they hurt the survivors' as well. Equally, Chancellor Schröder's ill-tempered and poorly chosen words do more harm than good for the cause he ostensibly espouses, namely justice for survivors. His words evoke dark visions of a conspiracy against Germany.

Germany's reputation and honor are at stake, if one is to believe the chancellor. Adolf Hitler also proclaimed Germany to be the target of a campaign and an effort to deprive the state of its rightful place in the world.

Schröder has committed a sin with these words. His sin is neither against the claimants nor the lawyers who represent them, but against history and memory. For a German chancellor, 50 years after the end of World War II, to declare Germany to be the target of a "campaign," is an unjustifiable act only giving credence to Hitler's twisted visions.

Are we to assume Schröder's words were simply ill-chosen? Were that true, he should have already realized the mistake and apologized. Unfortunately, he has not done so.

Following the recent Swiss example of statecraft is hardly a wise choice. If Schröder wishes to do so, then implicit with this choice is the treatment this ill-suited diplomacy deserves. Just as Switzerland was treated like an outcast around the world because of its abhorrent behavior, these remarks might well encourage those seeking retribution against Germany to pursue similar measures.

Germany has a special place in history for the evil it espoused and the genocide it carried out. If Schröder wishes to end the century reminding the world that Germany has not learned from the mistakes of the not so distant past, then so be it.

If however, he wishes to show the world there is indeed a new Germany, he should repudiate these horrible words and get on with the business of providing real and meaningful justice to the slave laborers who live their lives 50 years after the war, still uncompensated, and haunted by the Holocaust and their mistreatment at the hands of German companies complicit with the Nazis.

Gregg Rickman was the legislative director for United States Senator Alfonse D'Amato.

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Torah ark dedicated at home for the aged

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO – More than 50 residents and family members attended the dedication of an ark at the Shalom Congregation, located at Castleview Wychwood Towers, the largest facility run by Toronto Homes for the Aged.

The non-sectarian chapel at Castleview Wychwood becomes a Jewish synagogue during times of Jewish worship – Shabbat morning services, all major Jewish holidays and special events.

Rabbi Ronald Weiss, director of Chaplaincy Services for the Jewish Family and Child Service (JF&CS), led the dedication service with lay leaders, Lori and Ernie Gershon.

Rabbi Weiss spoke of the importance of having a Jewish facility available to Jewish residents and their families.

The oak carved ark, which looks like tablets of law, was crafted by professional cabinet maker Bruce Hodge in honor of his mother who was at Castleview Wychwood. The ark, donated by resident Goldie Shore's family, is adorned by fabric-art hangings. They were donated by the families of Alex Chernick and Molly and Morris Grover, in their memory.

Mounted on Plexiglas, the vibrant-colored fabric art, painted silk decorated with embroidery and beading, depicts scenes of what the Hebrews saw as they entered the land of Canaan.

The ner tamid is an abstract sun and contains the word zachor, which means remember. The wall hangings depict the seven agricultural species of Israel mentioned in the Torah.

Ernie Gershon noted that Jewish residents from two floors were unable to attend as those floors were closed for safety reasons. He thanked the residents' families, noting that it is "families' own participation that keeps the congregation vital."

The Shabbat service leaders who were recognized included, Paula Warren, Diane Saxxe, Janet and Israel Horowitz, Ron Weisfeld, the Gershons, and Bill Kelly, who was also cited for his extraordinary service at Castleview Wychwood. Kelly was recently honored as the Ontario volunteer of the year.

The Bloor Jewish Community Centre and chaplaincy at JF&CS assist the congregation for the holidays.

Cabinet maker Bruce Hodge (left) and textile artist Haya Native are seen at the dedication of the ark at Shalom Congregation at Castleview Wychwood Towers. [Cynthia Gasner photo]

MINYANIM IN THE GTA
WEEK OF APRIL 9-15/'99

Synagogue	Address & Tel.	Fri. Night	Shabbat	Sun. A.M.	Daily A.M.	Daily P.M.
Agudath Israel/Anshei Kielce (O)	2941 Bathurst St. (416) 256-4470	7:35 PM	8:45 AM	8:00 AM	7:00 & 7:40 AM	7:45 PM
Beth Avraham Yoseph (O)	613 Clark Ave. W. (905) 886-3810	7:35 PM	8:45 AM	7:00, 8:00 & 8:45 AM	6:45 & 7:30 AM	7:45 PM
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda (C)	100 Elder St. (416) 633-3838	7:00 PM	8:45 AM	7:30 & 8:30 AM	7:30 & 8:15 AM	7:50 PM
Beth Tikvah (C)	3080 Bayview Ave. (416) 221-3433	6:00 PM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	7:15 AM	7:30 PM
Holy Blossom (R)	1950 Bathurst St. (416) 789-3291	6:00 PM	10:30 AM	9:00 AM	----------	6:00 PM
Shaar Shalom (C)	2 Simonston Blvd. (905) 889-4975	7:00 PM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	7:00 AM	7:00 PM
Shaarei Shomayim (O)	470 Glencairn Ave. (416) 789-3213	7:45 PM	9:00 AM	7:30 AM	7:30 AM	7:45 PM
Shaarei Tefillah (O)	3600 Bathurst St. (416) 787-1631	7:45 PM	8:45 AM	8:30 AM	6:30 & 7:30 AM	7:45 PM

This is not a comprehensive listing of the synagogues in the Greater Toronto area. The information is provided by the Vaad Harabonim of Toronto and the Toronto Board of Rabbis. The Vaad and the Board will periodically revise the listings. For statutory holidays, please call the Synagogue for any changes in times.

Greater Toronto Area

Programming expands for Russian community

By MILA KLETSKY
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — This city's Russian Jewish community is expanding rapidly.

In order to make it easier for the immigrants to integrate into their new country and into the Jewish community, a number of events have been arranged. Recently, a Judaic studies seminar for Russian speaking immigrants was organized by Congregation Ma'on Noam and Ameinu, an association of parents and teachers at Beth Jacob school. It was held at Congregation B'nai Torah.

The seminar was the brainchild of Rabbi Hirsch Rabiski of Congregation Ma'on Noam, who also leads Judaic studies and Hebrew classes. It was run by Russian and Canadian volunteers, some of whom are students of Rabbi Rabiski. Seminar topics included Kabballah, Passover, the mystery of female/ male relationships, and kosher food. Speakers included Prof. Alexandr Poltorak and his wife Leah, from Monsey, N.Y., and Rabbi Rabiski.

The seminar attracted more than 100 people, some of them atheists who were skeptical about how Judaism could help people cope with their daily lives.

Rabbi Rabiski said, however, that "it is sometimes easier to reconvince some atheists because they are at least believers in something, [rather] than people who have no faith at all in anything in the world."

The Poltorak family came to Judaism through their study of physics. The search for the source of life in the universe, said Poltorak, and extensive research and lots of doubts and problems, "in the end brought us to God."

The Poltoraks met Rabbi Rabiski in Italy 17 years ago, and they credit him with helping them understand Judaism.

itzhak Troyb, who attended the seminar with his wife Lilly and their three children, said he is convinced that learning about experiences such as those of the Poltoraks can be helpful to Russian Jews. He and his wife had a similar experience, he said, and so did many other Russian Jews.

Others who still are in search of the meaning of life would keep their minds open and trust what they hear because people such as Poltorak speak the same language in the wide sense of the word, and are well aware of what the audience will accept and how to explain the unclear topics, Troyb said.

Another seminar participant, who was visiting from Israel, said that such events help people open their minds and souls to the spiritual life initially given to the Jews.

The seminar included babysitting, children's activities, and lunch. Among the discussion leaders were Chaia Fleisher and Irena Petrini.

Organizers knew the day was a success, because before people left, they asked the date of the next event.

Sunnybrook holds seder for veterans

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — One of the largest institutional seders in Canada was held on March 29, at the Jewish Chapel at Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Science Centre.

The seder for Jewish veterans was attended by 175 people, many of them relatives and friends of the veterans.

"It was held on a Monday instead of the regular seder days to allow relatives and friends to attend this and their own family seders," said Michael Earle, an officer of the chapel.

Attended by 175 people

The seder was led by Rabbi Barry Schneider of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, who is spiritual adviser and chaplain to Sunnybrook Jewish Chapel. Also active in the seder arrangements was Reverend Bob Hunt, coordinator of pastoral services at the hospital.

Among those attending were Ralph Snow, chapel president; David Smuschowitz, vice-president; and Leslie Dan, chair of the Leslie and Judy Dan Foundation.

The Sunnybrook Jewish Chapel is the first synagogue to be built in a hospital in North America.

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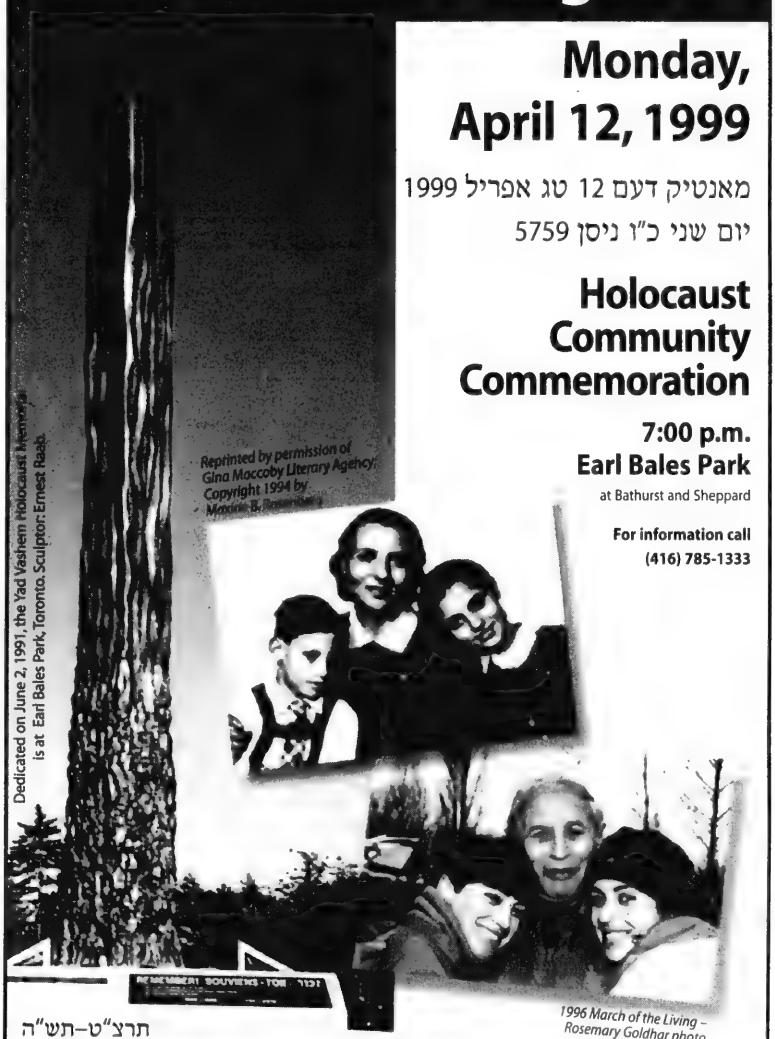
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Dedicated on June 2, 1991, the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial is at Earl Bales Park, Toronto. Sculptor: Ernest Raab.
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1996 March of the Living – Rosemary Goldhar photo

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Generation to Generation

Jewish seniors plan singles group for peers

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A local widow and widower say the community offers no organized programs for Jewish singles aged 55 to 70, so they're hoping to start something on their own.

"This age group is just not represented," bemoans Olga Verrall, 62, who's been a widow for seven years. "There are a lot of lonely people out there."

Verrall and Newton Markus, a 67-year-old widower, are hoping to start a Jewish social group, preferably led by a volunteer, for older people who are divorced, whose spouses have died, or have never married.

Verrall says she has approached synagogues and community facilities with the idea, but has been turned down. "I can't understand why the Jewish community has not been more helpful or understanding," she says.

There's no shortage of Jewish singles and dating services out there, but the singles groups are for younger people, "and we don't want a dating service," Verrall says.

'Don't want a dating service'

As for existing clubs and groups for older people, "the idea is to play cards or go on outings to casinos. That's not my idea of entertainment. We're looking for something on a higher level."

A group called Widows or Widowers (WOW), which runs some programs, didn't appeal to Verrall and her friends because she felt it focused too much on coping with loss.

She and Markus stress they're not seeking community dollars, but rather, interested people, and perhaps for a synagogue to donate space for a monthly meeting.

Singles in this age group have unique needs, they add. Many are still coping with the death of their spouse, or with divorce later in their marriages. "I have many friends, but they are all married," Verrall says. "And our children have their own lives. It's a real problem."

She and Markus have already assembled a core group of 12 to 15 people who go out to dinner, but they say they need at least 40 people to do the kind of programming they want, such as cruises and long walks.

They're certain there are hundreds of Jewish singles in Toronto between 55 and 70.

Those interested may contact Verrall at 736-6776.

מזל טוב Mazel Tov

We cannot guarantee the date a picture will appear. Please limit all greetings to 25 typewritten words. We reserve the right to edit all items and condense any that are longer than that.

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to *The CJN*, Mazel Tov, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, Ont., M3B 3K4.

Mazel tov to Marlie Erin Kuchinsky who celebrated her bat mitzvah on Nov. 14.

Mazel tov to Hayley Citron on your bat mitzvah celebrated in Israel Dec. 21. Love always, Mom, Dad and Sara.

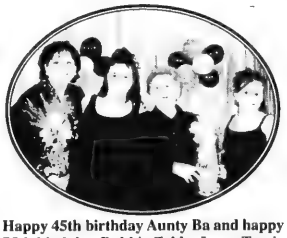
Happy fifth birthday to Yona Sara and ninth birthday to Miriam Malka. We love you dearly, Bubbie & Zayde from Toronto.

Happy sixth birthday to Sarah Kahn, with love from your parents, sisters and brothers and bubbies and zaydes.

Mazel tov to Irwin & Sandra Durbach on their 30th wedding anniversary. With love, Nadine & Raoul, Tanya & Shlomo, and Susie.

Julie Stein & David Zamler are planning an October wedding. Parents are Gitta & Thomas Stein and Hana & Harvey Zamler; grandparents, Magda & Francisk Frank.

Carnation & Julio Suarez, Hana & Harvey Zamler announce the engagement of Catherine Suarez to Aaron Zamler, who are planning an August wedding.



Happy 45th birthday Aunty Ba and happy 75th birthday Bubbie Zelda. Love, Tracie & Marlie Kuchinsky.

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Yiddish language of pre-war Warsaw Jews explored

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A Warsaw University professor expressed regret that no serious effort is being made to preserve the record of the Yiddish language as it was spoken by Warsaw Jews before the Holocaust.

"I made my first tapings of Yiddish as it was spoken in Warsaw before the war 17 years ago, but now it is getting harder and harder to find such people because they are dying off," said Dr. Ewa Geller, associate professor of German and Yiddish, at a well-attended meeting at Holy Blossom Temple sponsored by the Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation.

The Yiddish language is the only aspect of Jewish culture in Warsaw that is not being properly commemorated, she said.

The failure to preserve Yiddish as it was spoken deprives 330,000 Warsaw Jews of legitimacy, Geller said, adding that the melody of the language is now "alien" to Jews in Poland born after the Holocaust.

In 1943, she said, Warsaw was a multilingual city, with one out of every four speakers using Yiddish, making it the second most used language.

"Yiddish was in every corner of the Jewish quarter, especially in the noisy markets. There are not enough survivors to protect the memory of those who died."

However, a new Yiddish language is emerging in Poland as a result of academic research and summer school classes attended by non-Jews, she said.

The Yiddish spoken in Warsaw before the Holocaust was more than a dialect, successfully incorporating the dialects of Jews from other parts of eastern Europe, but it was not used by the upper classes of Jews who tended to speak German or Polish, she contended. Her research shows that Yiddish was used by the working classes in Warsaw.

"Warsaw Yiddish never succeeded as the major courier of Yiddish culture," she said, blaming this to some extent on the negative views of Warsaw culture expressed by writers like the Singer brothers who settled in New York.

Her contention that the Yiddish spoken by Warsaw Jews was a "vernacular, sloppy and with broad pronunciation," which never penetrated popular Polish culture, was challenged in the discussion period by Aaron Fainer, a Warsaw survivor.

Asked if she had ever investigated whether Yiddish continuity could be traced through the Yeshivot then existing in Poland, Geller said that as a woman, she was not allowed to enter the Yeshivot to pursue this research.

Although essentially negative about the future of Yiddish as an every day language, during the discussion period, Geller agreed with Gerry Kane, a former president of Friends of Yiddish, that it is necessary to support Yiddish studies at the University of Toronto and York University.

"The same support that is being put into rabbinic studies is not being put into Yiddish," Kane said.

Piotr Wrobel, professor of Polish history at the University of Toronto, chaired the meeting.

Jail for white supremacist, as court reverses decision

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The Ontario Court of Appeal has reversed a conditional sentence that was imposed on a white supremacist, and instead sent him to jail for 12 months.

The Appeal Court ruled that Ontario Court (Provincial Division) judge Mary Hogan erred last April when she ignored the danger Quinn McFarlane posed to the community, and when she did not solicit the Crown's views on a conditional sentence.

"In our view, this unprovoked assault committed by an offender who has exhibited a history of violence, clearly calls for denunciation," the Appeal Court ruled.

In imposing the jail sentence, the court noted that McFarlane had a lengthy criminal record, including eight assault convictions. At the time of the attack in question, McFarlane was on probation after he had served time for assault with a weapon.

In June 1998, after receiving the conditional discharge, McFarlane was sentenced to 18 months in jail for an earlier racist assault on a black man as well as on the two arresting police officers.

Two years ago, McFarlane was one of a handful of demonstrators outside a Toronto motel protesting the presence in Canada of Roma (Gypsy) refugees.

'Assault unprovoked'

The incident that led to McFarlane's latest period of incarceration occurred outside the court at 361 University Ave. in downtown Toronto. McFarlane viciously slugged a reporter going to the aid of a television cameraman that McFarlane was assaulting. The cameraman was filming a skinhead who was on trial for yet another offence.

"His assault of the victim was unprovoked and was unwarranted," the court found.

Evidence at McFarlane's trial showed he had been associated "with groups espousing white supremacist views and which advocate group violence as part of their identity," the court stated.

Bernie Farber, executive director of Canadian Jewish Congress' Ontario region, testified at McFarlane's trial about white supremacist groups. He was stunned when Hogan, as part of McFarlane's sentence, ordered him to receive counselling from Farber.

"It took me by surprise. It was nothing that I had offered," Farber said.

At the time, he agreed to talk to McFarlane if he felt the white supremacist was sincere in changing his ways.

But, since the conditional sentence was imposed in April 1998, Farber hasn't heard from McFarlane. "I don't think it was a serious consideration by him," he said.

"I thought the original sentence was wholly inadequate, given his record and his association with white supremacist groups," he added.

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פון אָסקאַר אַנטעל (וויניפּעג)

איך, צוזאַמען מיט מיינע זין און אַ קוזין, האָבן אונטערגענומען אַ רייזע קיין אוקראַינע און פּוילן, וואו מיר האָבן באַזוכט די לענדער פון אונדזער אָפּשטאַם, און געזען מיט אונדזערע אייגענע אויגן די רעזולטאַטן פון דער פולשטענדיקער פאַרניכטונג פון די גרויסע צענטערן פון יידישן לעבן און שאַפן.

אונדזער ערשטער אָפּשטעל איז געווען אין וואַרשע, וואָס מיר האָבן אויך באַזוכט אויפן וועג צוריק אַהיים. עס איז געווען פאַר אונדז אַן עמאָציאָנעלע און היסטאָרישע איבערלעבונג צו גיין איבער די גאַסן, וואו עס האָט אַמאָל פּולסירט אַ רייך און שעפּע-ריש יידיש לעבן און איז איצט כמעט אינגאַנצן יידן־ריין. מיר האָבן באַזוכט די וואַרשעווער געטאָ, דעם אומשלאַג־פּלאַץ פון וואַנען עס זיינען געשיקט געוואָרן צענדליקער טויזנטער יידן צו זייער טויט, און דעם מאָנומענט געווידמעט די העלדישע קעמפערס פון דער געטאָ. איצט זיינען כמעט נישטאָ מער קיין יידן אין גאַנצן געגנט.

אין וואַרשע האָבן מיר זיך באַזאָרגט מיט אַן אויטאָ און אַן איבערזעצער און זיך געלאָזן אין וועג אַריין קיין לוואָוו (לעמבערג). אויפן וועג זיינען מיר בייגעפאָרן אַזעלכע באַקאַנטע שטעט און שטעטלעך ווי לובלין, בעלז, זאַמאָשטש און אַנדערע.

אָנקומענדיק קיין לעמבערג האָבן מיר זיך געשטעלט אין פאַר-בינדונג מיט אַ יידיש פּאָרפאָלק, וואָס וואוינט דאָרט. מיט זייער הילף האָבן מיר זיך באַקענט מיט דער שטאָט, אין וועלכער יידן האָבן געלעבט עטלעכע הונדערט יאָרן. איצט זיינען געבליבן בלויז אַ טויזנט פון אַרום 180 טויזנט פאַר דער מלחמה. דאָס פּאָרפאָלק, מיט דער מיטהילף פון „דזשאָינט", לערנט יידיש און יידישקייט צו אַ קליינער גרופּע תלמידים.

אַרומפאָרנדיק אין לעמבערג האָבן מיר געזען, וואָס עס איז געוואָרן פון אַמאָליקן יידישן געגנט, פון דער גרויסער סינאַגאָגע, פון געזעלשאַפטלעכע געביידעס, פון דער לעצטער היים פון שלום עליכם, וואו ער האָט געוואוינט פאַר זיין אָפּפאָר קיין אַמעריקע. עס איז דאָ געווען — אין צייט פון דער מלחמה — אַ קאָנצענטראַציע־לאַגער און אַן אומשלאַג־פּלאַץ.

אויף צומאָרגנס זיינען מיר געפאָרן קיין ראָוונאָ. אויך האָבן דאָ — פאַר דער מלחמה — געוואוינט איבער הונדערט טויזנט יידן. ראָוונאָ איז געווען דער יידישער צענטער פאַר אַ סך קלענערע שטעט און שטעטלעך פון דער געגנט. איך האָב טעלעפאָנירט אין יידישן צענטער. עס האָט אונדז געענטפערט אַ יונגער דירעקטאָר און ער האָט פאָרגעלייגט זיך צו טרעפן מיט אונדז און ווייזן די שטאָט. אין דער יידישער געגנט איז געבליבן בלויז איין שוהל, וואו עס געפינט זיך אויך די ביוראָ פון דער יידישער קהילה, און איין קליינער צימער אין אַ שולע פאַר יידישער קולטור און שפּראַך און פאַר אַ זייער קליינער ביבליאָטעק. אין דער שטאָט זיינען אויך פון די צענדליקער טויזנטער געבליבן בלויז טויזנט יידן. אויפן פּלאַץ וואו הונדערטער יידן זיינען דערמאָרדעט געוואָרן, געפינט זיך איצט אַ גרויסער מאָנומענט מיט הונדערטער נעמען פון יידן, וואָס זיינען דאָ אומגעקומען.

אַ טאָג שפּעטער זיינען מיר אָפּגעפאָרן אין „מיין שטעטעלע" דאָמבראָוויטש. דאָ האָבן זיך דערוועקט אין מיר מיינע קינדערישע זכרונות. אָט דאָ איז געשטאַנען מיין באָבע'ס הויז, מיין מוטער'ס געוועלב און מיין פעטער'ס מיל. אַמאָל האָבן דאָ געוואוינט פיר־פינף טויזנט יידן. עס זיינען דאָ געווען שוהלן, פּאָליטישע פאַר-טייען, באַרימטע רבנים, לערערס, געשעפטסלייט און האַנדווער-קער. די גאַנצע באַפעלקערונג פון שטעטל ציילט 11 טויזנט. וויפיל יידן? — האָבן מיר געפרעגט און ענדלעך האָבן מיר זיך דערוואוסט וועגן אַ יידישער פאַמיליע פון 4, וואָס האָבן געוואוינט אין אַ קליי-נער כאַטקע. זיי האָבן באַשטאַנען, אַז מיר זאָלן האָבן אַ מאָלצייט מיט זיי. נאָכהער האָבן זיי אונדז געגומען אויף אַ באַזוך צו אַ צוויי-טער יידישער פאַמיליע אין שטעטל. אַלע זיינען אָרעם און לעבן אויף אַ פּענסיע אָדער פון צופעליקער באַשעפטיקונג.

די דייטשן האָבן צעבראָכן די מצבות אויפן יידישן בית־עולם און מיט זיי אויסגעפלאַסטערט די גאַסן פון שטעטל. איצט געפינט זיך דאָרט אַ שילדל, וואָס זאָגט אַן, אַז דאָס איז געווען דער אַמאָ-ליקער יידישער בית־עולם און דער מאַסן־קבר פון טויזנטער יידן.

נאָך אַן עמאָציאָנעלן טאָג, פול מיט זכרונות, האָבן מיר פאַרלאָזט דאָמבראָוויטש. פאָרנדיק אויפן וועג אַהיים, האָבן מיר גע-טראַכט וועגן די יידישע פאַרטיזאַנער, וואָס האָבן העלדיש געקעמפט און אומגעקומען אין די אַרומיקע וועלדער. זייער העלדנמוט האָט אַ סך בייגעטראָגן צו דער ענדגילטיקער באַפרייאונג.

מיר האָבן אויך באַזוכט קראַקאָוו, אוישוויץ און בירקענאַו. אָבער דאָס איז אַ באַזונדער קאַפּיטל, צו וועלכן מיר וועלן זיך אפשר אומקערן ביי אַ צווייטער געלעגנהייט.

SCIENCE FAIR

Rebecca Bernbaum displays her exhibit as part of the science fair held at USDS Bayview campus. The fair was held by the grade 7 and 8 classes.

Jewish student journalists to meet

TORONTO — Canada's first national Jewish student journalism conference will take place May 30 to June 1.

The event, sponsored by the Jewish student publication *Afterword*, will be held at 15 Hove St. and is open to those between ages 18 and 28.

Speakers include filmmaker Simcha Jacobovici; Marsha Lederman of radio station Talk 640; Evan Solomon, former editor of *Shift* magazine; and Elliot Zimelman, assistant foreign editor of the *National Post*.

Registration is $100 before and $125 after April 15. Limited subsidies are available.

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MULTIGENERATIONAL CARING FOR THE AGING HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR
with Dr. Elaine Todres, Dr. Natan Kellerman, Dr. Robert Krell, Tamara Stieber, Paula David
Tuesday May 4, 1999; 7:30 PM
RESTITUTION UPDATE FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS
with Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut, Moshe Ronen, Greg Schneider
Wednesday May 5, 1999; 7:30 PM
At the Posluns Auditorium, 2nd Floor; Jewish Home for the Aged Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care; 3560 Bathurst Street
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with Harvey Atkin and Dr. Elaine Todres
Thursday May 6, 1999; 6:30 PM
Dining Room, Joseph E. and Minnie Wagman Centre
Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care; 55 Ameer Avenue
Tickets are $50.00 for dinner and performance.
For tickets call Judy Csillag (416) 785-2500 Ext. 2009
These community events are part of a four day multidisciplinary conference, *A Time to Heal: Caring for the Aging Holocaust Survivor* sponsored by Allan and Patty Friedland and Family
Holocaust Committee Chairs: Margie Levitt, Florence Brill; Committee: Judy Cohen, Roz Davidson, Eva Doje, Anita Eckstein, Max Eisen, Patty Friedland, Helen Ross
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June 2, 1999

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Annual Meeting

7:30 p.m.

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- Election of President & Officers
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***The CJN* encourages readers to direct any queries they may have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.**

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Concordia students fight 'anti-Semitic' campaign

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Jewish students at Concordia University are trying to deal with what they allege is a renewed campaign by pro-Palestinian students to target Israel and Jews.

As a result, Jewish students who wear kippot are being made to feel "vulnerable," according to Concordia Hillel president Geremy Miller.

The students also accuse the Concordia administration, which helps to fund the campus-based Palestinian group, of doing nothing to address what they feel are propaganda attacks against Jews.

"Concordia is giving money to something that is blantantly anti-Semitic," said Andrew Elbaz, city-wide president of the Hillel Jewish Student Centre.

Elbaz said that material distributed by the Palestinian student group – called the Concordia Collective for Palestinian Human Rights (CCPHR) – has included Holocaust denial material and references to, "Jews," interchangeably with "Israelis" and "Zionists."

What brought the issue to a head, was the appearance at Concordia on March 12 – a Friday night – of controversial political science professor Norman Finkelstein of Hunter college in New York, as part of the Palestine Awareness Week based at McGill University.

Finkelstein, himself the son of Holocaust survivors, has been criticised by Jewish organizations for comparing the Israeli treatment of Palestinians to the Nazis' persecution of Jews, and for saying that a Holocaust studies "industry" was created to deflect attention away from that treatment.

Lecture scheduled for Friday night

Finkelstein's lecture, as Shabbat began, prompted more than 100 students from Hillel campuses across the city to spend Friday evening singing, eating Shabbat dinner and dancing upstairs from where Finkelstein was speaking – at Concordia's downtown Hall Building's mezzanine level.

Press reports quoted Finkelstein as expressing regret in his lecture that observant Jewish students could not attend his talk, which was unavoidably scheduled for a Friday night.

For Miller, the increased level of Palestinian activity on campus this year, marked the end of a lull that followed several years of antagonism between Palestinian and Jewish students on campus, dating back to the beginning of the Palestinian intifadah at the end of 1987.

Miller said the CCPHR spent the last year distributing an "unbelievable" amount of literature on campus, focusing on "human rights" issues.

Some of the material included accusations of "Jews" poisoning Palestinian wells, but virtually none of the material, Miller said, spoke about violations of Palestinian rights outside the territories.

Miller said what he found particularly disturbing, was that the CCPHR did not seem to recognize the Palestinian Authority, and seemed more in line ideologically with completely rejectionist groups such as Hamas.

At first, he said, the attitude at Concordia Hillel was to ignore the CCPHR, so as not to lend them publicity or credibility.

"But it came to a point where we could no longer just sit there," Miller said.

"The [Concordia] administration is afraid of repercussions, so they refuse to do anything, and say it's a free speech issue.

"But a lot of Jewish students feel unsafe. It's creating an unsafe environment. Jewish students are being singled out, and that's unacceptable on a university campus."

When Miller first learned in February of Finkelstein's scheduled appearance, Hillel students consulted with Concordia professor Frederick Krantz and with Rabbi Reuben Poupko, both of the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research.

As a result of those discussions, Miller said, it was decided that any form of public "protest" would prove ineffectual and that Jewish students' interests would be better served by holding the Friday night event and countering Palestinian disinformation with facts, so that Jewish students themelves would be armed with a more accurate picture of reality, and not be at risk of being taken in by CCPHR propaganda.

Miller said that a small number of Jewish students at Concordia has since formed a group called Jewish Students for Israeli Pride with that goal in mind, and in an effort to revive a spark of activism among them.

In Miller's view, some Jewish students are uninformed about issues relating to the Middle East conflict and too easily fall victim to the Palestinian propaganda onslaught.

He said that while many Jewish students may agree and others may disagree over Israeli government policies vis-a-vis the Palestinians, Jewish students are unanimous in their general support of Israel as an entity with every right to exist.

He said Jewish students, "can no longer stand by and know only half the facts."

Coast to Coast

Proposed project may derail Holocaust museum

Continued from page 1

Ronen said lobbying for a genocide museum was being orchestrated by individuals who cannot tolerate the notion that the Holocaust was a form of genocide unlike any other, and that it is unique in history in "terms of the size and scope of its murderous agenda."

Sol Littman, Canadian representative of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, said he believes CFAGM is being manipulated by Gregorovich to "stymie" construction of a Holocaust museum.

"Gregorovich is no fool. He's trying to create something that is at least plausible. His outlook is almost one of 'issue envy'. Jews have a Holocaust, he wants to highlight the Ukrainian famine. The Japanese were interned during World War II, he wants to raise the issue of Ukrainians interned during World War I. He's really intent on portraying Ukrainians as victims."

During the Deschenes Commission inquiry into Nazi war criminals in Canada, Gregorovich was heavily involved in countering what he saw as misrepresentations of the Ukrainian role on the side of the Nazis during World War II.

Gregorovich rejects suggestions that a genocide museum would come at the expense of a Holocaust museum, though "the killing of Jews in Europe would naturally be part of a genocide museum."

He said a solution could be the construction of two museums. "We want a genocide museum,but we recognize that the Jewish community wants a Holocaust museum, and that it's appropriate for them to lobby for it...The Jewish community feels it's such a special case that it shouldn't be included with other genocides, as it would detract from [the Holocaust]."

Gregorovich suggested the federal government would have to decide whether to create two museums, or one museum with two wings. "The government, perhaps, should go ahead with both museums. We don't have a position against that."

Ronen said Congress is not against two state-supported facilities, saying it is conceivable that Ottawa could back both projects.

"We didn't start the debate," he said. "The government has started to work on the Holocaust museum and the opponents started to derail the process by manipulating people into supporting a generic museum."

Robyn Serbyn disagrees.

A professor of history at the Universite du Quebec a Montreal, Serbyn is involved in the lobbying effort for a genocide museum, though he is not part of Gregorovich's group.

He said, that while he recognized the "unique" nature of the Shoah, other genocides, from the victims' point of view, are unique in their own respects.

"I have no problem with the concept of uniqueness," Serbyn said, "but that does not prevent having a genocide museum, with each community [that has suffered genocide] showing its uniqueness as it relates to the genocide experience."

Unlike Ronen and Gregorovich, however, Serbyn opposed the idea of two government-supported museums. That would amount to a "two-tiered approach" in which one genocide, the Holocaust, "stands on its own, while the others are grouped together," almost as if they were "second class."

"People would not be united in this," he said. "It would be divisive."

That's also a position taken by the UCC, an umbrella organization that claims to speak for one million Canadians of Ukrainian descent. Adrian Boyko, first vice-president of the UCC, said "we believe a museum dedicated to all the victims of genocide would be a noble and dignified way for Canada to commemorate genocide.

"What we're afraid of is that we don't want to create divisions within Canadian society when there are many people inside Canada who've suffered millions of losses. We say a description of genocide where a main part would be the Holocaust would be a binding force in Canada, not divisive."

In an information pamphlet on the genocide museum, Serbyn argues that a museum devoted to genocide against Jews, Gypsies, Cambodians, Ukrainians and others would be an invaluable educational tool for young Canadians.

"It would not be proper," he writes, "for Canada to single out one genocide for study or one group of victims for public national remembrance, while neglecting the others. Canadian survivors of all genocides must be recognized."

Gregorovich said CFAGM has embarked on a letter-writing campaign directed at MPs and senators, as the group tries to solicit political support for a genocide museum.

(Liberal MP Sarkis Assadourian has tabled a private members bill calling on the Canadian Museum of Civilization to mount, within two years, an exhibit "that recognized the crimes against humanity perpetrated during the 20th century.")

A letter sent from Gregorovich to an MP states that "if a museum housing only one Canadian community's story of genocide was being built with the support of the Canadian taxpayer, then it should be on the subjects of the genocide to which our First Peoples were subjected."

Palestine Heritage Canada waded into the issue with a letter that states the term Holocaust is "exclusive of all others who suffered from genocide during that war, or indeed, from all genocides committed before or since.

"PHC believes the Jewish experience with genocide during the Second World War is deserving of presentations. However, PHC also believes there is no such thing as a hierarchy of genocides. Many other experiences with genocides are no less deserving of such government attention and support."

Prutschi said Congress' position is clear. "The government must meet its commitment to establish a Canadian Holocaust Museum in Ottawa. That commitment has already been made, but we support the creation of another facility that recognized other crimes against humanity."

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, April 12, is deadline for April 22 issue, and Monday, April 19, is deadline for April 29. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Saturday, April 10

BINGO EXTRAVAGANZA

Club Simcha/Kadima of Na'amat charity bingo extravaganza at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave., 8:30 p.m., bingo cards, refreshments, door prizes, auction items. $12. 636-5425.

Sunday, April 11

MIMUNA FESTIVAL

Sephardic Kehila Centre Mimuna Festival, 1-5 p.m., 7026 Bathurst St. Oriental orchestra, traditional food. Adults $12, children $6. 905-669-7654, ext. 223. "Terbachou Outsa'adou" (happiness and prosperity).

SPIRITUALITY AND WORK

YUJJIES (young urban Jews 20-40) at Indigo, sponsored by Kolel: A Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning and the Les and Minda Feldman Family Foundation lecture, Spirituality and Work with **Rabbi Irwin Zeplowitz**. 905-709-1900, ext. 222

JEWISH LIFE IN VILNO

Kultur Geselschaft lecture, Jewish Life in Pre-War Vilno and Now with Prof. **Norman Shneidman**, 8 p.m., Workmen's Circle, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. $3.

HABONIM BREAKFAST

Congregation Habonim presents **Jacqueline Kott-Wolle**, executive director, Mazon Canada, speaking on The Human Face of Hunger in Canada. 10 a.m., Beth Habonim, 5 Glen Park Ave. Breakfast and entertainment $6.

A MEMOIR

Temple Sinai Sunday Seminars speaker **Joe Peretz**, topic The Endless Wait: A Memoir. 10 a.m.

BB SINGLES LODGE

At B'nai Brith Friendship Singles Lodge (40-60) general meeting, **Sharon Singer**, speaks on How to Find Your Bashert in '99. Registration 7 p.m., 15 Hove St. New members welcome. $6 members, $8 guests. RSVP 633-6224, ext. 351.

BOOK SALE

Jewish, Hebrew, Hungarian and English books on sale 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Wagman Centre. **Teresa Pulfer** 785-2500, ext. 2231.

Monday, April 12

BB ROMANIAN LODGE

B'nai Brith Lodge Dr. Filderman for Romanian speaking people monthly meeting, 6:30 p.m., B'nai Brith Building, 15 Hove St. **Arnold Campeanu** speaks on Diaspora: Present and Future, plus video with favorite melodies featuring **Isaac Stern**. For information **Felicia Levy**, 631-0634.

BROTHERHOOD MEETING

Temple Sinai Brotherhood guest speaker is **Dr. David Saul**, family doctor, author of *Sex for Life: The Lover's Guide to Male Sexuality* 7:30 p.m.

BLOOD DONOR CLINIC

At Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst St., 4:30-8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 13

YOM HASHOAH

Beth Tikvah Synagogue commemorates Yom Hashoah by screening *The Long Way Home*, Academy Award-winning documentary. 7:30 p.m. prayer service, address, candlelighting. 8 p.m., film followed by discussion facilitated by **Gerry Zeidenberg**.

BEREAVEMENT BRUNCH

For people who are recently bereaved to connect with others in similar situation, 11:30 a.m. RSVP **Monika Malka**, Jewish Family & Child Service 638-7800, ext. 216

YOM HASHOAH PROGRAM

Beth Tzedec Yom Hashoah program, candlelighting, guest speaker, participants **Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum, Cantor Paul Kowarsky, Dan Goldberg**, Grade 7 Congregational School students, begins 4:45 p.m., concludes with Minchah at 6 p.m.

HOLOCAUST FILM

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Sisterhood in conjunction with Ateret chapter of Hadassah-WIZO present the film *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* narrated by **Norman Rubin**. 7:30 p.m. Guests $3. 633-5500.

Wednesday, April 14

FAMOUS TRIALS

Famous Trials in Jewish History with **Prof. Aaron Nussbaum**

Continued on page 23

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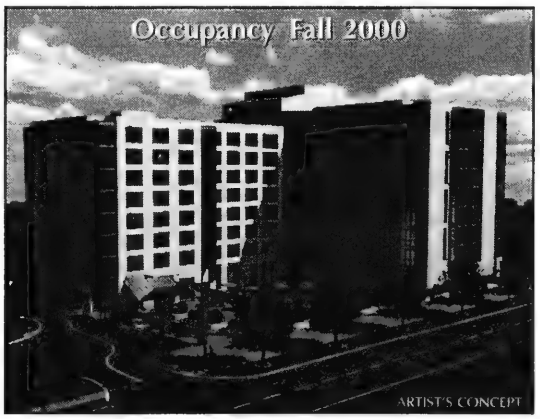

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What's New

Continued from page 22

focuses on The Mendel Beilis Trial in Kiev, Russia, 1912, 8 p.m. at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. 633-3838.

LUNCH AND LEARN

Holy Blossom Temple Lunch and Learn in Retirement topic is The Funny Side of Life with **Marcel Stringberger**, lawyer, author, humorist, at noon. Bring lunch. Coffee, tea and cookies served. $1.

And What Else Is New

GREAT JEWISH CITIES

Prof. Stephen Berk, Union College, Schenectady, N.Y., speaks on Great Jewish Cities, this weekend, Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11 at Beth Tzedec Synagogue. Shabbat morning service, from the pulpit, Vilna; Shabbat afternoon, Minchah service 6:45 p.m., Vienna; Sunday at the Men's Club Breakfast, Warsaw, service 9 a.m., breakfast 9:30 (nominal charge), lecture 10 a.m.

JOSEPH & HIS BROTHERS

Downtown Jewish Learning Council classes on Joseph and His Brothers, Mondays 8 p.m., April 12, 19, 26, May 3, at Bloor Jewish Community Centre. Instructor **Rabbi Yitzchok Feigenbaum** of Yeshivat Bnei Akiva Or Chaim. $40. Information/registration 924-6211.

AISH HATORAH

Aish HaTorah, 949 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill. 905-764-1818.

Monday, April 12: Women to Women Seminar: How to Create a Lifelong Intimate and Loving relationship with **Lori Palatnik** and Mixed Messages Society Gives About Self-Esteem with **Chana Veffer.** 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 13: Yom Hashoah lecture; Finding Inspiration from the Holocaust Experience? with **Dr. Alex Pister,** 8 p.m.

PARENTING COURSE

A four-part parenting course, How to Raise a Mensch, taught by psychological associate **Sarah Chana Radcliffe**, Mondays, 8 p.m. beginning April 19 at Beth Jacob Congregation, 147 Overbrook Pl. Information/reservation 638-5955.

NEIGHBORS & STRANGERS

The 13th annual Neighborhood Interfaith Dinner, Monday, April 19, at Beth Tzedec Synagogue, sponsored by Beth Tzedec Men's Club and neighborhood multi-faith congregations. Speaker, **Mary Jo Leddy,** topic, Neighbors and Strangers. Reception 6:30 p.m., dinner 7:15 p.m. Tickets $30, available from Men's Club members or the office until April 14.

OUR MUSICAL LEGACY

Temple Sinai's Our Musical Legacy program presents Accent on Youth, cantorial soloists and choral pieces by the Religious School Choir under the direction of **Alice Malach,** Friday, April 16. Services begin 8:15 p.m.

BETH TIKVAH SINGLES

Beth Tikvah Progressive Singles invites you to an Oneg Shabbat Friday, April 16, 8 p.m. at the synagogue.

Sunday, April 18, the Interactive Bible Study Class continues with lecturer **Chana Sargon** on What Makes a Relationship Between Women and Men. $5. RSVP 221-3433, ext. 352.

KABBALAH CENTRE

Kabbalah Centre, 678 Sheppard Ave. W. 631-9395.

Monday, April 12: Health and Healing course, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 13, 20, 27: free introductory film, *Power of Kabbalah* , 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 15: Rosh Chodesh Iyar, 7:30 p.m. $14.

TEA AND FASHIONS

Temple Har Zion Sisterhood Fundraising Tea and Fashion Show Sunday, April 25, 1:30 p.m. at the temple, 7360 Bayview Ave. Door prizes, silent auction, fun galore! Proceeds to benefit Breast Cancer Research and the temple. $20. For tickets 905-731-1377 or 905-889-7105.

ONE FAMILY: TWO HOMES

Jewish Family & Child Service three-session group, One Family: Two Homes, for parents and children experiencing separation or divorce, begins May 19. Register. **Pat Lieberman**, 638-7800, ext. 215.

SINGLES SCENE

Monday, April 12, monthly meeting, 25-35 group, 8 p.m., Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue.

Sunday, April 18, Beach Blast Volleyball (Lesmill/ Orfus Rd.) for 25-35 group, 7 p.m. $10. RSVP **Surit** 669-5499

Sunday, April 25, anniversary party, held at Beth Emeth, 6:30 p.m. Order tickets now. 633-3838. For information, **Rhonda** 905-731-9441.

ART CLASSES

Drawing and painting classes, all levels, Thursdays 1-3 p.m. April 15-June 17 (excluding May 20) at Beth Sholom Synagogue. $80. Register. **Terri,** instructor, 487-7244.

JF & CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups. **Pat Lieberman** 638-7899, ext. 215.

Today's Woman: Making It Happen, April 20; Looking Ahead: After Separation/Divorce, begins April 14; Adult Children Losing a Parent, begins April 28; Widows/Widowers, April 13.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20

FOR SENIORS

Beth Tzedec Seniors Haverim meeting, Monday, April 12, 1:30 p.m. with wine expert **Neil Graf-stein** speaking on Kosher Wine – From the Seed to the Seder. Wine and cheese served.

Bathurst Jewish Centre 55+ Department of Adult Services courses starting the week of April 12, Bridge – intermediate, Tai Chi – beginners, Yoga, Tai Chi – intermediate/advanced. Above courses co-sponsored by Toronto District Board of Education. Other spring session courses include Ballroom Dancing, Needlecrafts, Beginners Bridge, Line Dancing. **Teme** 636-1880, ext. 364 or **Janet** ext. 259.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club: Mother's Day celebration Monday, May 10, 12:30 p.m., variety show with **Tanya Granonski** dancing and singing program of Yiddish, Hebrew, Russian, English music, light lunch; Aug. 25, morning cruise then matinee performance of *Move Over Mrs. Markham* at Gryphon Theatre; Oct. 12, *West Side Story* at Stratford. **Lena** 785-5773. Golden Book donations go to Laniado Hospital in Israel. **Dorothy Bloomfield** 787-1526.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). April 15, bingo; April 22, video; April 29, members meeting; May 8 Yom Ha'atzmaut dance, call **Malka Colla** for tickets, 630-5771. All activities in Hebrew, English and Yiddish. **Jerry Bengall**, president, 905-707-7334.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: April 11, dance with live band; April 14 and 28, Casino Rama; May 4, Bata Shoe Museum and Manning Cookie Factory; May 5, *My Fair Lady* at Stage West; May 23-25, Ottawa; June 5-11, Catskills. Membership open, $12. 395-7881.

LZA Seniors Club in the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave., is open for socializing Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ladies Folkdancing classes Thursdays 1:30 p.m. Cultural Discussion Group Tuesdays 10 a.m. Register now to see *My Fair Lady* at Stage West, Wednesday, June 16. **Libby** 782-2059 or the office 630-9444.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 255-2112.

Therapeutic Touch, **Florence Baum,** Therapeutic Touch practitioner, Tuesday, April 13, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Joan**.

Parkinson's Support Group, Tuesday, April 13, 1:15-2:15 p.m. **Karen Shuster**, fitness motivator, will lead a Creative Movement class for seniors with Parkinson's. **Ruth**.

Community Update series, **Steve Owens**, project manager, Info Ability, discusses services offered, Thursday, April 15, 1:15 p.m.

Israeli Club Etrog: Do you speak Hebrew? Join club members every Tuesday at 7 p.m. for movies, lectures, dances, sing-alongs, bingo, picnics. All programs based on topics of interest to Israelis and are conducted in Hebrew. April 13, a movie. **Anna**.

BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

Toronto Jewish Film Society, an affiliate of Bloor JCC, presents *Arguing the World* (U.S.A), a portrait of New York's Jewish intellectuals and radicals, Sunday, April 11, Art Gallery of Ontario, Jackman Hall, 5:15 and 7:45 p.m. Toronto writer **Robert Fulford** introduces the film.

NCJW AGENCY OF THE YEAR

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada (NCJW), Toronto Section, received the Agency of the Year Tribute from the social action committee of Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Pictured from left are Lou Van Delman, co-chair of the social action committee; Roz Fine, president, NCJW, Toronto; and Anna Van Delman, co-chair of the social action committee.

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McMaster dedicates lounge to late MJSA director

By MOURA WOLPERT
CJN Correspondent

HAMILTON — The McMaster Jewish Students Association (MJSA) recently unveiled a plaque dedicating its lounge to the memory of Sheila Freedman, and officially launched the Sheila Freedman Endowment Fund.

Freedman, who died of cancer last fall, had been the MJSA director for over 15 years. She was dedicated to the welfare of her students and to providing them with a Jewish home away from home.

The students themselves decided to start a fund and to dedicate their lounge in Freedman's memory, said Judy Schwartz, the new MJSA director.

Proceeds from the fund, which will be held within the Legacy Endowment Fund of the Jewish Federation of Hamilton-Wentworth, will be used for religious study projects.

Freedman, who for many years also taught at Beth Jacob Religious School, returned to university some years ago and would have graduated this year with a degree in religious studies. Her degree, said Schwartz, will be awarded posthumously.

Approximately 60 people crowded into the small basement lounge in the Commons Building: students, former students, parents of students, family members, friends and community leaders, including Rabbi Zalman Itkin, director of the Chabad Jewish Student Centre and Rabbi Irwin Zeplowitz of Temple Anshe Sholom.

Brenda Pinkus, a McMaster University student from 1982 to 1986, said Freedman "was always interested in our well-being. She advised us, guided us, comforted us, debated with us, and humored us like a fellow student."

Pinkus said that although she initially resisted joining, she found that "the MJSA offered a welcoming opportunity for Jewish connection."

It was Freedman's "unselfishness," she said, that "contributed to the success of this organization."

Fighting tears, Freedman's daughter Amy, recalled her mother's constant concern for the students, and the dedication she had brought to her job.

Other tributes were from MJSA co-presidents Monika Roseman and Dan Kobrick, federation president Cheryl Greenbaum, and Schwartz, who described Freedman as a woman of valor.

MODEL SEDER

Junior kindergarten students Jared Green and Dalya Cohen, from the Toronto Heschel School, say the blessings at a model seder. **[Barbara Silverstein photo]**

Conference examines franco-Jewish relations

Continued from page 3

Quebecers to look at their history from a perspective other than the defence of French in North America. There is a fascination, he said, with how other minorities view their experience here.

"A gradual realization is dawning that the notion of who is a Québécois has to be enlarged to include everyone residing here," he said.

David Bensoussan, a francophone executive member of Canadian Jewish Congress, contrasted the relative openness of English Canada with the "cultural exclusivity" of Quebec.

He suggested that attempts at dialogue between francophones and Jews have been hampered by a history of anti-Semitism among the clergy and certain nationalist circles, a legacy which modern Quebecers have done little to "soften."

The "excess of nationalism" of the separatist movement and of the language laws have not encouraged a climate of rapprochement and Quebec remains essentially a society of "two solitudes," Bensoussan said.

If Quebec nationalists do not modify their image of exclusivity, he said, they risk losing out on the opportunity for better relations with minorities who are more attracted to the the image of tolerance projected by the rest of Canada and the United States.

Ira Robinson, a Jewish studies professor at Concordia University, said the relationship between Jews and French Quebecers was "a dialogue of the deaf" until the 1960s, and it still has a long way to go to be meaningful.

The image of Jews among French-Canadians was marked by two "myths:" that the Jews are among the "English persecutors" and that they are "the sinister other," which is the enemy of Christian civilization, he said.

For their part, Jews' feelings towards Quebecers were colored by 2,000 years of anti-Semitism in Christian society, Robinson said. "As well, Jews were conscious of French-Canadian nationalism and remembered other nationalisms that had refused to accept them on an equal footing and completely excluded them."

While much has changed since the '60s, Robinson warned that, if a true dialogue is to take place, "a new mode for discussion and understanding" must be found.

"The real problem is that often our dialogues and our goodwill stay at their beginning. If we read the history of these dialogues, we note that, for the most part, we speak of many beginnings and not of real progress," Robinson said.

He observed "with sadness" that Esther Delisle's controversial writings on historical anti-Semitism and right-wing extremism have "poisoned and politicized the atmosphere," he said.

"Whatever the merits or faults of Esther Delisle's research, the veritable explosion of controversy around her book and its reception in Quebec and Canada achieved the result of annulling much of the results of these promising beginnings for several years."

Many Quebecers take it as a "collective insult" to associate the affirmation of French with Nazism, he said.

Robinson called for greater collaboration between anglophone and francophone intellectuals interested in Quebec Jewry.

"The challenge for all of us is to increase the means of communication in order that Quebec Jewish studies can avoid the multiple marginalizations of the past and develop as an integral part of Quebec, Canadian and Jewish studies."

Both groups were new to the city

Anctil, a founder of Dialogue St. Urbain, an ongoing dialogue group between Jews and French Quebecers, stressed the commonality of experience the two communities in Montreal shared during the early part of this century.

Both groups were new to the city. The Jews were European immigrants, while French Quebecers had migrated from the countryside.

Despite the attention that has been given to anti-Semitism, Anctil believes the two communities enjoyed harmonious relations at the "street" level, and that this can be the basis for linkages today.

Workers and small shopkeepers and their customers got along fine, while the professional and intellectual class tended to ignore, or worse, openly oppose the Jewish presence in Quebec, he said.

"Part of the francophone elite fought the Jewish presence in Quebec, considering Jews as enemies of the Church and as followers of left-wing and secular ideological forces."

Anctil proposed the twinning of institutions, the initiation of joint cultural projects and even the establishment of a Jewish museum, as means of strengthening relations between the two communities.

One man's strenuous objection to Delisle's April 22 lecture sponsored by the JPL, and the promotion of that event in a JPL newsletter distributed at the conference, illustrated just how sensitive relations between the Jews and French Quebecers remain.

Referring to Delisle's latest book, *Myths, Memories & Lies: Quebec's Intelligentsia and the Fascist Temptation, 1939-1960*, the newsletter says, "The young sovereignists of the 1960s have attempted to hide this recent past and deny their involvement with these movements, but these very people are the architects of Quebec's 'official memories,' or, perhaps, its 'official silence'."

JPL president Peter Jacobs emphasized that the library sponsors lectures by persons of a wide variety of views and seeks to be a forum for open discussion.

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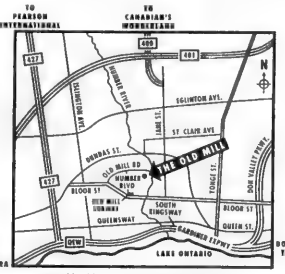

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Coast to Coast

Museum exhibit explores Jewish women of Saint John

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — When Charlotte Koven Feldbloom tells people she's from Saint John, New Brunswick, she is sometimes asked, "You mean there were Jews out there?"

The question triggers a rush of pride as she recalls the "dynamic, creative and fully Jewish life" she enjoyed growing up there, she said recently.

At a reception for the opening of the Beth Tzedec Reuben and Helene Dennis Museum's current exhibit – *The Image of Jewish Women in Saint John, New Brunswick, 1897-1997* – Koven Feldbloom said how proud she was of her mother Marcia Koven, "who took it upon herself to try to preserve some of [the Saint John Jewish community's] rich history."

Koven, the driving force behind the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum, was at home recovering from a broken leg.

Dorion Liebgott, museum curator, first contacted Koven after hearing an interview with Peter Gzowski on CBC Radio. Liebgott was so enthused she called Koven that same afternoon.

The photos in the display – assembled by Craig Chouinard, a former summer docent of the museum – are very evocative, said Koven Feldbloom, who is assistant principal at Temple Sinai Synagogue School.

Her memories of Canadian Young Judaea meetings and conferences, building sukkot in the woods and attending Hebrew school are "only the tip of a very rich iceberg, for the glory days of Saint John were unfolding long before I was even conscious of them," Koven Feldbloom said.

Sandy Brown, a past president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto (now UJA Federation), spoke of the lasting influence of growing up Jewish in Saint John.

"This richness of our heritage has played into our identity as Jewish people," she said. "While we have become part of another place, we have contributed to our new place because we had such a rich connection to the past.

"All of us who have left there still feel connected," Brown said. Her words were born out by the presence of 200 or so former Saint John residents, now living in and near Toronto.

Brown co-sponsored the opening reception in memory of her mother Celia Tanzman, who started Saint John's Jewish preschool and was instrumental in setting up a Jewish library.

Unbeknownst to Brown, Ida Starkman – whose father, Rabbi Moses Beshkin, served the community in the 1930s – had carefully preserved a tiny jacket crocheted by Brown's mother some 60 years ago. All the males in Starkman's family, including a recent newborn in Australia, have worn it for their brit, she said, displaying the delicate handiwork.

"Growing up in Saint John was a wonderful experience...You couldn't get lost as a Jew there. Everybody participated," said Karen Miller, recalling the community of about 175 Jewish families. Miller co-sponsored the reception to honor her mother, Ethel Shepherd.

The exhibit includes photos, documents and a 25-foot mural, *Mishpucha*, created by Belarie Hyman Zatzman and Suzanne Caines with campers at Camp Kadimah in Nova Scotia.

The project began with a letter to parents requesting a photograph of a parent, grandparent or great-grandparent, along with a story, said Hyman Zatzman, associate professor and co-chair of York University's Department of Fine Arts at Atkinson College.

Ida Starkman, left, holds a baby jacket worn by all the males in her family over the past 60 years. The Saint John, N.B. memento was crocheted by the mother of Sandy Brown, right. [Frances Kraft photo]

The mural explores Jewish identity, interweaving stories and photos and providing an intergenerational connection, said Hyman Zatzman.

At the exhibit, Adam Mogelonsky, 13, found pictures of Jenny Brownberg, his paternal great-grandmother.

Adam's father Larry, a native of Montreal who moved here in 1977, used to spend his summers in Saint John. "I never saw any of these pictures," he said, after spotting his grandmother on the invitation. "It's very impressive that they're able to bring all this material together."

The exhibit dates back to January, 1899, when the community formed the Daughters of Israel "to help the needy and nourish the sick." A significant portion of the organization's work involved helping Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe.

Other highlights of the exhibit include a Salvation Army receipt for $7 made out to the Daughters of Israel for hospital fees, and the 1922 ketubah of Clara Goldfeather and Mitchell Bernstein, whose granddaughter, Janie Sue Bernstein Bale, was one of several family members in attendance.

Among the more recent items is a 1972 Hadassah-WIZO bazaar picture. "I remember that," said Michael Meltzer. "I was 9. My mom was very much involved in putting on this bazaar. I helped out, selling."

"These women are my inspiration. There's no question about it," said Koven Feldbloom, after viewing the exhibit. "They had imagination, creativity, dedication, energy and commitment."

The exhibit runs until May 28.

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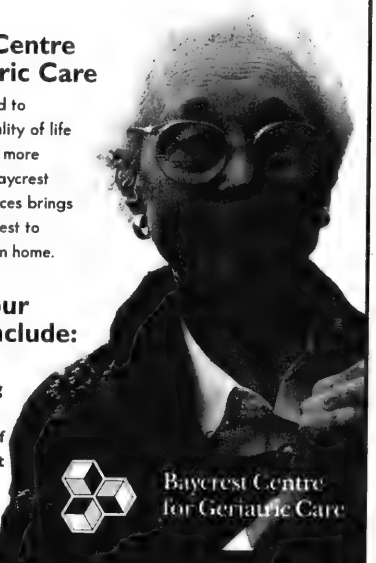

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Coast to Coast

Walking in the footsteps of our ancestors

By MONA PAUL
Special to The CJN

Israel has been the spiritual home of the Jewish people for over 3,000 years. It is our homeland, our refuge, and the wellspring of our faith. For many of us in the Di-

Feature

aspora, it is the ultimate vacation destination, a giant playground with something for everyone.

Recently, I travelled to Israel as part of a group of women students with Hebrew and Bible teacher, Channa Sargon. For most of us, the difficulties of leaving husbands, families, jobs and carpools for 10 days made us more than ready to have a good time. Although Bible study was meant to be an important part of the trip, it wasn't, initially, foremost in our minds. As we anticipated, this did turn out to be the vacation of a lifetime, but the touring, entertainment and shopping were only a small part of it. The joy of learning together in the land where our people began was what moved us to sing and dance and laugh and cry.

Abraham established a living connection to the land that God showed him, like a tree deeply rooted in its soil. His descendants, though often blown far afield, have always found their way back to their native ground.

From the early days of wandering, God was an easily perceived presence. The patriarchs used the stones of the land to build altars, and these became a measure of permanence in their nomadic existence. However, from the time they went to Egypt until the giving of the Torah, the link to their land became a tenuous one.

Throughout the centuries that followed, our religious practice became primarily focused on sacrifice and pilgrimage until the destruction of the Second Temple. Exile forced us to adapt to make our religion a portable one. As time went on, prayer and study replaced sacrifice and pilgrimage, and the written word became the source of our survival as a people. The fact that we can read and study the Torah anywhere has made it possible for Jews to exist in the Diaspora. Why then, is it so powerful an experience to do this in Israel?

In Israel, author Mona Paul ascends from a pit, similar to the one Joseph experienced in the Bible.

Having studied in Toronto for the past five years with a small group of women in the comfort of our living rooms, I found the prospect of study sessions on mountainsides and open fields in Israel thrilling. We were prepared to be distracted by the landscape. We expected to be overwhelmed by the notion of walking in the footsteps of our ancestors. What we didn't know, was how profoundly it would enrich our understanding of the biblical material. The words themselves took on a new and fuller meaning when the places they described were spread out before our eyes.

One of the first places we visited was Neot Kedumim, a biblical landscape reserve between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Spread over 625 acres of low hills and valleys, it is a miracle of ecological restoration. Hundreds of plant varieties, common to this area in biblical times, have been planted amid excavations that reveal cisterns, threshing floors, olive and wine presses, ritual baths and other aspects of ancient daily life. Goats, sheep and other animals roam freely, clearly revealing how tough Jacob's task was in cross-breeding the sheep and goats he earned from Laban as wages (Genesis 30:37). Watching the aggressive and independent goats, from what we hoped was a safe distance, it was patently obvious that God's help would have been essential.

Israel is sometimes described as the land of the seven species (Deuteronomy 8:8). A marvelous reconstruction shows where and how these would have been cultivated. From one vantage point we could see layers of elevated terraces. Vines were growing above them at the top of the hill, next to a watchtower which was once used to protect the fields and crops. On the upper levels were figs and pomegranates with olive trees scattered among them.

The terraces themselves were green with wheat and barley, and at the bottom of the hill were date palms from which "honey" was made. We learned that while these species require hard work and God's blessing to cultivate successfully, many other plants are endemic to the land and continue to grow and thrive even in times of famine. Although these may not

Continued on page 28

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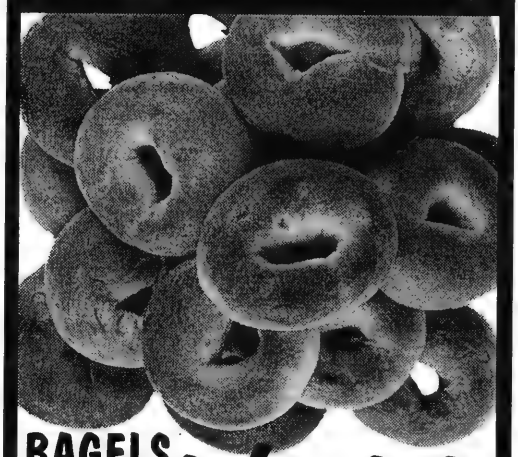

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Israel a place to nurture spiritual growth

Continued from page 27

have been enough to sustain life, they were of great value in ancient times. This is evident when Israel tells his sons to go back to Egypt for food, and to take with them some of the "choice products" of the land, such as balm, honey, gum, laudanum, pistachio nuts and almonds (Genesis 43:11). Our guide, Ronit, pointed out the plants believed to be gum, which is a disinfectant often used to clean teeth, and laudanum, used to embalm the dead.

Cisterns were dug out of the ground to catch and store rainwater. The recent dry winter made it possible for us to descend into an open cistern in Neot Kedumim to see how the walls had been plastered to prevent seepage, as well as to get a sense of the amount of water required for a small group of people to survive through the dry season. A winter like the one we had this year would have meant death in biblical times.

As we climbed down the ladder into the large pit, we disturbed a nest of birds and we mistook their fluttering for bats. When the echo of our screams died down, it became possible to imagine what Joseph must have felt after being cast into a similar pit by his brothers. We can assume that the biblical pit was also an empty cistern, since we are clearly told there was no water in it (Genesis 37:24). We felt a powerful sense of the fear and abandonment Joseph must have felt.

Another time, in a re-enactment of Eliezer's encounter with Rebecca at the well (Genesis 24:16-20), I played Rebecca, and drew water using a rope and a bucket, just as she would have. After only one bucketful, my arms became sore and tired. And unlike Rebecca, I did not run back and forth from the well to the trough. We calculated that it would have taken at least 300 buckets of water to serve Eliezer and his camels. Clearly, it wasn't only Rebecca's kindness that Eliezer was testing, but her physical strength and endurance as well.

Near Beersheva, we visited the wells of Abraham. In stark contrast to the fertile hills and valleys just an hour or two away by bus, this terrain was hard and rocky. We held a study session on a windy hill where we watched a herd of camels slowly make their way along the wadi next to us. We discussed the significance of wells, noting how crucial water was, and still is, to survival in Israel, and we found new insight into Isaac's success in the land (Genesis 26:12).

'Isaac sowed in the land'

The text states that "Isaac sowed in the land..." Even without considering God's blessing in allowing him to reap a hundredfold, we were struck by how difficult it must have been to plant at all. To clear the rocks, till the soil and find the water required an enormous amount of faith.

This faith is evident once again in Isaac's perseverance in digging up Abraham's old wells (Genesis 26:18). Each time he was challenged, he dug again, refusing to waste energy fighting with his enemies. He chose instead to continue digging, confident that he would find life-giving water deep within.

Water presented us with another powerful image at Nachal David, near En-Gedi. We climbed up to the spring on paths carved in sun-drenched rock, with rushes the only indication of the water that lay ahead. Rounding a bend, we gasped at the beauty of the white water cascading down the mountain. In the loud rushing of the water we heard the music David must have heard when he hid in this area from King Saul. We hear the melody of this water in David's psalms: "The voice of the Lord is over the waters" (Psalm 29).

Stirred to singing and dancing a horah ourselves, much to the amusement of a group of young people who followed us up, we understood how music could be a form of worship. We experienced something similar in Safed, sitting in a tiny shtiebl where we were moved almost to tears as we swayed to the music of Shlomo Carlebach.

Sitting where Deborah sat on Mount Tabor, and feeling the ghosts of Saul and Jonathan on Mount Gilboa, we gathered more insights into the biblical events and characters that formed us as a people. How lucky we are to have Israel – not just as our second home, but as a place to nurture our spiritual growth.

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Scene in Ottawa

By G.K. SIMCOE

World attention was riveted last week on the Balkans. But here in Ottawa, another, albeit less sensational, drama was unfolding on the steps of Parliament Hill.

Two encounters converged to create an interesting dynamic all of its own. On March 23, the Canada-Israel Committee led a delegation to meet with Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy.

The next day marked the first official visit to Ottawa of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. Both parties received less and more than they expected.

The meeting with Axworthy was a bit unusual in its own right. Normally, a small group representing the Jewish community will meet with a foreign minister to "make the case" for Israel.

For this meeting, however, the group was composed of an oversized collection of 20 individuals representing virtually every organization or community federation. The political message they were trying to convey was inescapable. Namely, that the Jewish community had the capacity to draw together every constituency, from Peace Now on the left to the supporters of Jewish settlements on the right. That's no mean achievement and Axworthy would have to have taken notice.

By contrast, Arafat arrived with little fanfare. He was met at the airport not by government officials, but by an assembly of Arab ambassadors. Fatigued by his extensive travels, Arafat cancelled much of his program. More to the point, no one held out much chance for him to advance his independence-for-Palestine agenda with the government.

So imagine his (indeed, everyone's) surprise when at a media scrum before his departure Arafat heard Prime Minister Jean Chrétien virtually endorse the demand for an independent state (though Chrétien did indicate that it would best be achieved through direct negotiations with Israel).

Forces hostile to Israel have long complained that Canadian policy is skewed by the inordinate influence of the pro-Israel lobby. Even those who have no particular argument with the Jewish community believe that its Israel lobby is among the most sophisticated operations in town.

Maybe its success rests with the ability to bring such different players around the same table as it did for the meeting with Axworthy. If so, perhaps it should bring out the table again, because even if the foreign minister heard the message, his boss, the prime minister, seems to be reading from a different script.

G. K. Simcoe is a pseudonym.

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Israeli field hospital to aid Kosovo refugees

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Stepping up its aid to Kosovo refugees, Israel will send an entire IDF field hospital to the area tomorrow, along with eight to 10 physicians and dozens of army personnel.

The mission will be headed by Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, with the hospital expected to operate for at least two weeks.

Meanwhile, former prime minister Shimon Peres has been asked by one of the sides involved in the Kosovo conflict to mediate between the adversaries. Peres confirmed to *Ha'aretz* that he had been approached, but said that he would not become involved as long as only one side had expressed an interest in his mediation.

Israel is maintaining contact with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to assess if aid is most needed in Albania or Macedonia.

Setting up the field hospital in Macedonia would probably be simpler due to the easy access to the border from the Macedonian capital, Skopje, but plans have yet to be finalized. Israel is also coordinating its activity with the governments in the area and its flight paths over the Balkans with NATO.

The decision on the aid mission was made Sunday in a meeting convened by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with Defence Minister Moshe Arens, Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, Matza and Jewish Agency acting chair Salai Meridor.

The possibility of opening Israel's doors to Albanian refugees from the Kosovo area did not come up in the meeting, although diplomatic sources said Jews from Yugoslavia might show an interest in immigrating to Israel.

Apart from the field hospital, the Jewish Agency is set this week to transport three planeloads of humanitarian aid by civilian means to Kosovo refugees. The agency will mount a campaign in Israel to collect clothes and raise funds for displaced people.

The first Jewish Agency plane left for Albania Tuesday, carrying $100,000 to $150,000 (US) of medical supplies, tents, sleeping bags, blankets and food for infants. Two additional flights were scheduled for this week.

Meridor will meet with the Albania's ambassador to Israel today to work out the operation's logistics.

Meanwhile, an Israeli Air Force Hercules cargo plane with Science Minister Silvan Shalom aboard, took off for Albania at dawn on Friday, loaded with 12 tons of medical supplies, warm clothing and tents aimed for refugees fleeing Kosovo. Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon said he hoped the suffering of the Kosovars would end soon.

"Israel views with severity any act of killing, attack, or expulsion of innocent civilians," the minister said in a statement on Sunday. "As loyal friends of the United States, we expect that United States and NATO forces will do everything possible to stop the suffering of innocent people and renew the negotiations between the two sides as soon as possible."

He added: "Israel is always ready to provide humanitarian aid to innocent refugees. It is the moral responsibility of Israel and of the Jewish people to do so."

The plane landed Friday in Skopje, Macedonia, where some of the supplies were unloaded for use by refugees. The rest of the cargo was to continue on to Tirana, Albania.

Air Force Commander Major General Eitan Ben Eliyahu, whose family originates from Macedonia, accompanied the flight. He took advantage of the stopover in Skopje to visit the Jewish quarter of the city. "My mother was born here, and in 1913, when she was five, she immigrated to the land of Israel," he said.

In related developments, the Defence Ministry denied a report in the London-based newsletter *Foreign Report* that Israel was considering selling arms to the Serbs. "Israel doesn't sell arms, not to the Serbians and not to the Albanians," spokesman Avi Kalstein said.

On the eve of Pesach, the Fatachi family arrived in Israel from war-torn Kosovo. The Jewish Agency brought them to Israel after they crossed the border into Hungary. From left, Nejatin, 47, Natasha, 44, Igor, 16 and Anita, 23. The family is being temporarily lodged at the Canada Immigration Absorption Centre in Jerusalem. Immediately after arriving in Jerusalem, they took part in the Pesach seder with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his family. [Israel Sun photo]

Syria faces economic troubles

By NITZAN HOROWITZ
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Several top U.S. officials who have recently visited Damascus are saying that the Syrian economy is in serious trouble, with one congressman describing it as in "a state of collapse."

The economic troubles are seen as part of a larger crisis in Syria.

In addition to reports prepared by Undersecretary of State for Near East Affairs Martin Indyk that clearly indicate a deterioration in the Syrian economy, various sources report that morale is declining in the Syrian army. The fact that recent demonstrations outside the U.S. and Greek embassies got out of hand, the sources say, is an indication of the trouble rippling through the security apparatus in the country.

More than anything, the crisis atmosphere is evident in the economy. In 1997, there was a 4.4 percent decline in production after two straight years of growth. Per capita production, a key economic figure, is down to less than $900 (US) a year, after reaching $1,050 a year in 1995.

"It's an economy in retreat," said one source in Washington.

"Deterioration is evident everywhere," said a congressman who recently visited the country. "When I went from Syria to Jordan, I felt like I was going from Nigeria to Switzerland."

There are differences of opinion about how the economic crisis in Syria will affect the peace process with Israel. An Israeli source claims that the U.S. administration is pessimistic about the peace process moving forward after the elections because of the Syrian domestic crisis, the priority President Hafez al-Assad gives to Syrian hegemony in Lebanon, and concern in Damascus with the question of who will succeed the aging leader.

Washington sources say that the status of Assad's son Basal is not at all clear, and the likelihood that he will inherit his father's position is uncertain.

Those sources say the Syrian president is busy with "cautious political calculations" and is worried that a diplomatic breakthrough could lead to uncontrollable changes in his regime.

On the other hand, senior congressional sources said that if there is a political change in Israel there is a good chance for a peace deal with Syria.

"Assad is ready for a move," said one source, adding that although Assad has health problems, "he is in full control and certainly not near death."

Economic figures show that a dearth of foreign investment and no growth in exports have prevented the Syrians from meeting goals they set last year.

The economic slowdown is evident in agriculture, commerce and construction. Revenues from tourism, wages sent by Syrian workers overseas and oil sales are also down sharply, while international commodity prices for both oil and agriculture don't offer much promise of salvation.

U.S. sources predict further declines in the Syrian economy this year, as revenues dip in all of the country's main economic areas. The sources say they expect the gross domestic product to drop another two to four percent. With oil now forming some 70 percent of Syrian revenue and international oil prices remaining low, Washington believes that Syrian expenditures on oil exports are taking critical funding away from investment in infrastructure, education and health.

A question the Jewish people continually ask is "where was the rest of the world during the Holocaust?" One day, the refugees from Kosovo might wonder the same thing about the Jewish people.

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—Samson Raphael Hirsch

Israel & the Jewish World

Holocaust restitution a low-key issue in France

By LEE YANOWITCH
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

PARIS — French Jewish leaders, unlike their North American counterparts, are taking a low-key approach to the restitution issue.

While there have been international headlines about the multi-million dollar lawsuits against banks and insurance companies accused of profiting during World War II from looted Jewish assets, the Jewish leadership in France has focused its energy on setting the historical record straight.

CRIF, France's umbrella group for secular Jewish organizations, believes that re-educating the French about their country's role in the persecution of Jews is more important than material redress.

And they fear that stressing monetary compensation would obscure the message they are trying to get across.

"We are in the process of rewriting history. There is no price tag on teaching the French about their role in the Holocaust. It would pollute the subject if we started announcing figures," Henri Hajdenberg, president of CRIF, told JTA.

Jewish leaders here have made repeated efforts to force the French to come to grips with their wartime past. It is only in the past few decades that the French have seen cracks appear in the French myth that their nation was united in their struggle against the Nazis, who occupied France from 1940 to 1944.

And it took until 1995 for a French president to publicly acknowledge the collaborationist Vichy administration's active involvement in stripping Jews of their rights and deporting them to death camps.

"Everything we've done in the past 25 years is in danger of being destroyed by material demands, Hajdenberg said, suggesting that pushing France to confront its Vichy past is the "most important thing today in order to fight anti-Semitism and totalitarianism."

Hajdenberg and his colleagues feel this is particularly pressing, given that France's extreme-right National Front, with 15 percent of the nationwide vote, is the most powerful fascist party in Europe.

Of all the European countries that came under the Nazi boot during World War II, France suffered the most widespread looting and confiscation of Jewish property.

Most of the 76,000 Jews deported from France during the war were immigrants from Eastern Europe. Only 2,500 returned.

France's Sephardi Jews, most of whom emigrated from North Africa in the 1950s and 1960s, are less concerned about the problem of setting the record straight.

While most Ashkenazi Jews – who make up 30 to 40 percent of the nation's 700,000-strong Jewish population -- back the CRIF's diplomatic stance on restitution, voices of discord are making themselves heard, accusing CRIF of not wanting to ruffle any feathers.

"It is a well-known fact that France's Jewish leadership has always wanted to be in with the powers that be. But many of the heirs of Holocaust victims contest what the CRIF is doing," said historian David Douvette.

At the same time, the New York-based World Jewish Congress is annoyed at being excluded from French negotiations on Holocaust-era claims. Some WJC officials have accused their CRIF counterparts of not asking for money because they are afraid of fomenting anti-Semitism.

But Hajdenberg contends that he, too, believes victims should be compensated; he just disagrees with the high-level pressure used to force countries to come to an agreement.

A compensation deal Hajdenberg had reportedly planned to sign recently with the French Banking Association, fell apart at the last minute amid discord among French Jewish leaders.

The banks went ahead with the proposal anyway, announcing last week that they would take "comprehensive measures" to compensate survivors for lost assets.

News of the deal triggered a threat of resignation by members of the Matteoli Commission, a French government-appointed panel investigating the looting of Jewish assets during the war.

Hajdenberg is also under fire from his colleagues for going on a "peacemaking" tour of the Middle East earlier this month, where he met Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Jordan's King Abdullah. He was not received by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

In protest, CRIF's single largest member, the Consistoire, which tends to the religious needs of French Jews, has pulled out of the umbrella group.

Consistoire President Jean Kahn is furious that he was not consulted about either the bank deal or the Middle East trip.

There is even talk of forcing Hajdenberg to resign.

Meanwhile, Jean Matteoli, a concentration camp survivor and former Resistance fighter who heads the commission that bears his name, outraged French Jews by saying in a newspaper interview that Jewish victims of the Nazis should be treated no differently than other victims.

The interviewer then suggested that a distinction should indeed be made, given that Jews were deported to death camps for the sole reason that they were Jewish.

Contradicting the widely proven fact that the Vichy regime drew up the lists of Jews who were arrested by French police and deported on French trains, Matteoli answered: "It was the Germans who made that distinction."

Hajdenberg declined to comment about Matteoli's remark, but a high-ranking source inside CRIF called for Matteoli's resignation.

"These remarks are unacceptable and totally incompatible with his role as president of the commission," the source said.

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AOL CANADA

British bank implicated in Nazi dealings

By DOUGLAS DAVIS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LONDON — The manager of the French branch of Barclays, Britain's leading commercial bank, not only acted as the Nazis' banker during World War II, but also volunteered to hand over Jewish staff members, according to documents found in the U.S. National Archives.

The materials were located by researchers working on a BBC television documentary, *Banking With Hitler*, which examined the role of European banks during the war.

Barclays named

According to the material, senior officials at the bank's Paris branch "volunteered" information about its Jewish employees to the Nazis, and helped to arrange financing for projects that aided the Nazi war effort.

The records also show that the bank received a substantial cash deposit from the Drancy transit camp located in a Parisian suburb, where valuables were plundered from Jewish prisoners bound for Auschwitz.

The full extent of the bank's involvement with the occupying Nazis has never been fully investigated, but Barclays has acknowledged that of the 16,000 accounts held by its Paris branch in 1941, some 335 depositors may have been Jewish.

Facing the prospect of a lawsuit last year from survivors living in the United States, the bank announced in December that it was establishing a $3 million fund to repay unclaimed assets held by its Paris branch.

According to the material in the National Archives, U.S. Treasury officials who conducted an investigation in France immediately after the war, discovered a close collaboration between the British bank's French officials and the Nazis.

Their report says that bank manager Marcel Cheradame had been "very amenable to the wishes of the German administrator, Hans Joachim Caesar."

Barclays continued to employ Cheradame as its Paris manager until he retired in the 1960s.

One of the most startling findings, was that a French official of Barclays told Caesar that the bank had a few Jewish employees, and surprisingly, Caesar rejected the information.

The treasury officials noted that "this is one instance of the bank's unsolicited efforts to fall in line with German views."

Barclays denies that it had any knowledge of the activities of its Paris branch during World War II.

The Week in Israel

March 29

• In a shift of stance, a U.S. official said the Palestinian Authority (PA) must do more to combat terrorism before Israel is required to carry out further troop redeployment under the Wye agreement.

• Some 40,000 public sector workers ended their four-day strike after talks with government officials resulted in a 4.8 percent wage increase.

March 30

• Israel ordered a series of measures against what it says are illegal Palestinian activities in eastern Jerusalem. Among the steps taken was a directive to close three organizations allegedly linked to the PA.

March 31

• Israel announced plans to open a consulate in Russia's second largest city. The consulate in St. Petersburg, which will become Israel's second diplomatic mission in Russia, is being opened in response to an increased interest in aliyah among Russian Jews.

• The Israeli navy received the first of three Dolphin-class submarines built by Germany. Bonn financed two of the submarines as a gesture for Israel's not retaliating against Iraqi Scud missile attacks during the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

April 1

• Passover

April 2

• Two Jewish extremists, Avigdor Eskin and Damien Pakovitch, were convicted on charges of incitement, arson and sedition. They placed a pig's head on the grave of Islamic leader Izz a-Din al-Kassam, torched the Jerusalem offices of the Dor Shalom peace movement and planned to put a pig's head on the Temple Mount.

• The High Court of Justice prohibited the Housing Ministry from renting hundreds of apartments at subsidized rates to yeshiva students who have been granted deferrals from army service. Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush pledged to initiate legislation that would bypass the ruling.

With files from the JTA.

Israel Election Notebook

May 17

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

A total of 33 parties have officially asked to run in the May 17 election.

The record number includes 20 new parties and 13 veteran parties. Among the older parties are several which have failed in the past to win enough votes for a seat in the Knesset, according to applications received by the Central Election Committee (CEC) after registration ended last week on Wednesday.

Among those who have been undaunted by past failure and are making a fresh bid for the next Knesset are the Power to Pensioners party, which won 15,000 votes in the last election, the Organization for Democratic Action, which last time garnered 1,351 votes, and the anti-alimony Party for Men's Family Rights, which found 2,338 supporters in the 1996 election.

There are six candidates for prime minister: incumbent Benjamin Netanyahu, One Israel leader MK Ehud Barak, Centre party leader MK Yitzhak Mordechai, United Nationalist Movement leader MK Benny Begin, Balad leader MK Azmi Bishara, and former Knesset member Rabbi Yosef Ba-Gad of Moreshet Avot.

The CEC has until April 22 to rule on whether any of the parties or candidates are ineligible to run.

Already, CEC officials have cast doubts on some signatures presented by Ba-Gad.

Under Israeli law, a candidate must submit a list of 50,000 signatures of supporters or have the support of 10 current Knesset members to qualify to run for prime minister.

If Ba-Gad does not have the required number of valid signatures, his candidacy will have to be denied, a committee source said.

The traditional television broadcasts of political advertisements will be longer than usual in this election due to the large number of parties running. Voters will be able to watch a total of 690 minutes, or about 40 minutes a night, for 17 days.

Under state regulations, each of the 33 parties running is entitled to 10 minutes of television campaign advertising. Parties are also allowed three minutes for every Knesset member they now have. Television advertising will begin on April 26 and end on May 15.

Indonesia may establish relations with Israel

By DOUGLAS DAVIS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LONDON — Indonesia, the most populous Islamic state in the world, appears set to establish formal diplomatic relations with Israel after Indonesian elections are held in June.

The Israeli ambassador to Singapore is reported to have made several unpublicized visits to Indonesia in recent months to meet political and military officials, including aides to President Bacharuddin Jusuf Habibie, the favorite in the elections.

The visits were apparently aimed at establishing an Israeli diplomatic presence in Indonesia in the post-Suharto era.

Suharto was forced to resign in May of last year as a result of popular protests.

Recognition of Israel by Indonesia, which has a population of 210 million, could clear the way for the establishment of ties with Israel by such Asian Muslim states as Malaysia and oil-rich Brunei.

The London-based daily *Asharq al-Awsat* reported Monday that Israel had created relationships with the Indonesian military and business elites earlier in the decade, culminating in visits by former Israeli prime ministers Yitzhak Rabin in 1993 and Shimon Peres in 1995.

One of the key figures in the Suharto regime, Gen. Benny Mordani, who was defence minister from 1988 to 1993, publicly advocated the establishment of relations with Israel, a proposal that was enthusiastically embraced by some politicians from the minority Catholic, Chinese and Buddhist communities.

Mordani is believed to have made several secret visits to Israel and to have concluded various intelligence and military cooperation accords, some of which are understood to be still operational.

Israeli expertise is understood to have been used by the Indonesian army against separatist rebels in the early 1990s.

Veteran Foreign Minister Ali Alatas is known to oppose diplomatic ties with Israel before its dispute with the Palestinians is resolved, but he is unlikely to remain in office after the election.

The Saudi-owned *Asharq al-Awsat* noted that a leader of Nahdatul-Ulema movement – an Indonesian Islamic society with an estimated 35 million members – has been advocating diplomatic ties with Israel, but has been opposed by others, including many within his own movement.

A recent article in the Catholic-owned, English-language *Jakarta Post*, which supports ties with Israel, said the United States has been putting pressure on Jakarta to agree to the ties.

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Saddam still going strong

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Mideast Analysis

Despite the fierce bite of United Nations economic sanctions, an American and British aerial bombing campaign to enforce the no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq and periodic internal revolts, Saddam Hussein's Ba'athist regime shows no signs of cracking.

Saddam, who seized power 20 years ago this summer, remains firmly entrenched, in spite of numerous attempts to unseat him. Cognizant of these grim realities, the United States has intensified its efforts to undermine him.

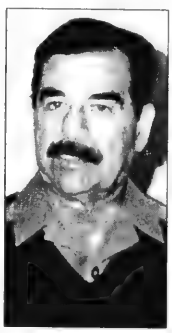
There have been two major developments in the past six months. Last autumn, Congress passed the $97 million Iraq Liberation Act, which authorizes President Bill Clinton to support the Iraqi opposition politically and logistically. At the end of January, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, in a swing through friendly Arab capitals, outlined a fresh approach to Saddam: "containment plus regime change."

In practice, this means that Washington has committed itself to a long-range program of exerting military, political, economic and diplomatic pressure on Iraq, which has proven to be one of the chief destabilizing elements in the Middle East.

The policy has been tacitly endorsed by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan and Turkey, notwithstanding their strong reservations about the disastrous effects of sanctions on ordinary Iraqis.

No one, however, believes that Saddam's days are numbered. The chances of a successful popular revolt in Iraq are extremely slim, given the repressive nature of his regime.

Iraq is a one-party totalitarian state. Saddam's multi-layered security forces have infiltrated every stratum of society. Harsh reprisals, ranging from long prison sentences to executions, await dissidents. The media is state-owned and rigidly controlled. Satellite dishes and access to the Internet are prohibited. Contacts with the few foreign travellers who visit Iraq are discouraged. In short, Iraq is a republic of fear.



Saddam Hussein

Despite the formidable firewall he has built around himself and his cronies, Saddam – a Sunni Muslim in a predominantly Shiite nation – has repeatedly been forced to deal with attempted coups by disaffected army officers and with rebellions by Kurds in the north and Shiites in the south.

Since the end of the Gulf War, the United States has played a significant role in fostering dissension in Iraq, though Congress recently objected to a Central Intelligence Agency plan to destabilize Saddam's clique.

In 1991, President George Bush encouraged the Shiites to revolt, but effectively abandoned them when Saddam struck back. To this day, resistance simmers in the marshlands near the city of Basra.

Bush also created a Kurdish enclave adjacent to the Turkish border, but turned down demands by the Kurds for total independence. The United States opposes Kurdish sovereignty in Iraq for two reasons. It would arouse great repugnance among neighboring countries, particularly Turkey, a close ally whose air bases are vital to Iraq's containment. And it would be an immense source of instability in the entire region, home to 25 million Kurds.

Washington's public embrace of six of the largest Iraqi organizations dedicated to Saddam's demise has been greeted with more than a little skepticism.

Running the gamut from the Iraqi National Congress to the Iraqi Communist Party, these groups are weak, divided and vulnerable to infiltration and attack. The Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan are fierce rivals and have fought each other. In August 1996, the Iraqi army stormed into the Kurdish enclave north of the 36th parallel and all but decimated the Iraqi National Congress, whose objective is to unite Kurds and Shiites.

It will be extremely difficult to topple Saddam, a ruthless master of survival. He enjoys a clear advantage over his enemies, and this situation is not likely to change any time soon.

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Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

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The week's programming includes dramas and documentaries, comedies and animated films, silent and short films, as well as two restored classic Yiddish films and a historic comedy compilation starring **Charlie Chaplin** and others. Among the offerings:

• *Andre's Lives* (U.S., 1998, 55 min.) At 89, **André Steiner**, a Bauhaus architect who saved thousands of Slovak Jews during the Holocaust, returns to Slovakia accompanied by his sons.

• *Photographer* (Poland, 1998, 76 min.) A realistic and disturbing portrait of life in the Lodz Ghetto, based on some 400 color slides that were discovered in a secondhand bookstore in Vienna in 1987.

• *Stateless, Arrogant and Lunatic* (Sweden, 1998, 100 min.) The amazing tale of **Gilel Storch**, a mysterious Latvian Jewish refugee in Sweden, who actually initiated talks with **Heinrich Himmler**, the head of the Gestapo, to save Jews in the waning days of the war.

• *Visas and Virtue* (U.S., 1997, 26 min.) The poignant dramatization of the life of **Chiune Sugihara**, the Japanese consul in Lithuania, who saved thousands of Jews during the Second World War.

• **Mother's First Olympics** (Israel, 1997, 54 min.) **Tami Carmeli** seems like an average wife and mother — except for her blindness. But that doesn't prevent her from preparing for the 1996 Atlanta Paralympic Games in lawn bowling.

• *The Personals* (U.S., 1998, 37 min.) This perceptive and charming documentary juxtaposes a play about the search for love, performed by Manhattan seniors, with the actors' own observations about finding romance.

• *Isaac Bashevis Singer "...About A Hidden God..."* (France, 1998, 50 min.) A tribute to the great Yiddish writer, who comments on his fame, his Nobel prize, and his philosophy of love, sex, women and Judaism. Presented with the animated short, *Gimpel the Fool*.

• *Shtick, Schmaltz and Shtereotypes: Jewish Images in the Cinema* (U.S., various years, 120 min.) **George Burns** and **Woody Allen**, **Mel Brooks**, **Eddie Cantor**, **Jack Benny** and **Charlie Chaplin** are just some of the stars feted in **Murray Glass's** eclectic presentation of hidden Jewish jewels and rarities.

• *A Letter Without Words* (U.S., 1998, 62 min.) When **Lisa Lewenz** discovered dozens of reels of 16mm film taken by her grandmother, Ella, in interwar Germany, she also discovered that her family was Jewish.

• *Moskowitz's City* (Israel, 1998, 30 min.) A hard-hitting exposé of **Irving Moskowitz**, the American millionaire whose donations fuel Arab-Israeli tensions in Jerusalem.

• *Primetime War* (Israel, 1998, 51 min.) Does a camera create or cover a news story? **Noam Shalev's** controversial documentary follows two TV cameramen, an Israeli and a Palestinian, as they film violent acts in Hebron and Jerusalem.

All films $8, seniors & students $5 with ID. 324-8600. Web site www.tjff.com.

* * *

Literary Trio: The Medina Theatre Ensemble presents its annual *Author, Author* evening, featuring three award-winning Canadian authors and playwrights: **Howard Engel**, **Jack Kuper** and **Judith Thompson**.

April 26, B'nai Brith Building, 15 Hove St. $5 members, $7 nonmembers; coffee will be served. 785-1074.

***

Chamber Music: I Musici de Montréal Chamber Orchestra celebrates its 15th anniversary with a worldwide tour that brings it to the George Weston Recital Hall of the Ford Centre, 5040 Yonge St.

The concert features works by **Nicolai Maiskovsky**, **Astor Piazzolla** and **Franz Schubert**.

The ensemble which just released its 37th CD *Verdi and Variations* is led by Jewish cellist **Yuli Turovsky**. April 14 at 8 p.m.Tickets $27-$40 from the box office or Ticketmaster 870-8000.

* * *

In the Spotlight: During a recent performance at Toronto's Roy Thomson Hall, the legendary American folk trio **Peter, Paul and Mary** dazzled an appreciative audience by playing spirited renditions of some of their best-known hits over nearly four decades of singing. Selections included *Puff the Magic Dragon*, *If I Had A Hammer*, *Blowin' In The Wind*, *Leaving On A Jet Plane*, *Where Have All the Flowers Gone*, and numerous others that reflected the group's continuous support of social justice and harmony.

Fans of the group should not have been surprised when **Peter Yarrow**, during a 15-minute solo appearance, revealed that he is Jewish and wished the audience a happy Passover. His song, *Don't Let the Lights Go Out*, seemed a rousing appeal to maintain one's cultural heritage while reaching out to others of different backgrounds and beliefs.

Various mentions and expressions of a quick peace were made during the evening to Israel, Kosovo, Northern Ireland, Rwanda and other political hot spots.

A good wish, Mr. Yarrow, and may it go from your mouth to God's ear!

Jacques Brel is alive in Toronto

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The timeless and well-loved musical, *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*, is playing in Toronto at the Winter Garden Theatre until April 24.

This time it has an all-Canadian cast of musical stars. It also includes three new songs by the Belgian-born composer, which enhance the play's bittersweet tone.

Brel's music speaks of lost loves and broken dreams while not forgetting the humor that is also a part of life. And this time the musical has brand-new orchestrations.

This new production has already played at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, and at Vancouver's Vogue Theatre, where Michael Burgess, Susan Henley, Jeff Hyslop and Louise Pitre won rave reviews for their work.

Jacques Brel is the type of show whose haunting melodies and insightful comments stay with the viewer for a lifetime.

The show is supported by an eight-piece on-stage orchestra and a stunning contemporary set design.

The musical, conceived by Eric Blau and the late Mort Shuman, is directed by Elly Stone. An accomplished singer and performer, Stone also once starred in the musical herself.

Tickets, which range from $29 to $65, can be purchased at the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre box office, any Ticketmaster location or by calling 872-5555.

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Comic novel about sports also tackles mid-life crisis

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts editor

David Epstein has one dream: to build a Jewish athletes' hall of fame shaped like a Magen David and made of glass. But where can the bankrupt real-estate agent raise the capital?

In Lowell Komie's *The Last Jewish Shortstop in America* (Swordfish/Chicago $16.25), Epstein turns to his friends in the Jewish community– lawyers, doctors, businessmen – to raise funds for his mammoth project.

But in a comic twist, his potential investors, all want more than just a return on their investment. They want their own halls. Thus, to his dismay, Epstein's memorial to Jewish athletes has little niches dedicated to Jewish allergists, chartered life underwriters and orthodontists.

Epstein slowly loses control over his vision of the hall of fame, as he loses control over his own life and his sanity.

In fact, underlying the comic story of his quest to build a Jewish athletes' hall of fame, is a tale of a middle-age crisis. It's a story of a man on the threshold of a complete mental breakdown.

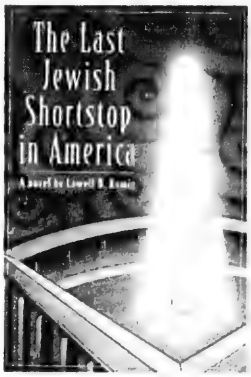
His domestic life is in shambles. His ex-wife is threatening to have him jailed for being delinquent on his child-support; his older daughter in law school wants him to continue paying her tuition; his credit cards are cancelled; his affair with a 28-year-old is fizzling; and in a *Lolita*-like twist, he finds himself the attraction of a pubescent friend of his younger daughter.

There are many amusing diversions in this book and perhaps of interest to Canadian readers is Epstein's trip to Toronto and Montreal.

Komie's observations of Canada and Canadians are humorously exaggerated. For example, the author describes Bloor Street in Toronto, this way: "No one seemed to be rushing. No one was shoving or bullying or screaming. The cars didn't aim at you as you crossed at the light...So this was Canada. Where was the acid rain? There wasn't even a mist on the streets."

In a bar on Sherbrooke Street in Montreal, Epstein orders a "Moulson." Well, we won't let that little error ruin an otherwise entertaining novel.

By using clever insights and comically exaggerated supporting characters, Komie is able to make a hero out of an otherwise desperate character.



The Last Jewish Shortstop in America won the 1998 Small Press Book Award and Komie won other awards previously. It is sold on Amazon and Barnes & Noble Web sites or you can write to Swordfish/Chicago Publishers, Suite 521, 155 N. Michigan Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60601.

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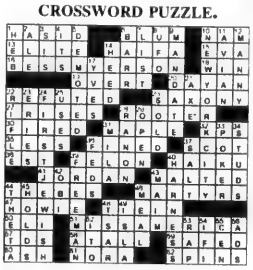

Kosherica holidays for the observant

By SHERRI ZIFF LAUSTER
Special to The CJN

As a confirmed travelaholic with no intentions of becoming abstinent, feeding my addiction has become more challenging – but not impossible – as I've become more observant.

I can arrange my schedule to arrive well before sundown Friday – no problem. I can explore on foot Saturday and return Sunday for must-have photo opportunities – not a big sacrifice. Often, I've arranged to daven with the local Jews, and share a Shabbat meal together. Sometimes I've happily corralled unsuspecting secular Jews into having kiddush and challah.

But the problem, or should I say challenge, of food still remains. I can make do with cold vegetarian if I have to. But truth be known, I still long for hot, local delicacies.

I knew deep down that G-d wouldn't lead me down a spiritual path, only to slam the door on my greatest passion. So I davened with kevanah for kosher restaurants to spring up in places like Bora-Bora and Portofino.

I screamed when I first heard about Kosherica, a Boca Raton-based travel company that organizes kosher cruises aboard first-rate cruise lines, to exotic destinations such as Alaska, the Caribbean and the Panama Canal.

"It's everything you'd want out of a vacation – seeing new places, relaxing in the sun, working out, and great evening entertainment," raved Los Angeles businessman Doug Schiller, who went on Kosherica's Caribbean trip aboard Holland America's *M.S. Ryndam* in January. "And then there's the Jewish element: Fantastic learning, daf yomi, davening – everything. I can't wait to have the time to go back again."

Doug's wife, Gail Schiller, a journalist, also raved. "It's the best of both worlds; to be on a beautiful cruise ship, and to be able to get delicious, gourmet, kosher food in a beautiful restaurant with an ocean view, and enjoy your meals alongside the other ship guests."

And it gets better. I've had my eye on one particular trip for years – a cruise of the Greek islands aboard Europe's premiere cruise line, Costa Cruises. Costa is the only cruise line that provides a true European experience and is famous for catering to an international clientele.

And because I read travel brochures the way most people read the newspaper, I had noticed that on this itinerary, departing from the most romantic place on earth – Venice – the one day "at sea" was Saturday which means I didn't have to miss out on a port. (On a cruise I went on last summer, I had to pass

Continued on page 37

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ANDRE'S LIVES 2/5/99 4:30pm Cinema I
Returning to Slovakia, a Holocaust survivor is assailed by his sons over what he does – and doesn't – remember about his life in Europe during the war. Bitter, sad yet edifying. With IN LIVING MEMORY.

AN EVENING OF SHORTS: 1/5/99 midnight Cinema I
NATIE THE PIRATE ~ An Odessa peddler is mistaken for a fearsome pirate in this uproarious animated adventure.
JULIET FINKELSTEIN DOES THE HAMPTONS ~ A hip, personable comedy about love, romance and sex. Not necessarily in that order.
MELVIN SCHMATZMAN: FREUDIAN DENTIST ~ A womanizing dentist loses control when he finds out that his son is gay. A lunatic and sweet comedy for the 90s.
LA DINDE (THE TURKEY) ~ Laughter ensues when a hapless husband tries to kill a turkey for dinner.
BYE - BYE YAHWEH, GOODBYE ~ A 40 year-old man thinks God speaks to him from inside a cigarette butt.

BLACKS AND JEWS 5/5/99 3:30pm Cinema II
Once staunch allies, the Jewish and Black communities in the US are undergoing strains in their relationship. With SAY I'M A JEW!

BRONSTEIN'S CHILDREN 5/5/99 9:30pm Cinema I
An assimilated young Jew discovers his father is helping to keep prisoner - and torturing - a former concentration camp guard.
Repeat screening ~ 6/5/99 2:00pm Cinema I

BUZZ 1/5/99 9:15pm Cinema I
A shocking true tale, Buzz follows two juvenile delinquents as their crimes escalate into cold blooded murder. A hard edged, unsentimental drama from director Eli Cohen (*The Summer of Aviya*).
Second screening ~ 1/5/99 9:45pm Cinema II

CHOPIN'S NOCTURNE 4/5/99 8:00pm Cinema II
Young lovers at the seashore enjoy a bucolic summer holiday until the Jews are taken away to be shot. With TASHA.

THE COMEDIAN HARMONISTS 4/5/99 2:30pm Cinema II
A documentary about a popular *a capella* musical sextet who were forced to disband when the Nazis came to power.

THE CRUISE 6/5/99 9:00pm Cinema I
Meet Timothy 'Speed' Levitch, an eccentric, wounded soul who just may be the best tour guide in Manhattan.
Repeat screening ~6/5/99 9:30pm Cinema II

DELTA JEWS 5/5/99 4:30pm Cinema I
The rich history of the Jews in the Mississippi Delta is profiled by Mike DeWitt With ABAYUDAYA: THE JEWS OF UGANDA and ADIO

THE DYBBUK OF THE HOLY APPLE FIELD Cinema I
29/4/99 7:30pm (Opening Night Film)
A modern spin on a classic Yiddish fable. Imagine *Romeo and Juliet* meets *The Exorcist*, with a bit of *The Vow* thrown in for good measure.
Repeat screening ~ 30/4/99 1:30pm Cinema II

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT 5/5/99 7:00pm Cinema I
Secular-religious relationships in Israel are personalized when Shimon Azulay turns the camera on his brother. With L.A. MOHEL and HIGH HOLIDAYS WITH MOSCOW HILLEL STUDENTS.

A FISH IN THE BATHTUB 4/5/99 4:30 p.m. Cinema I
Jerry Stiller and Anne Meara play the less than happily married, bickering Kaplans. The marriage crumbles when Sam brings home a giant carp, which he puts in the bathtub. With A WORLD TO COME.

FLORENTENE 2/5/99 8:00pm Cinema II
Gay, straight, hip, square, successful, struggling. These are the 20somethings of Tel Aviv's trendy but run down Florentene neighbourhood. Six episodes of one of Israel's most popular TV shows.

FOR MY BABY 4/5/99 9:30pm Cinema I
While a stand up comic in sombre Vienna decides whether to marry and start a family of his own, his demons manifest themselves.

HITCHHIKERS 5/5/99 2:00pm Cinema I
A conservative family man picks up a varied group of hitchhikers: a punky young woman, an Arab worker and a religious soldier. A comment on prejudice and the nature of artifice and reality. With PASTRY, PAIN AND POLITICS.

INTIMATE STRANGER 6/5/99 4:30pm Cinema I
From Alan Berliner, who delved into his father's life in last year's TJFF presentation, *Nobody's Business*, comes this film about his grandfather. *Intimate Stranger* reveals how we don't really know anything about the ones we love. With BABCHA.

The seventh annual
Toronto Jewish Film Festival
April 29-May 6 1999

Look for your Festival catalogues available @ most T.O. Libraries, Bloor and Bathurst JCCs, etc . Advance tickets on sale now.

Box Office: 33 Prince Arthur Ave. 2nd Floor, Mon-Thurs 1 pm - 6 pm, Fri 1 pm - 5 pm Sun April 11, 18 & 25 1 pm - 5 pm

The Festival is generously supported by the Zuberman Family Foundation, Gluskin Sheff + Assoc. Inc., C.A. Delaney Capital Management Ltd., The Edward Bronfman Family Foundation, among others.

ISAAC BASHEVIS SINGER "...ABOUT A HIDDEN GOD..." 3/5/99 6:00pm Cinema II: A tribute to the late, great Yiddish writer. With historical footage of the young Singer and narrated excerpts from his stories. With GIMPEL THE FOOL .

JEWS' BLUES 6/5/99 6:30pm Cinema II
Meet an unusual group of people who organized a classic car rally from London to Jerusalem. A charming, touching film journey. With NEBITARA and OUT OF THE PICTURE.

KALINKA MAYA 4/5/99 7:00pm Cinema I
Two Israeli bachelors head out on a date with two young Russian women. A delicate portrait of the new Israel. With SHULY'S FIANCE.

A LETTER WITHOUT WORDS 2/5/99 5:30pm Cinema II
When Lisa Lewenz uncovered reels of film taken by her grandmother in the 20s and 30s, she also discovered that her family was Jewish - something her Episcopalian parents had hidden. With SILENCE, OFFERINGS FOR WALLENBERG and RAW IMAGES FROM THE OPTIC CROSS. ***Repeat screening ~ 4/5/99 2:00pm Cinema I***

THE LIGHT AHEAD (DI KLYATSHE) 2/5/99 11:00am Cinema I
A couple struggle for freedom from the small-mindedness and oppression of shtetl life in this masterful black and white adaption of Mendel Mokher Sforim's powerful story. With NATIE THE PIRATE.

LULLABY 4/5/99 6:00pm Cinema II
Three tales of the Holocaust and the often turbulent relationships between Poles and Jews. With WITNESSED.

MR. BAUM 3/5/99 7:00pm Cinema I
Given just 92 minutes to live, cancer stricken Mickey Baum (Assi Dayan) fights to get home while desperately trying to reach his family. A black, satirical romp which crosses *Waiting for Godot* with *It's a Wonderful Life*. With HOW TO COVER YOUR ASS 3/5/99
Repeat screening ~ 6/5/99 4:00pm Cinema II

MY MOTHER'S FIRST OLYMPICS 5/5/99 6:00pm Cinema II
Tami Carmeli is an average Israeli wife and mother - except for her blindness. But don't think of it as a handicap. Tami doesn't. An inspiring, warm film about a unique individual. With I AM DEKEL.

THE PERSONALS: IMPROVISATIONS ON ROMANCE IN THE GOLDEN YEARS 6/5/99 7:00pm Cinema I
Keiko Ibi's perceptive, Academy Award™ winning documentary juxtaposes a play performed by seniors in Manhattan about the search for love, with the performers' own thoughts and observations on love and romance in the autumn of their lives. With VISAS AND VIRTUES and god@heaven.

PHOTOGRAPHER 2/5/99 7:00pm Cinema I
In 1987, 400 colour slides taken by the Nazi's chief accountant for the Lodz Ghetto were discovered. Dariusz Jablonski uses these pictures to paint one of the most realistic and disturbing portraits of Ghetto life ever put on screen. With NOVEMBER 29, 1947.
Repeat screening ~ 3/5/99 4:00pm Cinema II

PRIMETIME WAR 2/5/99 3:00pm Cinema II
Noam Shalev's controversial documentary follows two cameramen: an Israeli and a Palestinian, as they film violent acts in Hebron and Jerusalem. With MOSKOWITZ'S CITY.
Repeat screening ~ 3/5/99 4:30pm Cinema I

SHTICK, SCHMALTZ AND SHTEREOTYPES 2/5/99 1:30pm
Cinema I: An overview of Jewish comedy. Mel Brooks, Eddie Cantor, Jack Benny and Charlie Chaplin are just some of the stars feted in Murray Glass' eclectic presentation of Jewish jewels and rarities.

THE SINGING BLACKSMITH 30/4/99 1:00pm Cinema I
The incomparable Moishe Oysher is the blacksmith Yankl whose devotion to his ill wife Tamara is tested by his lust for his comely neighbour. A restored b+w Yiddish classic. With NATIE THE PIRATE

SPLIT 2/5/99 12:30pm Cinema II
Filmmaker Dan Tal's father, born a German Christian, came to Israel, married a Kibbutz girl and converted to Judaism. Now years later, he returns to Germany and to his estranged family to ask what they did during the war. With PEOPLE.
Repeat screening ~ 3/5/99 2:00pm Cinema I

STATELESS, ARROGANT AND LUNATIC 3/5/99 8:00pm Cinema II
The amazing true story of Gilel Storch. He initiated talks with leading Nazi Heinrich Himmler to save Jews from the gas chambers in the waning days of the war. One of the strangest stories of WWII.

TEARS OF STONE 2/5/99 9:30pm Cinema I
The true story of Jon Leifs, the famous Icelandic composer who had to choose between success as a musician in Nazi Germany and his marriage to his Jewish wife. Superbly acted, directed and shot.

TREYF 3/5/99 9:30pm Cinema I
The filmmakers, who fell for each other when they met at a Passover Seder, provide a detailed and funny look at the many permutations of Jewish lesbian life and love. With GOTTA HAVE HEART.

UNSTRUNG HEROES 5/5/99 8:00pm Cinema II
Diane Keaton helms a luminous adaptation of Franz Lidz's eccentric and autobiographical novel. A young boy, sent to live with his odd uncles while his mother is dying of cancer, enters a hermetic world where the spiritual lessons he learns change him forever.

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Travel, Arts & Business

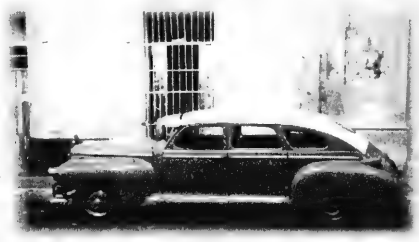
There's more to Cuba than relaxing in resorts

By GERRY SCHWARTZ
Special to The CJN

TRINIDAD, Cuba — The south shore and central region of Cuba remain fairly unfamiliar to most Canadian tourists, who flock to the large resorts in Varadero. There is much more to this large island in the Caribbean than Havana, beaches and self-contained resort areas.

The three provinces in the centre of Cuba are Sancti Spiritus, Cienfuegos and Santa Clara. The city of Trinidad, with a population of some 60,000, is the southernmost city in Sancti Spiritus. It is a colonial gem founded in 1514 and declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1988, the only location in Cuba besides "Old Havana" to be so designated by this UN body based in Paris. It is consequently eligible for funding to restore and refurbish its buildings in the *centro storico* (historical centre).

Local Cubans enjoy a game of dominos in a piazza in Trinidad.



Vintage car lovers will have a field day in Cuba where pre-Revolutionary vehicles are still the norm.
[Gerry Schwartz photos]

Trinidad has few traces of the late 20th century, and its centre is beautifully cobblestoned and closed off to any motorized traffic. The Spanish Colonial architecture of the mansions formerly owned by cattle and sugar barons, and the public buildings and churches make for nostalgic reminders of previous centuries. American cars from the 1930s to the 1950s are maintained and fully operational as *particulares* (private cars).

Places to visit and explore in this easily navigable-by-foot city are the Muséo Romantico (period furniture), Muséo de Arqueologia, Muséo de Musica and many beautiful colonial buildings in various states of restoration.

Some have been converted to offices and others to delightful cafés and restaurants for tourists. One of the latter, called Trinidad Colonial, has large white and black Art Deco floor tiles that look like something on a movie set.

To meet the locals, one may choose to eat at a *paladar*, a private home licensed to serve meals. Speaking Spanish helps, but there is always a family member with good English to translate.

I was also invited home for a *cafécito* by a staff member at my hotel, which was a very rewarding experience emotionally for all. Small gifts of items difficult or very expensive to purchase for Cubans are graciously appreciated and received.

From mid-afternoon when the last tour buses and groups have left Trinidad, the domino tables appear on the cobblestoned streets, and lively foursomes slap those tiles rhythmically. It was a great honor for me to be invited to play a few rounds in the square opposite the Santissima Trinidad Church, the photogenic symbol of the town.

Evenings are eerily quiet, but an Afro-Cuban folklore troupe weekly performs the heritage of their ancestors who labored in the sugarcane plantations in centuries past. There is even a disco called Las Cuevas, opened until the wee hours.

Above and north of the town lie the Escambrey Mountains, and a short trip by hired jeep will take you to a small mountain-spa village called Topès de Collantes, which offers crystal air and beautiful flora.

Further north on the road to the city of Santa Clara is the Embalse Hanabanilla, a scenic reservoir and nature area. Santa Clara itself is a university city and the home of the Ché Guevera Museum.

Individual trips can be booked with Rumbos Tours in town, or at your hotel desk. Two beach hotels on the Caribbean Sea are 16 kilometres from Trinidad, and a new luxury hotel is being built. Public transportation is difficult in Cuba, but a new service called Viazul, consisting of eight-passenger modern vans for tourists, runs between the main centres of the country.

Both Cubana and LACSA airlines of Costa Rica now have scheduled service from Toronto to Havana, but for individual, "non-package" travel, first consult the Cuban Consulate in Toronto. I even travelled locally for short distances by unusual modes for tourists: the back of a bicycle in Trinidad, a Russian-built dump truck, and (believe it or not) a Montreal bus (Rockland Route no. 119) with its original colors and markings used to transport hotel staff to and from work.

Though most of Cuba's remaining Jews are in Havana, there are scattered individuals and families of Jewish descent elsewhere. When I encountered a university student called Levi from Santa Clara, I told him about Israel, and he enthusiastically told me about his Jewish great-grandfather who came from Berlin to Cuba in the early '30s. Through generations of intermarriage and the discouragement of the open practice of any religion, this young man was proud of his connection and ancestral link.

The Cuban Tourist Board in Toronto is most helpful and can be reached at 55 Queen St. E., Suite 705, Toronto M5C 1R5; telephone 362-0700, fax. 362-6799.

Two excellent in-depth guidebooks are *The Cuba Handbook* by Footprint/Passport Series (1998) and *The Cuba Handbook* in the Moon Travel Handbooks Series (1997). The definitive Web site is www.cubaweb.cu and it is bilingual (Spanish-English).

The warmth and genuineness of the Cuban people should remain with you long after you return home.

The Santisima Trinidad Church.

Comic play a one-act wonder

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Every writer must have his whim, and J.J. Steinfeld, professor of English, satisfied his with a one-act play, one of four presented at the opening of the New Ideas Festival at the Alumnae Theatre.

It's a strange comic play, but for Steinfeld, a former Montrealer who teaches at the University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown, it's all in a day's work.

The erudite professor, who has won a Jewish Book Award for serious work, has a holiday with this droll play about a bantam wrestler named Headlock Romulus (Steve Seliotis).

Masked Marvel

Weighing only 150 pounds, Headlock can pin the behemoth Masked Marvel of Toronto to the mat. His secret? He drinks no alcohol, only copious amounts of orange juice.

Headlock's woman companion is the weirdly named Gyration, the Perpetual Motion Dream Doll, (Heather Stewart) a Montreal striptease artist.

The complications start when the stripteaser visits her brother Richie (Marc de Oliveira) in Toronto. Richie is a chocolate-chip-eating, indulgent writer, who is spoiled by the ministrations of his friend Megan (Wendy Akerboom).

He can't believe that Headlock is as good as he claims. But after the bantam puts him through a series of painful wrestling holds, he finally agrees to see him perform the next night.

As befits such an eyebrow-lifting plot, the four-member cast all give over-the-top performances, punctuated with sly winks at the capacity audience at the Alumnae's upstairs theatre.

The festival continues for two more weeks with eight different plays.

Gentrified Miami Beach is back

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

MIAMI BEACH — The gentrification of Miami Beach continues apace, and nothing better symbolizes this trend than the revitalization of Lincoln Road.

When I recently visited this glitzy Florida resort, a favorite of North American Jewish travellers, I was was almost dumbstruck by the makeover Lincoln Road had undergone since my last trip in 1996.

Open-air cafes and restaurants had sprouted, set amid regal palm trees, ornamental bushes and dazzling flower-beds.

A profusion of chic new art galleries had opened.

Shops which had been shuttered and forlorn had been supplanted by funky stores.

And perhaps best of all, there was a vibrant sense of street life on this once-neglected pedestrian mall.

A day after I rediscovered Lincoln Road, which stretches for about a kilometre from South Beach to Biscayne Bay, I read Ellie Stein's obituary in the *Miami Herald*.

Stein, a Miami Beach artist who had died at the age of 55, had been one of the masterminds of the rebirth of Lincoln Road.

In the mid-1980s, when Miami Beach was in a state of precipitous decay, she and other civic-minded individuals established studios on Lincoln Road.

They were the vanguard of a new wave of visionary entrepreneurs who positively transformed not only Lincoln Mall, but Miami Beach itself.

Evidence of this metamorphosis can also be found nearby, in the Art Deco Historic District, renowned for its Moderne and Mediterranean Revival architectural styles.

In the very heart of South Beach, which used to be the haunt of Jewish retirees from the frigid north, hotels which had fallen into disrepair have been renovated on a monumental scale. What had been seedy 15 or more years ago is now decidedly grand.

The pastel-colored hotels, ranging from the Essex to the Cardozo, have been primped up deliciously, and now attract a prosperous, far younger clientele, the kind of bronzed, muscle-toned beautiful people featured in glossy magazines.

Their mecca is Ocean Drive, where many of the modernized and repainted hotels sit in whimsical splendor under a warm sun.

Ocean Drive, hard by the wide beaches fronting the Atlantic, pulsates from morning to night with the buzz of conversation and Latin American music. This is no place for those who seek the comfort of solitude.

The cafes, whose denizens spill out to the sidewalks, are invariably packed with tourists. As befits the climate, people watching is a great sport here. Leggy models with impossibly slim waists and muscular males in tight pants cruise by. And on the congested road, blithe rollerbladers in shorts whoosh along, seemingly oblivious to the hubbub.

Meanwhile, near the adjoining beach, pickup volleyball games are in full swing. And at the water's edge, blissful colonies of bathers absorb the rays of the sun, for better or worse.

Washington Avenue, two blocks away from this sybaritic realm, has been largely refashioned by the relentless march of change as well.

Most notably, the famous kosher bakeries are gone, having been replaced by Cuban food emporiums, pizzerias and a fusion of international restaurants, and with them the Orthodox Jews one used to see around these parts.

Yet Jewish traditions live on further south on Washington Avenue. There, at the corner of Third Street, is the Sanford L. Ziff Jewish Museum of Florida, housed in Congregation Beth Jacob, a synagogue which flourished until some three decades ago.

Built in 1936 from a design by Henry Hohauser, the architect who conceived the Cardozo Hotel, Beth Jacob was in its heyday from the 1940s to the 1960s. As a result of demographic changes, which sent Jews northward, and Hurricane Andrew, which damaged its roof and destroyed its decorative plaster and oak floors, Beth Jacob declined into an empty hulk.

In 1995, after a $1.5-million restoration and conversion project, the shul was recast as Florida's sole Jewish museum. It is a fascinating depository of social, economic, religious and political lore, and one can easily spend hours there.

Its newest exhibit, Jews of Miami Beach: 1945 to the Present, runs until May 5. It speaks volumes about the gentrification of Miami Beach.

A kosher holiday

Continued from page 34

on St. Tropez because of Shabbat.)

As a total confirmation that somebody is listening, Kosherica is hosting a kosher cruise aboard the *Costa Classica* June 21 to 28.

The gourmet kosher food, prepared by five-star chefs under the supervision of the Orthodox Rabbinical Board, includes a dairy breakfast, and a choice of a meat, chicken, fish, or vegetarian entree at lunch and dinner. Kosherica also provides concerts and Shabbat services with world renown cantors, daily minyanim, daf yomi, and Chumash and Pirkei Avot lectures.

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All levels of observance are welcome. Separate pool hours are posted. While Costa cannot prohibit guests from using the pool at those times, guests on previous cruises have been very respectful. You can use the pool as a mikvah because it is filled with sea water.

The luxurious five-star *Costa Classica*, a ship of Italian design that reflects the spirit of Italy, calls at Bari (Italy), Katakolon, Santorini, Mykonos, Rhodes, and Dubrovnik before returning to Venice.

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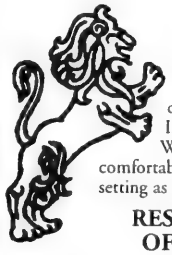
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Health

New drug developed to fight osteoarthritis

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A new drug which inhibits the enzymes that attack cartilage will help those who suffer from osteoarthritis, a medical specialist said here recently.

"I'm lining up for it and I'm very excited," Dr. Jerry Tenenbaum told 450 people attending a Mount Sinai Healthy Living Lecture at the Leah Posluns Theatre.

The drug, known as COX-2, will be available within a year, he told CTV health reporter Avis Favaro, the moderator.

"It is an anti-inflammatory agent that is safer for the stomach," said Tenenbaum, a consultant rheumatologist at Mount Sinai, the Toronto Hospital and Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care

Later, he told a questioner that he did not know if the new drug will be safer on kidneys than current medications, "but probably not in its first generation."

Asked about the use of glucosamine for arthritis, Tenenbaum said he is keeping an open mind on it, but that the evidence is coming in slowly. "Proper clinical trials need to be held," he said.

New drugs for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis are coming, and he is "excited" about them, said Dr. Edward Keystone, director, the Centre for Advanced Therapeutics in Arthritis, Mount Sinai Hospital.

"These non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs will change what is happening to the affected joints," he said.

Describing them as "new and innovative therapy," Keystone said they will help the 300,000 Canadians with rheumatoid arthritis, most of whom are 40 to 60 years of age. Included, however, are 600 children, with cases peaking at age two and 10.

Since it has been impossible to find the "trigger" which causes arthritis, Keystone said present research is concentrating on agents which block damage to the joints.

'Could not open baby food jars'

People with rheumatoid arthritis have a life expectancy of 10 years less than others, Keystone said.

An inspirational note was sounded by Judith Gwyn-Williams, who has had rheumatoid arthritis for 13 years. She told the audience in a confident voice how she has coped with raising a family.

"I was always exhausted, could not open baby food jars, and my wrists had the strength of a baby."

Gwyn-Williams said she wears men's shoes to hide big orthotics she needs because of the disease, and wears slacks to hide her legs.

Two of her children have developed arthritis, she said.

Referring to the lecture series, chair Ted Freedman, the hospital's CEO, said, "This is an opportunity to give something back to the Jewish community which has always been the backbone of Mount Sinai Hospital."

The lectures were co-sponsored by the Jewish Women's Federation and the Bathurst Jewish Centre.

A SINGING 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Baycrest Centre Wagman members Charles and Molly Davis celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary singing with children from Ledbury Park Middle School at Baycrest recently. The Davises are part of Interlink, a national program that brings seniors and schoolchildren together through music and as pen pals.

Baycrest Centre launches food guide for seniors

TORONTO — Poor eating habits among aging adults living in the community has prompted the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care to produce a *Community Food Resource Guide for Seniors.*

"Many seniors have no idea that their local grocery store may provide assisted grocery shopping," says Carol Robertson, manager of food and nutrition services at Baycrest Centre.

"We found that seniors with physical and cognitive challenges often have a difficult time finding out what resources are available to them in the community. If there is a service that delivers washed and pre-cut fruit and vegetables at a very reasonable cost, they should be aware of it."

The resource guide is written for seniors and their caregivers, and for health-care professionals who want information to pass along to their clients. The information is specific to the Toronto area, and includes grocery home delivery, assisted shopping and transportation, Internet grocery shopping, food banks and where to get prepared and special needs foods.

There are tips to help caregivers assess if an older person is at risk of malnutrition and advice on how to approach a local grocery store to provide special services for the elderly.

Poor nutrition among the elderly is the result of many factors, says Robertson. A widowed senior may often lose interest in food. Physical problems, such as difficulty chewing and swallowing, side effects from medications, and depression, are contributing factors. Frail health may prevent an elderly person from getting out regularly to grocery shop, let alone prepare a meal. Seniors generally have an impaired sense of taste and smell which can make the food they used to enjoy seem unappealing.

Most older people want to live in their own homes as long as they can. If seniors can access services to help them eat well and maintain their health and overall well-being, this will help them live independently as they age, says Robertson.

Baycrest dietitians designed the guide in an easy-to-read format. Color-coded sheets denote different topics, such as Grocery Shopping Made Easier, Prepared Foods, Eating Well on a Budget, Social Dining, How to Find Banks in Your Area, and Other Organizations That Can Provide Information, Resources and/or Services.

The *Community Food and Nutrition Guide for Seniors* is available free of charge and can be ordered by calling Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, 785-2500, ext. 2140.

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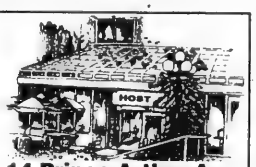

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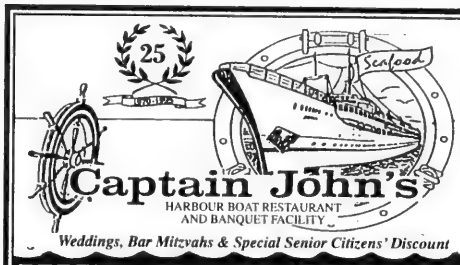

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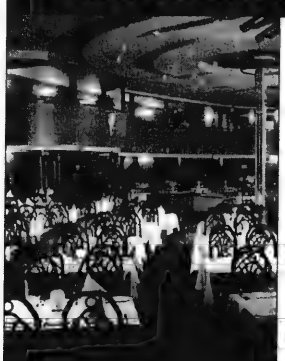

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Students at United Synagogue Day School learned about the customs and traditions of the Pesach seder. A grade 2 class performed a model seder for the residents of Baycrest. Seen above from the Richmond Hill campus are (from left) Rachel Szereszewski, Adam Steinberg, Alee Weinstein and Joshua Rosenberg.

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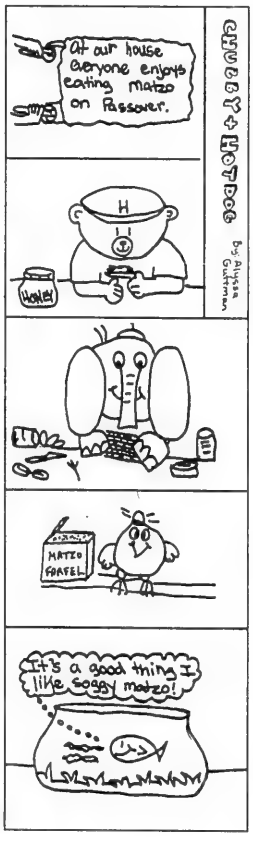
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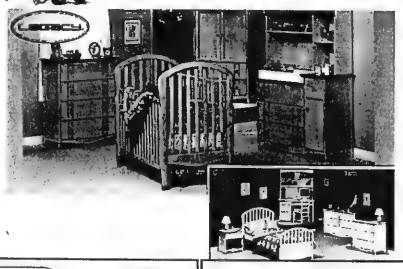

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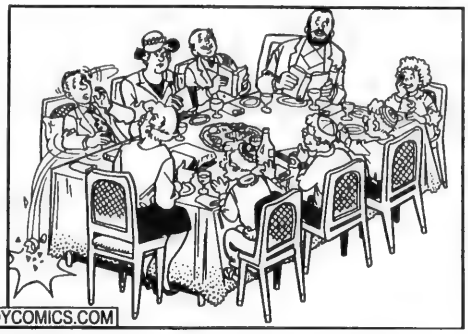

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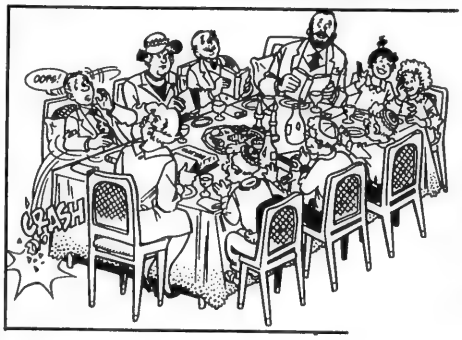

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All classified ads will be accepted on the basis of no changes in copy and no cancellation until after the first insertion.

CLASSIFIED DIRECTORY

Call (416) 391-1836
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REAL ESTATE Section

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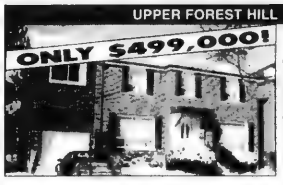

Spacious 4 bdrm., huge family room addition, gleaming hardwood floors. Breakfast room overlooks gorgeous garden, 50 x 125 ft. lot, fabulous location! Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

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Spacious ranch bungalow! California-style, 2,700 sq. ft. (approx.), 4 bedrooms, oversize family room, 69 x 120 ft. lot, eat-in kitchen, only $329,000. **ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

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Custom-built modern design, open concept, quality craftsmanship, 4 + 2 bdrms., large principal rooms, ideal for entertaining, cathedral ceilings. Call for details. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

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• • •

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2 bedrooms + solarium, 2 parking spaces, ensuite laundry, priced for immediate sale at $209,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

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72 DON RIVER BLVD.! 65' X 215' RAVINE!
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218 BYNG AVENUE! 5 BEDROOMS, 4 BATHS! SOLD
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107 CASTLERIDGE DRIVE! NOW $389K!
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257 HEALTHCARE AVAILABLE

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260 BUSINESS PERSONALS

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Jewish Singles Registry. Over 1710 registered. **416-483-4151.**

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Replying to a Companion ad with a CJN Box Number?

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1500 Don Mills Rd.
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M3B 3K4
Box # _____

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

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SJM 32 wishes to meet SJF 25-35 for casual dating and lots of fun. Please respond to CJN Box #7167. All replies will be answered

Mid - 50's retired Jewish gentleman, Israeli/Romanian background, fun living, 5'7", seeks attractive female companion, non-smkr. Send photo & phone number to Box 529, 250 Eglinton Ave. E, Toronto, M4P 1K0.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

*** CJN Boxes for Personal Companions Wanted ads are valid for 30 (thirty) days only (from 1st publication date). Replies must be received within this time frame in order to be forwarded to the correct CJN Box #.**

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Israel & the Jewish World

Palestinians get their own 'Balfour Declaration'

By GIL SEDAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Analysis

The Palestinian people now have a "Balfour Declaration" of their own.

But while the original declaration that recognized the right of the Jewish people to have a national homeland was the work of Great Britain alone, the statement backing Palestinian statehood emerged earlier this month from the 15 members of the European Union (EU).

With their unequivocal backing, the EU leaders are offering to give Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat international recognition for a Palestinian state, in exchange for his willingness to postpone a unilateral declaration of statehood.

In this respect, observers noted, a strategy crafted by Arafat appears to have resulted in a major payoff.

For months, Arafat has been threatening to unilaterally declare statehood on May 4, the end of the interim period in Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking under the terms of the Oslo accords. The final-status talks, which have barely gotten off the ground, were supposed to have been completed by that date.

In recent weeks, Arafat has met with European and American officials to win their assurances of support for statehood if he postpones the declaration.

During a meeting with Arafat in Washington, President Bill Clinton fell short of giving such an assurance, reiterating U.S. policy that a state can only emerge through negotiations with Israel. But at the same time, Clinton said he would press Israel to engage in "intensive, serious and credible" peace talks that would have a deadline for completion.

Arafat also met in Ottawa with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, who gave his support for Palestinian statehood. But, like Clinton, Chrétien said it should be reached after negotiations with Israel, not as a result of a unilateral declaration.

Echoing the U.S. desire that those negotiations not be open-ended, Chrétien said the talks cannot go on forever.

The various statements, capped by the EU declaration, all came as a result of Arafat's threat to make a unilateral pronouncement.

Never mind that Arafat might never have followed through on the threat. A unilateral declaration in early May, coming weeks before the Israeli elections, could have played directly into the hands of the one politician Arafat does not want to see re-elected – Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Palestinian officials believe that in the wake of the EU statement of support and the meeting with Clinton, it is now highly unlikely that Arafat will make the unilateral declaration.

The postponement, even for a year, involves a simple calculation on Arafat's part: Better to wait and have international support for Palestinian statehood, which will prove a valuable card indeed in the final-status talks with Israel.

In addition, perhaps there will be a new Israeli leader to negotiate with after the May elections.

Just the same, a postponement of Palestinian aspirations will undoubtedly test Arafat's standing among his people at a time when his political stock has been falling.

The man whose regime has been strongly criticized for corruption and abuse of power will now be telling Palestinians to bear with him because statehood will soon be theirs.

The response he gets from his people will likely mirror their reaction to the EU declaration. The rejectionists, including leftists and Islamic fundamentalists, saw nothing special in it. Arafat supporters rejoiced.

In Israel, the reaction to the declaration was harsh indeed. The Israeli leadership – preoccupied with the coming elections – was caught off guard by the declaration, which came just weeks after EU officials reiterated their stand that they view Jerusalem as a separate entity from Israel under the terms of the 1947 partition plan that called for the internationalization of the city.

Once the declaration was made by the EU, Israeli leaders from all sides of the political spectrum came out against it.

Invoking the memory of the Holocaust, Netanyahu said, "It is a shame that Europe, where a third of the Jewish people was killed, should take a stand which puts Israel at risk and goes against our interests."

'We cannot accept this...'

He also said that EU officials had reduced their possibility of being an honest broker in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

The European Union "has already taken sides. Not only has it taken sides, it has even given a date," Netanyahu said.

"We cannot accept this attempt at an external dictate, a Palestinian state with a deadline by the year 2000."

His stance was echoed by members of the opposition Labor party.

Even Labor Knesset member Yossi Beilin, a key architect of the Oslo accords, said he regretted the EU declaration.

"I don't have a problem with the substance," Beilin said. "I am also in favor of Palestinian self-determination." But, he added, "The question is whether I come to that point by way of an agreement with the Palestinians on a demilitarized state, on red lines, on limitations, or whether someone from outside dictates the rules."

Meanwhile, within the Palestinian self-rule areas, the coming weeks will witness a shift in political power from the institutions of the Palestinian Authority – a product of the Oslo accords – to the organs of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

With the powers of the Palestinian legislative council set to expire on May 4, Arafat will soon be calling a meeting of the PLO's Central Committee to announce what happens next.

The anticipated scenario is that Arafat will use his authority to extend the powers of the existing institutions and call for new elections for a Palestinian legislature.

He will also start setting the scene for a declaration of independence, but that move is now not expected until May – of next year.

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SEEKING SOULMATE
Single female, 35, 5'4", slim, attractive, brunette, true romantic, enjoy movies, theater, reading, dining & dancing, ethnic foods, weekend getaways. Seeking a male, 35-44, romantic, sensitive, intelligent, handsome, attractive, inside and out. AD#1916

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single Jewish female, 36, slime, cute, petite, confident, enjoy dining & dancing, music, movies, long walks, good conversation. Seeking a single Jewish male, 35-40, spontaneous, down to earth, ambitious, for serious relationship leading to marriage and children. AD#1917

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Single Jewish female, 58, speak only Yiddish and Russian, brown eyes and hair. Seeking a single Jewish male, 60-70, kind, and well established AD#1919

LIFE LONG PARTNER
Single female, 35, slim, attractive, a true romantic, enjoy theater, movies, and weekend getaways. Seeking a male, 35-43, who is intelligent, and attractive, inside and out. AD#1902

FRIEND OR LOVER
Single female, 38, dark hair, blue eyes, nice smile, a real people person, Kindergarten teacher, family oriented, down to earth, enjoy movies, live theater. Seeking a male, down to earth, with similar interests for serious relationship. AD#1887

WEEKEND GET AWAYS
Single female, 35, 5'4", brunette, slim, attractive, sensitive, romantic, intelligent, enjoy dining out, movies, reading, theater, weekend getaways. Seeking a sensitive, romantic male, 35-43, intelligent, attractive ,inside and out. AD#1888

SEEKING LIFE PARTNER
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Men seeking Women

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Attractive, athletic male, 5'9", brown hair and eyes, employed, no children, enjoy reading, foreign movies, tennis, basketball, weight lifting. Seeking an honest female, who is open minded, compassionate, with a great sense of humour. AD#1957

HIGH QUALITY
Divorced male, mid 50's, 3 grown children, well educated, tall, slim, life in British Columbia, enjoy the outdoors, travelling, camping. Seeking a female, warm sensitive, serious, and ready for intense relationship. AD#1962

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single male, Jewish, 26, handsome, non smoker, enjoy long conversations, movies, music, animals, camping. Seeking an attractive, single female, non smoker, with similar interests. AD#1964

GOING OUT FOR COFFEE
Single Jewish male, 5'8", 180lbs, easy to get along with, healthy, down to earth, old fashioned, kind, man of many talents, enjoy art, sports. Seeking a single Jewish female with similar interests. AD#1937

WARM AND CARING
Single white male, 56, self employed, romantic, enjoy travelling, movies, quiet times, good conversations. Seeking a female with similar interests. AD#1933

EASY GOING
Single Jewish male, 41, fun loving, easy going, great sense of humour, enjoy movies, theater, long walks, skiing, skating. Seeking a female, 34-43, with similar interests. AD#1939

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP
Single male, Jewish, professional, late 40's, handsome, intelligent, good sense of humour, caring, sincere, enjoy dining & dancing, movies, good conversation. Seeking a warm hearted female for serious relationship. AD#1945

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single white male, professional, Jewish, computer engineer, good sense of humour, outgoing, gourmet cook, enjoy outdoor activities. Seeking a female for long term, lasting relationship. AD#1944

SENSE OF VALUES
Single Jewish male, smart, intelligent, strong, outgoing, with strong sense of values. Seeking a female, who is fun, trustworthy, 25-32. AD#1921

COLLEGE STUDENT
Single Jewish male, 22, 6'2", college student, enjoy sports, especially golf and baseball, movies, dining out, dancing. Seeking a female, 18-23, with similar interests. AD#1922

LOVING
Single male, 5'10", black hair, green eyes, non smoker or drinker, happy going person, enjoy cooking, dancing, dining out, movies, caring, loving. Seeking a very nice and sincere female with similar interests AD#1923

LATIN MUSIC
Single Jewish male, 5'6", 147lbs, healthy in body and mind, enjoy Latin music, great outdoors, tennis and fine dining. Seeking an attractive, slim female, with similar interests. AD#1906

ATTENTION LADIES!
Single male, professional, mid 50's, Israeli-European background, enjoy walks, movies, dining and dancing. Seeking a female, attractive, petite, down to earth. AD#1470

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Single Jewish male, 36, tall, fit, professional, easy going, down to earth, live in Western Canada, enjoy travelling, movies, weekends at the lake. Seeking a Jewish female, active, sincere, outgoing, 25-40, willing to relocate or have a long distance relationship. AD#1886

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Single Jewish male, strong, fit, athletic, great sense of humour. Seeking a female, 30-40, who is nice and considerate. AD#1895

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single male, 36, slim, blue-green eyes, brown hair, enjoy movies, dining and dancing, travelling, good conversationalist, financially secure. Seeking an attractive, outgoing, cheerful female, who is a good conversationalist, for relationship leading to marriage. AD#1898

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 34, 5'7", athletic built, Bachelor of Science, caring, honest, reliable, romantic, enjoy movies, cooking, 60's dancing. Seeking a single Jewish female, intelligent, professional, open, and friendly AD#1877

SPONTANEOUS
Single Jewish male, outgoing, spontaneous, adventurous, enjoy working out, swimming, scuba diving, skiing, music. Seeking a female, who is passionate, with inner and outer beauty. AD#1878

OUTSPOKEN
Single male, 34, educated, outspoken, enjoy country life, outdoor activities, dining out, animals. Seeking a female with similar interests. AD#1880

ATTENTION LADIES!
Single male, 47, warm, romantic, intelligent, 5'9", medium built, good sense of humour, enjoy movies, dining out, good conversation. Seeking a female, who is warm hearted and sincere. AD#1885

CASUAL GET TOGETHERS
Divorced Jewish male, 40's, 5'8", 136lbs, enjoy culture, art, ballet, travelling. Seeking a female who is independent, for casual get togethers. AD#1870

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Sports

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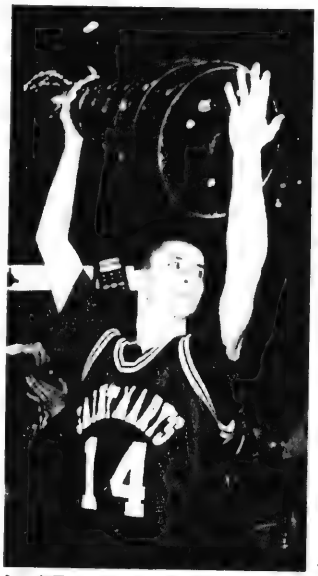
see ad on page 29

Jonah Taussig named CIAU hoops tournament all-star

Point guard key man in St. Mary's championship

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter



Jonah Taussig hoists the CIAU championship trophy.

TORONTO — For some strange reason, Jonah Taussig doesn't think he played all that well in his team's final game of the season.

Never mind that he was named a tournament all-star, that his coach calls him the heart and soul of the team and that he got tons of court time. Oh yeah, and his seventh-ranked St. Mary's Huskies happened to knock off the top ranked Alberta Golden Bears 73-69 in overtime to capture the CIAU national basketball title.

Modest to a fault, Taussig, 22, believes he could have sunk a few more baskets and played a little better in the final game, just like he did in the tournament semi-final when he had a basketful of steals, 20 points and was named game MVP.

Maybe he's used to playing superbly game in and game out – he was named Atlantic Union Athletic Association (AUAA) all-star point guard – or maybe he's just a perfectionist.

Either way, the rest of the players in the AUAA better watch out next year, because if they don't, Taussig will smoke them. At least, that's what his coach, Ross Quackenbush, believes.

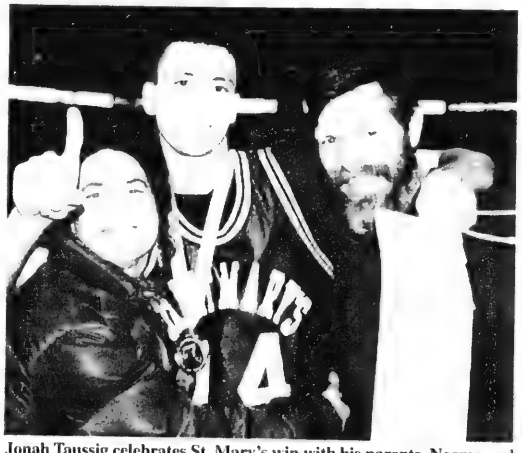
Next season will be Jonah's "coming out party." Look for him to be named CIAU all-star, he predicted.

Taussig was no slouch this season, particularly in the eight-team playoffs, Quackenbush continued.

"The guy just won me a national championship," he said. "He had 13 rebounds in the championship game.

"Jonah's the key, absolutely," Quackenbush raved. "To take nothing away from the other guys, he's the linchpin. Even in a pickup game, he's a winner. Jonah's leadership is not reflected in the stats."

The tournament final, which culminated the Huskies' Cinder-fella season, was a great game to play in, Taussig said.



Jonah Taussig celebrates St. Mary's win with his parents, Norma and Frank. [Paul Fitzgerald photos]

Unlike the semi-final, in which St. Mary's fell behind sixth-ranked McMaster by 12 points, the game against the Golden Bears was a seesaw affair. No team could open much of a lead and both squads fought hard right down to the wire, Taussig said.

Led by tournament MVP Cory Janes, who poured in 26 points and grabbed 14 rebounds against Alberta, the Huskies, ranked seventh in the eight-team tournament, squeaked out the win.

With seconds remaining in overtime, Janes drained two huge shots from the foul line to seal the victory. Kurt Henry pitched in with 15 points while Taussig had 10.

When the final buzzer went off, the atmosphere in front of the hometown fans in Halifax was wild, Taussig said. The celebrations went on for some time, he added.

Taussig was deserving of AUAA and tournament all-star honors, Quackenbush said.

"Jonah scores for us [he averaged 16 points per game] but it's when he scores that's important. He's always getting six or seven rebounds; he's always getting six or seven steals.

"He's got steals, assists, no turnovers. He just finds a way to win," Quackenbush said.

Taussig was born on Cape Breton Island, N.S. and lived there until he was six. That's when his parents, Frank, originally from Boston, and Norma, originally from Panama, packed up Jonah and his two brothers and moved the family to New Mexico. When he was about 11, Jonah's brothers Robin and Noel introduced him to basketball. Even at that age his competitive nature pushed him to do well against the older boys.

The family moved back to Canada when Jonah was in Grade 9 and Taussig played school hoops in Halifax for Queen Elizabeth High, winning two provincial championships as a shooting guard.

He was named starting point guard in his first year at St. Mary's as the team compiled a 9-11 record to advance to the AUAA championships.

Early on, Quackenbush recalls, he could see that Taussig was a special talent.

"He was a freshman starter and he got pounded, but I told him after two games, 'You're the leader.'

"It's Jonah's team."

Since then, Taussig's game has improved, as you might expect. "I've gotten smarter, a lot quicker maybe," he said.

With two more years of university eligibility remaining, Taussig, who's studying marketing, is beginning to contemplate his post-grad options. He's got friends who play pro ball in Europe, and the idea of joining them intrigues him.

Quackenbush believes Taussig could have a future in pro basketball in a European league.

"He's got good skill and he's got great instincts for the game. He's quick and he's an excellent defender on the ball. For sure he's got a future in pro basketball for any team that wants to win," he said.

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The Inside Back

A shlepper's story

By JORDAN MAX

Last Laugh

I was definitely not prepared for the lineup at the chiropractor's office on Monday morning.

As I gazed around the room filled with middle-aged men like me, it didn't take long to discover the commonality; the chiropractor confirmed what I had already concluded from my conversations with the veterans in the waiting room. Every year, most married, Jewish middle-aged men attempt the equivalent of an Olympic weightlifting record by shlepping boxes of Pesachdik plates, cutlery, pots, you name it, upstairs.

Then, after only a week of recuperation time, we are required to haul them all back down to storage. There was a fancy medical term for it, vertebral pesachdosis, but it was more commonly known as shlepper's back.

In my particular case, shlepper's back just aggravated my underlying condition, first acquired when my wife was in labor with our first child (coincidentally also during Pesach).

Let me explain. There I was, being a good labor coach by assisting her during contractions. In what I can now see was a foreshadowing of the future, I was half-squatting, half-standing, when I had this extremely violent sneeze. I immediately felt this sharp lower back pain, which kept me hunched over for the duration of her labor. By the time we got to the hospital, I was willing to fight her for the painkillers. She won.

I have checked with the medical texts, and confirmed this as the world's only registered case of male injury during childbirth.

Sitting around the chiropractor's waiting room that Monday morning, us fellow shleppers recalled that many years ago, before we had kids, it seemed we had far fewer things to shlep.

Or were our backs just stronger then? We recalled, those of us with memory still intact, that most pots and utensils were just kashered for Pesach. As the years went by and our financial situations improved somewhat, we had bought more things so we and/or our wives would spend less time kashering and more time cooking.

Of course, there was a trade-off. We were just too naive to realize that less kashering meant more shlepping up and down the stairs. And the busier and more populated our households got, the faster the chametz-Pesach changeovers became, resulting in more boxes shlepped in a shorter period of time, resulting in severely strained back muscles and legs.

The cure? Lots of bed rest, and no heavy lifting for at least another six months, until it's time to put up the sukkah, which creates, you guessed it, vertebral sukkahdosis. And the cure for that is six months of no heavy lifting until it's time for...well, you get the picture.

However, one positive thing has come out of all this. I am proud to announce that we have now formed the founding chapter of the Shlepper's Club, also known as the Zokef Kefufim Society, led and facilitated by our devoted chiropractor.

The male bonding was instantaneous, straight out of the *Iron John Movement Handbook*, but without the hugging, wilderness retreats or primal scream therapy.

We have now realized that Jewish male backs are a precious commodity indeed, required for davening (depending on shochelling speed), the occasional hagbah at shul, numerous strenuous household tasks, such as changing light bulbs, cleaning the garage and workbench, as well as the annual Pesach and Sukkot shleppathons.

As the next course of business, we all resolved to see each other soon, in about, say, six month's time.

Postscript: With a lot of treatment, my shlepper's back is improving, and I resolve to start my weight training earlier next year. One thing is for certain, though. The next house we buy, it'll have its own dumb-waiter system installed. But until then, it'll just have to be me.

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STRAWBERRY FLUFF

Fluff:

2 egg whites, stiffly beaten
1 cup sugar
1 1/2 cups fresh strawberries, mashed
1 tblsp. fresh lemon juice

In a very large bowl, gradually add sugar to beaten egg whites, beating continuously at high speed. Add lemon juice and continue beating. Add mashed strawberries and continue beating until stiff. Spoon into parfait glasses or a springform pan and freeze.

Chocolate topping:

2 oz. parve bittersweet chocolate bar
2 tblsp. oil

Melt chocolate with oil in double boiler or microwave, mix well. Spoon over fluff (will harden immediately). Return to freezer until ready to serve.

About Teens

Dear Karilani,

Our problem is the telephone. We have two daughters, ages 12 and 15, who fight and play games with each other, and with us, over phone time. The 15-year-old has more callers, and hogs the phone, creating havoc with our lives. She answers the phone before it finishes its first ring or before anyone else gets to answer. She rarely takes proper messages, especially for her sister, and at times tells our callers that we are not in. We have a second line for the Internet/fax and for emergencies. How do we deal with this talk time?

Teenage Telephone Tie-Up

Dear Teenage Telephone Tie-Up,

Living in a house with two girls can be a challenge, especially when it comes to the phone. A large portion of their social time is taken up on the phone. The telephone enables them to have a private, personal and meaningful conversation with a friend.

Phone calls are important to allow a teenager to have a sense of independence, as well as to bring a different aspect of their social life into the house. On the other hand, too much of this social chattering can cause trouble within the household. It is necessary to make rules and limitations, especially when the problem gets out of hand.

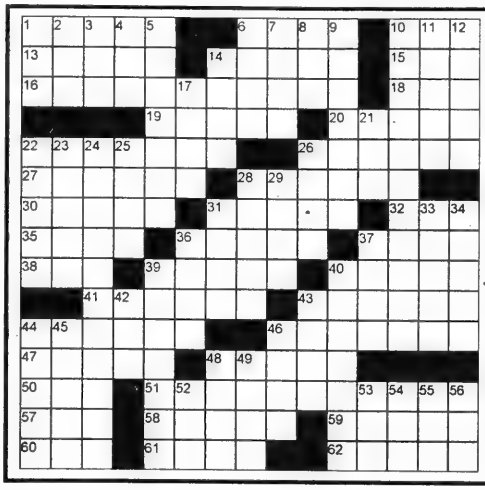
One possibility is to give conditions as to when and how long she can use the phone. If time limits are applied to the length of her calls, the phone line will be free for use by the rest of the family when her time is up. A more extreme solution is to get a third line for the girls to share, or to allow your daughter to use the fax/Internet/emergency line.

The issue of taking phone messages can be addressed in another manner. Tell your daughter that if she doesn't take proper messages, she will not be allowed to use the phone. In order to make sure that she takes messages, put pads of paper and pencils beside the phones in the house. That way, she will have more incentive to jot down the message.

If the answering machine is taken up by your daughters' callers, you may decide to invest in a call answer service. These services will take calls when someone is on the phone, and there is the option of having personal voice mail boxes for different family members, so everyone will get their own messages.

What is really important, however, is to make rules and stick to them.

Karilani is a composite name for three girls, who are close friends and in Grade 11 in Toronto



The Canadian Jewish News

Here She Comes....

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

Across

1 Follower of Ba'al Shem Tov
6 Former Jewish President of France Leon
10 Viet ____
13 Upper crust
14 Israel's Bay of ____
15 Peron played by Madonna
16 Star of this puzzle
18 Take first
19 Plain to see
20 1956 Sinai invasion leader
22 Proved wrong
26 German region where Anne Frank died
27 Flowers or eye parts
28 Roto-_____
30 "You're _____!"
31 Common street name
32 Army cooks, for short
35 Minus
36 Penalized, in a way
37 Sean Connery, for example
38 Superlative ending
39 Sing Sing resident
40 Japanese poetry
41 West Bank border river
43 _____ milk
44 Ancient city on the Nile
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47 Comic Mandel
48 Marketing ploy
50 Samuel's teacher
51 See 24-down
57 Six-pointers: abbr.
58 To any degree
59 Galilee city known for its scholars
60 Baseball bat wood
61 Screenwriter Ephron
62 Uses a dreidel

Down

1 Tongue of Isr.
2 Brewski
3 Bro's sib
4 "____ you!"
5 Given less to do
6 Roseanne's old surname
7 Schindler's was famous
8 Skylight?
9 British _____ (Post-WWI event in Palestine)
10 Hometown of 16-across
11 Bird-related
12 Mota of baseball
14 Listen to
17 St. Laurent of fashion
21 Woodcutter's tool
22 Uzi's less potent cousin
23 Eastern tribe
24 With 51-across, what 16-across became in 1945
25 Takes advantage of
26 Emulated Willy Loman
28 Committed a grammatical no-no
29 Tournament type
31 Uris's ____ *18*
33 Draw, for example
34 Cool guys
36 G-men
37 Dead Sea component
39 Actor Morgan
40 Equipment for an ox
42 Star Wars character ____-Wan Kenobi
43 Injure
44 Letter before iota
45 Doesn't give up ground
46 Word with matzah & corn
48 Pogrom conductor
49 *Cuba o Hispaniola*
52 Judge Shapiro argued to
53 The Beastie Boys' genre
54 "_____ Were A Rich man"
55 The C in CST
56 Madison Avenue works

(This week's answers are on page 34.)

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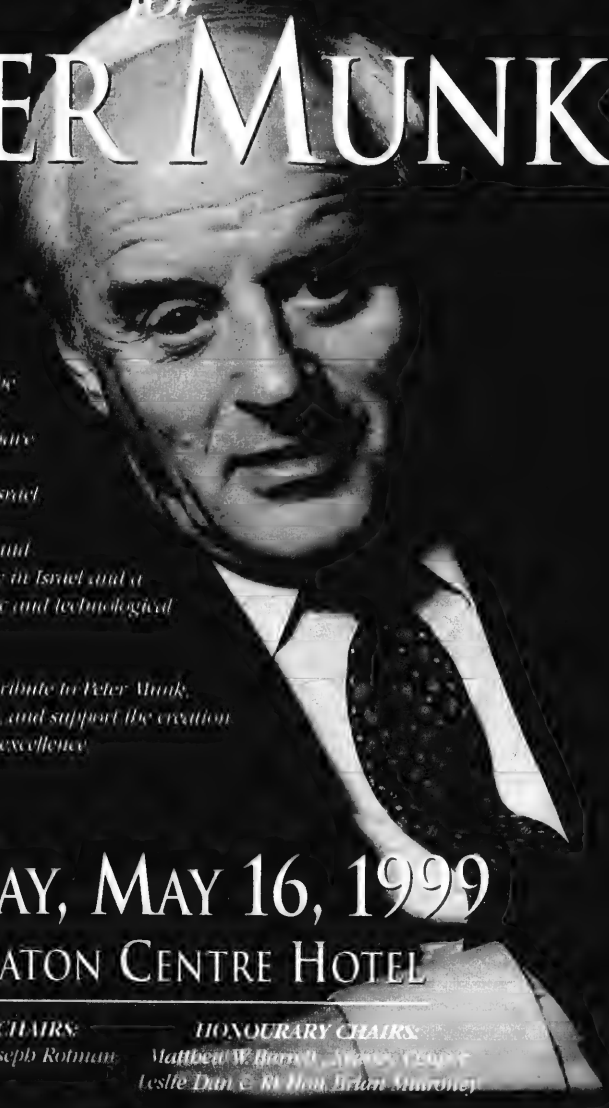

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...words that Jews know all too well. A question the Jewish people continually ask is "where was the rest of the world during the Holocaust?" One day refugees from Kosovo might wonder the same thing about the Jewish people.

Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee has launched a fund to assist the Kosovar refugees. Donations will be used for the refugee emergency on a non-sectarian basis and distributed through the The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

For more information, call Avrum Rosensweig at (416) 487-5472.
Donations are tax deductible and will be receipted.

As you approach Yizkor at the end of Passover, the holiday of freedom, please consider a donation to the Kosovo Relief Fund. Now is your opportunity to act!

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This Week

National

Local residents are opposed to Technodome. *Page 3*

Boys Town Jerusalem celebrates its 50th anniversary. *Page 5*

CJC-Q not satisfied with *Yellow Pages* 'Messianic synagogue' category. *Page 22*

Health

PMS not as common as people think, doctor says. *Page 33*

Arts

Mike Burstyn brings Al Jolson back to life. *Page 36*

Sports

Ron Stern fills an important role for NHL's San Jose Sharks. *Page 42*

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Nisan 30, 5759
Havdalah: 8:48

www.cjnews.com

Community aids Kosovars

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Several relief funds established

TORONTO — Recent Yom Hashoah ceremonies across Canada were intensified by media images from Kosovo, eerily reminiscent of Holocaust-era refugees.

Now, Canada's Jewish community is being asked to dig deep to help the hundreds of thousands of people fleeing the horrors of Kosovo.

The community has established several relief funds, and stands ready to assist refugees if they are airlifted to Canada.

For Toronto Holocaust survivor and educator Gerda Frieberg, the stark scenes of misery and degradation broadcast nightly bring back memories of a little-known incident that occurred just prior to Kristallnacht, the November night in 1938, when Nazi thugs struck against German Jews and their property.

In the fall of 1938, the German government rounded up several hundred Jewish families with Polish roots, even those whose ties to Poland were remote, and dumped them in no-man's land between the German and Polish borders.

Frieberg was just 12 and living in the Polish town of Bielschowitz, just on the other side of the German frontier.

She remembers the local synagogue's sisterhood bringing soup and bread to the stunned refugees. "They were suddenly displaced and confused. Children were crying and no one seemed to know what to do."

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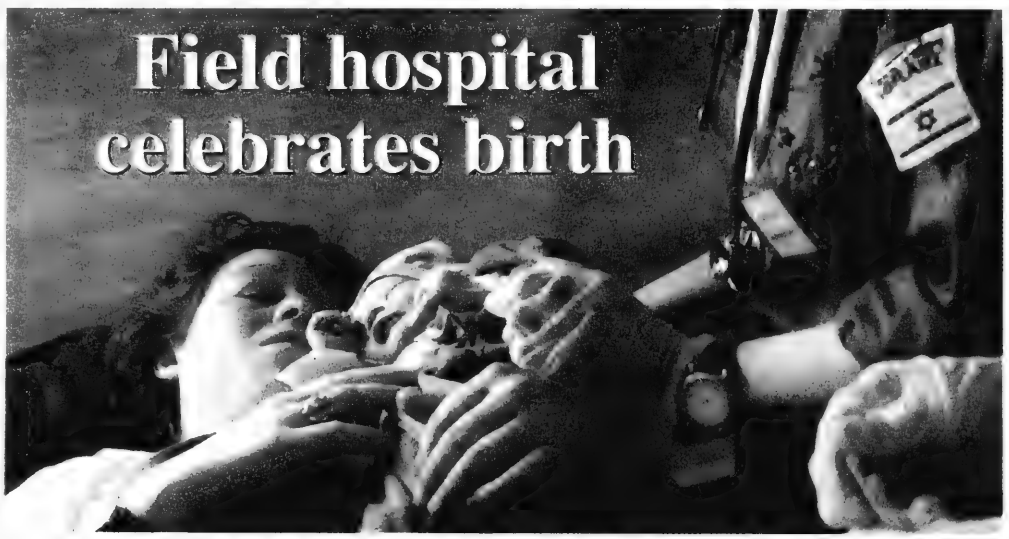
Field hospital celebrates birth



Zavia Mordan holds her newborn son as they are treated by Israeli army nurses in the Israeli army field hospital in the refugee camp for ethnic Albanian Kosovars on the outskirts of Skopje in Macedonia. Israel set up a 100-bed-field hospital facility with a 70-member medical team to help provide emergency medical services to refugees fleeing Kosovo. *[RNS/Reuters photo]*

By JOSEPH ALGAZY
Ha'aretz Daily Newspape Ltd.

BRAZDA, Macedonia — In its first two days of operation, the Israeli army field hospital in the Albanian refugee camp of Babarjda, along the Macedonian-Kosovo border, had treated 100 patients, said Dr. Yaakov Adler, an orthopedist who heads the hospital's emergency room.

A third of the patients have been elderly, suffering from chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart insufficiency, kidney insufficiency, and cancer.

Another third of the patients have been children, with illnesses such as intestinal and lung infections stemming from dehydration and contaminated conditions in the camp.

Israelis on scene

The remaining third have been women with gynecological problems.

The first day of the hospital's operation was marked with two births (and a third soon on the way) under the care of gynecologist Dr. Israel Handler.

One evening last week, 40-year-old Shoha Jirikosha came to the Israeli emergency room accompanied by her younger brother.

After a swift consultation, she stepped up on the operating table and immediately gave birth to a healthy daughter, weighing 3 kilos.

The labor was so quick that the mother only realized she had given birth a quarter of an hour after the fact and then began to cry for joy. She said the child was her fifth, and told the staff she had four young children, aged between 1 and 7 years old, waiting for her back at their tent in the camp.

She said she did not know the whereabouts of her husband Fadil, who had stayed behind in their home village. She said she would

Continued on page 30

INSIDE

The Jewish interest in Kosovo.
Please see page 9.

Will France seek extradition of Demjanjuk? — please see page 29

The News in Brief

CANADA

Yom Hashoah Proclaimed

VANCOUVER — Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) welcomed the announcement by the provincial legislature that it will proclaim an annual Holocaust Memorial Day – Yom Hashoah. CJC Pacific region said the proclamation, announced recently by Lt.-Gov. Garde Gardom, is only the second such move outside Israel (Ontario passed a proclamation last year) to commemorate the Holocaust.

Dinner Honors McLellan

EDMONTON — This city's 1999 Jewish National Fund Negev Dinner will pay tribute to Justice Minister Anne McLellan. The event will take place June 13 at the Westin Hotel.

ISRAEL

Most Support State

JERUSALEM — Some 55 percent of Israeli Jews polled believe that the Palestinians deserve an independent state, according to the annual "peace index" survey conducted by Tel Aviv University's Tami Steinmetz Centre. But the poll found a strong majority oppose giving any portion of Jerusalem over to Palestinian rule. It also found, for the first time since the poll was conducted four years ago, that a majority of Israeli Jews do not believe Palestinians seek the destruction of Israel.

Back to Moscow

JERUSALEM — Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon is planning a second trip to Moscow within a month to press Russian officials to block the sale of ballistic missile technology to Iran. In meetings with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Sharon said he is disappointed with American efforts to limit the sales and prefers direct Israeli discussions with Moscow to resolve the issue.

Rabbi Disqualified

JERUSALEM — Members of Israel's Central Elections Committee have recommended that Rabbi Yosef Ba-Gad be disqualified from running for prime minister in May. The committee found that many of the signatures on the petitions supporting Ba-Gad's candidacy were forged. "At 23,000 forgeries, we stopped counting," a committee official said of Ba-Gad's petitions.

WORLD

Swiss End Task Force

BERN — The Swiss government has announced it is shutting down the special task force that oversaw efforts to examine the nation's wartime past. The controversy regarding the nation's Nazi-era financial dealings "has been settled," the government said, explaining the March 31 decision. The out-of-court settlement last August between the major Swiss banks and the World Jewish Congress, together with class-action lawsuits launched by Holocaust survivors and heirs of victims, have "finalized all financial claims on Switzerland," a government spokesperson said.

Lufthansa's Offer

BERLIN — Germany's national airline says it is prepared to pay into a fund to settle claims against German firms which profited from slave labor under the Nazi regime. Lufthansa officials acknowledged it had used prisoners of war and others living in occupied countries at the airline's wartime plants.

Governor Joins Suit

LOS ANGELES — California Governor Gray Davis joined a lawsuit by former Holocaust-era slave laborers seeking compensation from Ford, General Motors and four German companies. The lawsuit, filed March 31 by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, charges that German subsidiaries of the two U.S. automakers reaped illicit profits through the slave laborers, who now live in California. He joined as a private citizen.

Independence Day Message

from the President of the State of Israel, Ezer Weizman

Independence Day is a day of summing up and retrospection. Fifty-one years may not seem like much time in our people's long history, but after 2,000 years of exile, much has been achieved in these years since the establishment of the state.

Israel's population has grown to nearly six million, including more than one million Arab citizens enjoying equal rights. Ours is a very diverse society, but despite its many contrasts, loyalty to the state is shared by all. We have a thriving economy, a level of technology among the most advanced in the world, impressive scientific research, highly developed agriculture and a very rich cultural life.

When I contemplate our accomplishments in the past, I am filled with hope and confidence about what Israel will achieve in the coming years, including reaching peace with all our neighbors.

I would like you, our brothers and sisters in the diaspora, to participate in the significant developments about to take place here. Israel's gates are open to you, as are our hearts and our arms to welcome you and make you feel at home. In the past year approximately 50,000 new immigrants arrived here. Most of the newcomers came from eastern Europe, and they are contributing greatly to life in Israel. It is unfortunate that from the other corners of the world aliyah is so minimal. Only three percent came from North America, which has the highest concentration of Jews in the world. Hopefully we will soon witness the fulfilment of the prophet Ezekiel's words: "And I will bring them out from the people and gather them from the countries and will bring them to their own land and feed them upon the mountains of Israel."

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Residents oppose Technodome site

By DANIEL WOLGELERENTER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Threats to move Destination: Technodome from Toronto to Montreal are "not serious," says a local residents' group, which intends to fight the city's approval of the billion-dollar theme park at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).

Backgrounder

David Birnbaum, president of the Friends of the Downsview Lands, said threats by the Reichmann family to move the facility to Montreal are "a feint" intended "to get concessions" from the federal government, which owns the land slated for the project at Sheppard Avenue and Allen Road on the former Downsview Canadian Forces base.

Friends of the Downsview Lands, which Birnbaum said represents "about 200 residents" living east of the site, is concerned about potential traffic and parking problems near Technodome.

The neighborhoods east of the site which could be affected by traffic and parking problems are approximately 40 to 50 percent Jewish, according to UJA/Federation demographer Jay Brodbar. About one third of the Jews in these neighbourhoods are over 65.

Mayor Mel Lastman, who has been an enthusiastic Technodome booster, has complained loudly in the media about the loss of jobs and taxes if Toronto loses the project, which was approved by city council last year.

Lastman said last month that Albert and Abraham Reichmann – who head Heathmount Arts and Entertainment Corporation – told him

Continued on page 14

YOM HA'ATZMAUT CELEBRATIONS

Students at USDS Bathurst campus recently completed a week-long Israel Learn-In. Each student experienced Israel through the Discovery Museum, activity centres, visits by Beit Halochem, pen-pals in Eilat, special art projects and foods. The festivities culminated in Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations of music, songs and dances. Seen here (top, from left) are Marni Gelkopf, Dana Greisman, Josh Teichman, Corey Saperia and (bottom, from left) Esther Geller-Hocken, Sammy Klein and Bryan Flatt.

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An extraordinary woman in our community—a 50 year old, single mother of 10 children, has tragically passed away after a serious illness.

Her modest salary as a secretary for one of our local Jewish Day Schools, allowed her to barely cover the basic family expenses, let alone the cost of expensive medical treatment and nursing care.

The children have been left with about $200k in debts and no further means of financial support. Funds are required for basic necessities such as food, clothing, housing and Jewish education.

The family desperately wants to stay together, with the older children taking on the responsibility of raising and ultimately marrying off the younger ones and themselves.

We appeal to you to support our community's efforts to establish a trust fund for these children. All cheques over $10 will receive charitable tax receipts. In the spirit of Jewish compassion and generosity at this holiday time, please open your hearts and donate generously. Thank you.

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From the editor's desk

Seeing, with fresh eyes

In just under a week, on the fifth day of Iyar, we and people all around the world, not only Jews and Israelis, will be celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut. This year we are marking Israel's 51st year of independence.

Those of us who care for Israel and for its people, spend a great deal of our time following developments there.

We listen; we watch; we read; we observe regularly, daily.

We tune into the incessant, ever-present, sharply defined and sharply engaged subject of politics.

We tune in to the incessant, ever-present, sharply defined and sharply engaged subject of peace and security.

We tune into the incessant, ever-present, sharply defined and sharply engaged subject of internal social stresses.

We are like custodians of a precious work of art in an art gallery. The work hangs constantly in the "background" of our daily range of vision. But in the routine of our observations, we often do not see much of its soaring and splendid detail.

So too with Israel.

We do not often enough "see" Israel with the excitement and the mystery of fresh eyes.

On my desk recently, I came across an article that did. On the "eve" of Yom Ha'atzmaut, it is appropriate, and even important, that I share excerpts with you.

The article appeared almost a decade ago in only the fifth issue of the then nascent, "fresh," *Jerusalem Report* of Nov. 15, 1990. The article was written by Natan Sharansky as part of the reportage of the cover story, *1917-1990: The outcome of two revolutions.*

It was part of an eight-story treatment exploring how Zionism ultimately prevailed while Communism ultimately failed.

Sharansky is an excellent writer. He combines an engaging analytical skill with a deft ability in description and narrative.

Even through a distance of almost 10 years in the rear-view mirror, Sharansky's observations remain remarkably relevant.

He "saw" nuance in the details and truth in the nuance.

"Simply put, the choice (for Russian Jews in the first week of November 1917) was between national identity, in this case Zionism, and Communism. The two could not co-exist. And the ensuing struggle between the supporters of the two ideas, who in the process became deadly enemies, is only now reaching ironic conclusion. With Jews fleeing the Soviet Union for Israel at a rate approaching 30,000 a month, the cycle is complete: Israel, the realization of the Zionist dream, is now providing a haven for the descendants of those Soviet Jews who in 1917 either chose to put their faith in Bolshevism or simply stayed behind because they had no choice…

"We move two generations forward… The wheel of history had turned full circle. The grandparents dreamed of Israel. The parents thought they could really build a better world in Communist Russia. And the children were finding out the hard way that the grandparents were right. Isolated and discriminated against, third-generation Soviet Jews began to discover the importance of national identity. They began to realize that thanks to those who had chosen the path of Jewish nationalism, they now had a place to go…

"Over generations, the Zionist idea has undergone a number of transformations. Its original idealism may somehow have been lost. But only because of the success of Zionism, as embodied in the creation of the State of Israel, will one million or more Soviet Jews escape burial under the falling rubble of Communism."

Russian Jews continue to arrive in Israel every day, as do Jews from other parts of the former Soviet Union and other lands.

This is only one detail of the countless many in the great and flawed, inspiring and infuriating State of Israel.

Let us celebrate this "work of art" still in progress.

* * *

CORRECTION

Words are the tools of journalists. With our words we inform and opine. The extent to which our information is reliable and our opinion offered without ruse or guile is the extent to which the paper will hold onto its credibility.

That is why the way we use our words is always the most important of all considerations at *The CJN.*

Last week (April 9) in our front page story "Holocaust museum may be derailed," there was one specific paragraph in which we did not use our words with requisite care.

We wrote: "Armenians accuse the Turks of responsibility for the century's first genocide in which tens of thousands of Armenians were slaughtered."

The slaughter of the Armenians by the Turks at the beginning of this century is hardly a matter of accusation. It is a matter of fact and of historical record.

We did not intend to convey the impression that any doubt attached to the matter. But our words may have left that impression.

We apologize.

MBD

SEE JN

GROUND LEVEL VIEW
This old woman has a unique perspective of a mid-'80s Yom Ha'atzmaut parade in Jerusalem. [Jacob El-Baz photo]

Greater Toronto Area

Boys Town Jerusalem celebrates 50th anniversary

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The 50th anniversary of Boys Town Jerusalem is being celebrated here this week with a tribute dinner honoring Leslie Dan and marking the establishment of the Dan Family Computer Resource Centre.

The resource centre will serve the institution's junior high students and help them become "totally computer literate," said Denise Gold, executive director, Canadian Friends of Boys Town Jerusalem.

The school, founded for child survivors of the Holocaust and situated on an 18-acre campus in the Bayit Vegan neighborhood of Jerusalem, serves 1,100 students from 45 countries, including many from Russia, Ethiopia and the Arab countries. Three-quarters of them still come from economically disadvantaged families.

Its graduates are "well-rounded young people much sought after by the air force," said Gold. The school encompasses junior high, high school, a two-year post-high school engineering project and a post-high school yeshiva.

Students receive both technical and religious education and are taught that "there's more to life than academic knowledge," she noted. Both sports and community volunteer work are an integral part of the Boys Town program.

"Kids from very disadvantaged backgrounds are given an opportunity to make a good life for themselves. We've got [alumni who are] generals, professors, teachers who've come back to teach at the school, engineers, business people, doctors and lawyers," said Gold.

"There've been thousands of graduates over the years. They have strengthened their families, their communities, and have really stood in good stead for the people of Israel as well."

The Canadian Friends group was formed in 1967 to raise funds and awareness about Boys Town. Its largest contingent is in Toronto, where its office is based. There are also sizable groups of supporters in Vancouver, Winnipeg and Montreal.

This week's dinner is being held April 15 at Beth Tzedec Synagogue. The organization is honoring Dan for his philanthropy in the Jewish and non-Jewish communities both here and abroad, said Gold.

A Hungarian-born Holocaust survivor and war refugee, Dan is the founder of Novopharm, Canada's largest generic pharmaceutical manufacturer.

Canadian Friends' founding chair Eric Exton is also being honored, Gold added.

Guest speaker is Malcolm Hoenlein, vice-chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the umbrella body for 55 national U.S. Jewish groups.

UJA names campaign co-chairs

TORONTO — Veteran campaigners David Engel and Mel Wolfond have been named as co-chairs for UJA Federation's Campaign 2000.

David Engel

Engel, a Montreal native, moved to Toronto 15 years ago and continued to be active in the Jewish community. An award-winning graduate of the UJA Federation Leadership Development Program, Engel has served as vice-chair of the 1997 and 1998 annual campaign, co-chair of the Walk for Israel, and chair of several divisions. He was also the recipient of UJA Federation's Granofsky Award.

Engel, who owns a specialty printing business, Innovative Graphics Inc., which produces direct marketing material, is married to Judy and has three children.

"Coming up through the ranks of UJA Federation, I've learned that what's really significant is getting people involved. It's not only important to make a donation, but to volunteer as well," he says.

Wolfond, originally from Guelph, served as chair of that city's United Israel Appeal campaign during the Six Day War. He became active as a UJA Federation canvasser after moving to Toronto 15 years ago. An architecture graduate, Wolfond chose a career in real estate and financial services. He and his wife, Pedie, have three sons and eight grandchildren.

Mel Wolfond

"I will do everything I can to make this a successful campaign," says Wolfond. "I've met with our campaign past chairs, and look forward to their assistance."

Last year's UJA Federation community Campaign for Fifty, had the goal of raising $50 million annually by 2001, and closed at $41 million. Campaign 2000 will again focus on three areas to which additional funds will be allocated: strengthening Jewish identity, assisting the vulnerable, and rescuing Jews in danger.

Campaign 2000 will kick off on Aug. 30, 1999.

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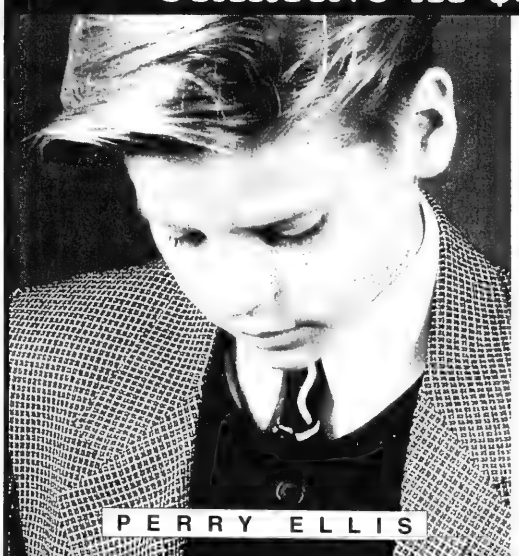

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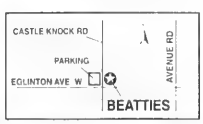

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Academia

Weinrib a leading constitutional scholar

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms – a landmark in Canada's maturation as a nation – has piqued Lorraine Eisenstat Weinrib's intellectual curiosity since its enactment in 1982.

Indeed, she has made a career out of analyzing its significance, not only in Canada but in Israel.

One of Canada's leading constitutional law scholars, she believes that the charter serves two broad purposes.

Protecting citizens against the state and minorities against parliamentary majorities, it strengthens Canada's democratic system of government.

Overseas, the charter is widely regarded as a prototype for countries, such as Israel and South Africa, making the transition from a legislative to a constitutional democracy.

"Canada's charter has become a model for constitutional development all over the world because it offers a distinctive arrangement for judicial and legislative functions, respects equal human dignity, affirms identity and group affiliation and regards the state positively," explained the 51-year-old University of Toronto law professor.

Israel, she said, may yet integrate these norms into its emerging constitution. And if it ever does, Weinrib may be able to claim part of the credit.

In the past few years, Weinrib has given talks to Israeli jurists and academics about the charter and its place in Canadian jurisprudence. In 1995, for example, she delivered a series of lectures for 80 senior Israeli judges. The event was organized by none other than Aharon Barak, president of Israel's Supreme Court.

In the same spirit, Weinrib has arranged visits of Israelis to Canada to study Canadian constitutional law and practice. As far as she can ascertain, Israelis have a high regard for Canada's charter.

Weinrib contends that Israel's

Lorraine Weinrib

best interests would be served by a constitution.

The building blocks of a constitution, taking the form of basic laws, are already in place. But a living, breathing constitution still lies beyond the horizon.

"It's a step by step process," she said. "I have no idea when Israel will have a constitution. I'm not sure anyone can predict that."

Weinrib, whose teaching load encompasses courses ranging from constitutional litigation to administrative law, was born in Toronto into a Russian family which immigrated to Canada in the early 1900s.

Louis, her late father, was a bookkeeper. Helen, her mother, received a BA in Jewish studies from York University when she was 70. During the Depression, neither of her parents could afford the luxury of attending university.

Nevertheless, they always stressed the value of education and never failed to remind her of the need to be morally independent.

An excellent student, Weinrib attended Sir Sandford Fleming Secondary School, was valedictorian of the graduating class, and entered York University with an Ontario scholarship.

She graduated with a BA in classics, a discipline which initially enabled her to understand the cultural transitions through which the ancient world passed, but which later gave her a better understanding of the law.

She enjoyed classics immensely, but did not pursue it beyond the undergraduate level because she doubted whether she could land a position in the field.

Yet classics, she shyly disclosed, proved to be crucial in her own personal life. Her husband, Ernest, was a University of Toronto classics professor, and she met him when she was a student. Like Weinrib, he, too, switched to law.

They have three children: Aliza, 21, a U of T philosophy major; Sara, 18, a freshman at the U of T; and Jacob, a 16-year-old high school student.

With a U of T law degree in hand, Weinrib joined the Ontario civil service, steadily rising in the ranks from a student-at-law to deputy director of the Attorney General's constitutional law and policy department.

Working in a variety of advisory and litigation capacities, she was directly involved in the process which culminated in the adoption of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, a path-breaking document which provides for fundamental rights, democratic rights, legal rights, mobility rights, equality and gender rights, and linguistic rights.

In the leadup to its entrenchment in the constitution, she made numerous appearances before the Supreme Court of Canada. One of her most important cases turned on the now-famous "notwithstanding" clause.

In 1984-85, Weinrib finished a master's degree in law at Yale University. "It was quite an undertaking," she said, referring to the weight of her studies and the responsibility of caring for three children.

At Yale, Weinrib developed a keener appreciation of the charter as a vehicle for preserving constitutional rights. While there, she wrote a number of scholarly pieces about the charter. This, in turn, pushed Weinrib to the realization that her talents might be better suited in a university setting. She joined the U of T in 1988, and she has never regretted the career change.

As she put it: "It made more sense to have an academic job

Continued on page 18

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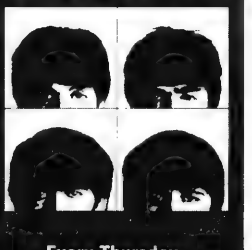

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Yom Hazikaron

Nearly 20,000 soldiers have fallen in defence of the state and the people of Israel. The photo from the Haganah archives set into this editorial is the graphically tragic record of one of them, an immigrant who had only days, if not hours before, arrived from Cyprus in 1948. He fought and died in one of the many battles for Latrun. His fingers still curled in the pain of his final moment, the raw soldier lies on the shards of rock and the detritus of battle, his life extinguished, his lips kissing the earth of the homeland he held in his hands for mere moments.

The battle for Latrun was part of the battle for Jerusalem. Here, in the Jerusalem front, the fledgling Israeli army suffered its greatest losses. The struggle to relieve Jerusalem from the siege imposed by the Arab Legion, centered on the Latrun police fortress that commanded the road to Jerusalem before it ascended near Sha'ar Hagai into the mountains.

In his book, *A History of the Israeli Army*, Ze'ev Schiff wrote: "The IDF attacked the police station five times, including once supported by a number of tanks, but each assault on the fortress was driven back. Some 200 men sacrificed their lives in these battles, the most costly attack being that of a brigade that had been organized only a few days earlier and consisted of many new immigrants who had just come off the boats."

The photo does not record a name for the soldier, only that he fought and fell. But every soldier has a name, just as every life has a soul, and every soul, a purpose under heaven. May the soul of this fallen soldier, and all fallen soldiers, be bound up in eternal life; may his memory be for blessing; and may his name, son of Israel, live on forever.

Yom Ha'atzmaut

In the Tel Aviv Museum, on the fifth day of Iyar, 1948, nine days before the soldier in the above photo was killed in battle on the field near the police fortress at Latrun, David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the creation of the State of Israel. The scene of the proclamation is enshrined in most every major photo archive, even as it is in most every knowing Jewish heart of that generation.

The stocky Ben-Gurion, his familiar, white shock of hair neatly unkempt, is behind a microphone at the dais with 11 members of the national administration. Fourteen members of the national council are in front of him. He is the only one standing. Above him on the draped wall, is a portrait of Theodor Herzl, elegant, dignified, peering with his dark eyes into a far-off horizon that the man standing below is about to embrace.

Ben-Gurion holds the declaration of independence in his left hand. It is Friday afternoon. Shabbat is approaching. There is an urgency that can be felt in the room, in the streets outside the museum, and in the rooms around the world wherever people are gathered by their radios waiting to hear the words that Ben-Gurion is about to pronounce.

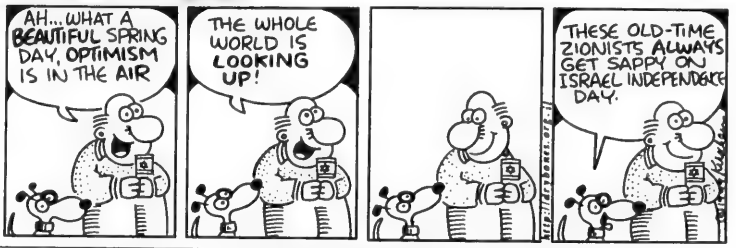
At exactly 4 p.m. he begins: "I shall now read to you the Scroll of the Establishment of the State which has passed its first reading by the National Council," he announces. "Eretz Yisrael was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here, their spiritual, religious, and political identity was shaped. Here, they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books..."

Ben-Gurion spoke for 17 minutes. Those 17 minutes echoed around the world. They reverberate until today and will do so for all time to come.

WISDOM OF THE AGES

"If a man has a disease in his beard, or a woman has (a disease) on her head, the priest shall examine the disease." (Parshat Tazria)

Dry Bones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Struck by silence of Canadian Jews on Kosovo

I never thought I would see the horrible images of ethnic cleansing in Europe that I see taking place day after day in Kosovo. I cannot help but be reminded of the stories my grandfather, a Dachau survivor, told me when I was a little girl.

I never thought that, in the face of such inhumanity and suffering, the voices of outrage from Canadian Jews would be so conspicuous by their absence. Silence in the face of ethnic cleansing is complicity and condonation. If this is the case, the future for all of us is bleak indeed.

Meri Miojevic
Toronto

Kosovo is a new element in seder story

This year my recounting of the story of Passover has a modern-day equivalent, the people of Kosovo. These mainly ethnic Muslim Albanians are being killed and driven from the homes that they have lived in for centuries. Their pleas for autonomy, peace and freedom were rewarded by an iron fist response: ethnic cleansing.

Barely 50 years ago, the Holocaust killed six million of my people. The Jews were destroyed because they were different. Today the Serbs annihilate their former Muslim neighbors, women and children are separated from their teen-aged sons, and husbands suddenly disappear.

How do I try to explain to my children and our university student guests that man's history of intolerance still exists? The Pharaohs and Hitlers of the past live on in a new tyrant, Slobodan Milosovic, who sadly has the power of life and death over his neighbors and his own people. In the Passover Haggadah, we recount the story of how God sent the 10 plagues to punish Pharaoh and the people of Egypt who enslaved, brutalized and killed the Jews. Today we have the modern equivalent to the plagues in the form of bombs and rockets to try and destroy the military might of the Yugoslavian armed forces. The NATO forces with United States, Great Britain, Italy, Germany and Canada cannot stand idly by and watch a people annihilated.

I have nothing but praise for our government, which has had to abandon the role of peace keeper to stem the slaughter.

Leonard A. Lesser
London

Why does Winnipeg produce Jews of distinction?

As I read the article on Sara Kreindler, who won a Rhodes Scholarship, the second year in a row for a Jewish university student from Winnipeg (*CJN*, Jan. 7), I reflected on how the small Jewish community there – 25,000 Jews in its heyday of the 1940s and 1950s, now 15,000 – has produced so many illustrious Jews.

They include tycoon Izzy Asper, leader of the Liberal party in Manitoba, 1970-75; Ruben Bellan, economist; Allan Blye, producer of American TV programs including *The Smothers Brothers Show*; David Golden, first Jewish deputy minister in Ottawa; Beryl Fox, film director and producer; Allan Gottlieb, diplomat; Sondra Gotlieb, writer; Monty Hall, television performer and producer; A.A. Heaps, leader of the Winnipeg General Strike in 1919 and parliamentarian, 1925-40; Jack London, law professor; Jack Ludwig, writer; Bernard Ostry, mandarin; Sylvia Ostry,economist; Perry Rosemond, director of Royal Canadian Air Farce TV show; Ernest Sirluck, president of University of Manitoba, 1970-76; Sidney Spivak, leader of the Conservative party in Manitoba, 1971-75; David Steinberg, comedian; Adele Wiseman, writer; and Larry Zolf, writer and broadcaster.

What is equally astonishing is that Winnipeg had eight synagogues that conducted a High Holy Day appeal for Israel Bonds. New York City, with more than 1.5 million Jews — a hundred times as many — had only three synagogues that conducted this appeal!

Now, if we could only discover the alchemy at work in this Canadian city and replicate it in other Jewish communities throughout the world!

Jacob Mendlovic
Toronto

Moshav band united Jewish students

The tremendous success of the Moshav Band concert (March 20) in a Toronto nightclub attended by 500 Jewish students, is news that must be shared and celebrated by all Jews. The students came to hear the popular band from Shlomo Carlebach's moshav in Israel, who performed their unique brand of Jewish music, starting with a stirring havdalah ceremony.

But what really made the concert spectacular was the immeasurable joy that permeated the evening as Jewish students from across the spectrum of affiliation came together to celebrate their Jewishness through the music.

Shmuel Bowman
Director
Campus Programs and The Yonge Shul
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Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Perspectives

The Jewish interest in Kosovo

By ELIAHU SALPETER
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Slobodan Milosevic is not Marshal Tito, as supporters of the president of what's left of Yugoslavia would like others to believe. And Kosovo is not Jerusalem – nor is it the Galilee, as Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon is trying to make it out to be.

The Jewish people, in both Israel and the Diaspora, have a deep affinity for the Serbian people, who fought behind Tito in the war against Nazi Germany. The sight of German planes now bombing Belgrade tugs at the heartstrings of all who remember World War II. But such instinctive reactions can be fodder for manipulation by propagandists. Israelis also know that opposition to a leader's policies does not necessarily mean hostility toward the people in whose name he speaks.

The communist apparatchik Milosevic hadn't even reached nursery school when Tito's partisans defeated the Nazi invaders. What similarity is there between the leader who came to power as an acclaimed partisan commander and the bank clerk who first became a political wheeler-dealer and then built himself up by means of ethnic incitement against his nation's minorities? Even when Tito joined with Nasser, Nehru and Indonesia's Sukarno to form the bloc of "nonaligned nations," an international grouping that was exceedingly hostile to Israel almost from the start, Israelis and Jews the world over still gratefully remembered Yugoslavia's good deeds during the war.

It's worth remembering that the image of the Kosovars as an upstart minority that suddenly revolted is not quite accurate. Ninety percent of the population in Kosovo is Albanian, with the rest made up of Serbs and Montenegrins. Kosovo had autonomy within the framework of the Yugoslav Federation before Milosevic cancelled this autonomy. The revolt spread after the Serbian government, with the aid of the local Serb minority, began what it termed a "war on terrorists." The west did not come out in favor of Kosovo's gaining independence from Serbia, but it did take a stand against massacres and ethnic cleansing, after Milosevic refused to accept an agreement to renew Kosovo's autonomy.

The Albanian underground is certainly not a group of saints and it has carried out acts of vengeance against Serbs in Kosovo. But it's worth remembering – and learning from the fact – that the extremists received much sympathy among the moderate Albanian population because of Serb terror.

When a delegation from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith visited Moscow in late March to persuade the Russian government to take action against rising anti-Semitism and cease providing nuclear assistance to Iran, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov spoke of Kosovo in his reply. He said that American assistance to the Albanian Muslims serves the interests of the world's Islamic extremists.

"The Albanian Liberation Movement is a fundamentalist movement supported by the likes of Osama Bin Laden and Hezbollah. When this business in Albania is finished, they'll all point their rifles in another direction," Ivanov told the director-general of the Anti-Defamation League.

Milosevic's apologists made a similar argument when Serb forces were carrying out a campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Muslims in Bosnia. Ever since that war ended with the signing of the American-arbitrated Dayton agreement, we've heard nothing more about the "Muslim International" in Yugoslavia, perhaps because the Americans forced the Bosnian government to evict the volunteer soldiers who had come from Afghanistan and Arab countries from the area it controlled. The Bosnians even claimed that it was Serb terrorist activity that propelled them to seek out the help of the fundamentalists. The same thing could happen in Kosovo.

There is no basis for the argument made by our foreign minister, as reported in the press, that "the moment Israel supports this kind of action (NATO intervention), it could find itself the next victim." Democratic nations do not use force lightly. They only resort to it in the face of repeated and increased provocation. They didn't act against Hitler after his army entered Austria, nor after the occupation of Czechoslovakia, but only after he attacked Poland. NATO did not act when Belgrade used force to try to prevent Slovenia and Croatia from breaking off. It only made threats (and activated peacekeeping forces) in the Serbian war against Bosnian independence. NATO bombings of Serbia only started when the slaughter and mass expulsions in Kosovo began.

The Israeli government's Kosovo is not in the Galilee, but – if a comparison can be made – in the West Bank. It is to be hoped that the foreign minister is not thinking in terms of "transfer" or ethnic cleansing, either of which could trigger a harsh western response.

For Israel, the Kosovo precedent has another positive, long-term significance: It serves as proof of the authenticity of American commitment to act when a victim's existence is aggressively threatened – a commitment that had fallen deeply into question in the wake of Vietnam and Somalia. It is safe to assume that Baghdad and Tehran have paid attention to the price of aggression, even aggression by means of conventional weapons.

But the most important Israeli interest in what is happening in Kosovo is the Jewish interest. It has already been said a number of times that as Jews, we cannot remain indifferent to the horrors occurring in Asia or Africa, and certainly not to those happening in the heart of Europe. The pictures of husbands and sons being herded into stadiums are to demonstrate the urgency of the situation to anyone who still needs convincing.

Of course, Serbia is not Nazi Germany, and the trains are arriving at the Macedonian border, not Auschwitz. But Jews, more than any other people, have reason to support the precedent now taking shape in Kosovo. Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau was right when he said, "A nation that was a victim of the Holocaust cannot remain indifferent to the present genocide. It must mobilize world public opinion." But what NATO bombers are doing now negates Rabbi Lau's pessimistic assessment that the world hasn't learned a thing from the Holocaust.

The rough draft of a new concept of international law is now being written in Kosovo. It declares that even a sovereign state cannot do whatever it pleases against its citizens. That horrible deeds against ethnic minorities living inside its borders are no longer an "internal matter," but rather a matter that concerns the entire democratic world. That it takes much less than the destruction of millions of people in gas chambers to qualify as a crime against humanity that justifies – and requires – international intervention.

The Jewish people and the Jewish state have a supreme interest in seeing these new norms take hold

These photos from the IDF field hospital in Macedonia show medics and nursing staff in the course of their work delivering babies and tending to the sick, and dancing with a sefer Torah.

[Israel Sun photos]

Opinions

Deri casts a large shadow

Since moving to Israel in 1990, I have not been able to escape Aryeh Deri. Nor has the rest of the nation. As the head of Shas and the country's top political wheeler-dealer, Deri has played a key role in the making and breaking of governments over the past decade.

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

It didn't seem to matter that in 1990, when Deri was interior minister, police began investigating him for financial irregularities. It didn't matter that in 1993, he was forced to leave the cabinet after being indicted on corruption charges. Nothing seemed to get in Deri's way – until recently when he was convicted of bribery, aggravated fraud, threatening witnesses and suborning justice.

In the lead-up to this week's anxiously awaited sentencing of Deri, it's hard to say what's been more distressing – the crimes for which Deri was convicted last month or the response of politicians to his conviction.

It's a measure of the man's power and influence that most politicians have been uncharacteristically reticent about Deri's documented lies, cover-up and perversion of the legal system. Such is his almost mystical hold on the country's political establishment – and the state's purse strings.

Obviously, the fact that the country is in the throes of an election campaign helps account for the silence of candidates who don't want to jeopardize a future coalition deal with Shas by alienating supporters of Deri. And one thing the 40-year-old, Moroccan-born Deri does not lack is supporters.

Starting with Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, Shas' spiritual mentor and former Sephardi chief rabbi of Israel, Deri can count hundreds of thousands of Sephardi Israelis who feel indebted to him for diverting billions of shekels in state budgets to Shas-sponsored religious and educational activities.

That helps explain the phlegmatic reaction to Deri's crimes, of the candidates for prime minister and virtually all those on their Knesset lists. Never before has compassion flowed so generously among politicians.

It would have almost been touching if it weren't so revolting. Upholding public trust and moral standards seemed to count for nothing as Knesset members expressed sympathy for Deri, as if he were some innocent victim.

Almost no one condemned his misdeeds, nor said a word for his victims or the millions of shekels his deceit cost the country.

Senior Labor MK Haim Ramon said the Jerusalem District Court's conviction of Deri was a mistake, despite the overwhelming evidence behind the verdict. Seemingly lost amid all this earnest commiseration was the fact that Deri had brought his misfortune upon himself through corrupt behavior so egregious even his high-priced lawyers couldn't get him off the hook.

Lamentably, few politicians dared state the obvious. A notable exception was Likud MK Michael Eitan, who criticized prime ministerial candidates for their stance on Deri and suggested that after being convicted of such serious crimes, Deri shouldn't be allowed to head a political party.

"Benjamin Netanyahu, Ehud Barak and Yitzhak Mordechai were all brave commanders in the army," said Eitan, "but they did not bring that bravery to bear in the political arena. Each of them reacted to this serious phenomenon with a forked tongue and such weak reactions."

Eitan added that the main political parties should end any contact or public activity involving Deri. "This is someone who has been declared a serious criminal; a man who tried to undermine the democratic foundations of the state. One can't just close one's eyes and ignore such things."

In Israel, one certainly can. Eitan's words were a lone voice in the darkness, one for which he received a public tongue-lashing from Netanyahu.

Their party, the Likud, also issued a formal statement, distancing itself from Eitan's comments.

The Labor party was no less forgiving of Deri's crimes. Only MK Yossi Beilin spoke out: "I have no problem saying that since his conviction, Deri is a criminal and as such we shouldn't conduct coalition talks with him."

True to form, Shas leaders and their followers denounced the Deri verdict as further proof, in their eyes, of a bankrupt judicial system (already under virulent attack by the haredim, including Shas), and yet another episode in the Ashkenazi persecution of the Sephardi community.

In their 920-page verdict, the three judges (one of whom was religious and Sephardi) stated unanimously that Deri committed some of the most serious crimes ever proven against a senior political figure. Whether or not he goes to jail, it would be reassuring to think that at least Deri's conduct has ended his political career. Don't bank on it, given the current norms of behavior in Israeli public life.

Corpus Separatum of the Absurd

On Nov. 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 181, which called for the partition of British mandated Palestine into independent Arab and Jewish states. The City of Jerusalem was defined as a "Corpus Separatum" – a separate entity under international control.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

The nature of this international control was not defined (and highly theoretical), and the plan was never implemented. After the Jewish leadership reluctantly accepted the compromise, the Arabs angrily rejected any Jewish state, and accelerated the war to destroy Israel.

Then, as now, the UN and the international community did nothing to enforce its resolutions, to protect or aid the Jews, or to punish the Arabs for violating the UN charter and the prohibitions on military aggression.

The Arab invasion and ensuing war obliterated the plan and any practical application of UN Resolution 181. As a result of the war, the boundaries of partition were altered beyond recognition. Armistice agreements were signed between Israel and each of the Arab countries, and these became the new legal basis for relations between the states.

Jordan conquered, occupied and annexed east Jerusalem, and evicted the surviving residents of the Jewish Quarter ("ethnic cleansing"), while Israel established its capital in the western part of the city. The internationalization of Jerusalem, which was never a workable proposal, even in 1947, was no longer on anyone's agenda.

In 1967, following the war which was triggered by another Arab attempt to destroy Israel, UN Security Council Resolution 242, based on the formula of "land for peace" and mutual recognition, replaced all earlier UN resolutions. Following the 1973 war, Resolution 338, which included similar language, was adopted.

However, 52 years after the idea of a Corpus Separatum was introduced in the UN, it has been rediscovered, by a combination of western countries (including Canada) and the Arabs.

By the same logic, they should also support a return to the partition borders and the resurrection of the 6,000 Israelis killed in the 1948 war, as well as the thousands of additional casualties, on both sides, from all of the subsequent wars and terrorism. The attempt to justify changes in Jerusalem on the basis of UN Resolution 181 is clearly absurd.

The one place where international law and norms could be applied to Jerusalem without violating the basic foundations of common sense, is in the documentation of atrocities between 1948 and 1967.

During the period of Arab occupation of the Old City, the Jewish quarter was systematically destroyed. Long after the war ended, ancient synagogues and other sites were deliberately desecrated, and Jewish gravestones from the Mount of Olives were used to pave roads.

Despite the guarantees of free access to the Holy Places for members of all religions, Jews were systematically barred from entry, and the Western Wall, the last remnant of the Temple and the holiest site for Jews, was deliberately used as a garbage dump.

Yet, during the years of the Arab occupation and desecration of the Old City, there were no protests from any international body. The UN Security Council saw no reason to issue a resolution when Jewish and Israeli rights were violated. The Vatican, now so eager to be involved in the determination of Jerusalem's status, saw nothing unusual when Jews were barred from their religious sites.

Any serious investigation of the status of Jerusalem will clearly show that since 1967, when the city was reunited and the Arab occupation ended, Jerusalem has been managed fairly and openly.

Adherents of all religions have had unfettered access their holy sites, and the Moslem mosques and Christian churches of all denominations have full autonomy, without interference from the Israeli government. In practice, Jerusalem is already internationalized.

If international law and norms of behavior have something to contribute regarding Jerusalem, then surely the starting point should be an investigation of the Arab occupation.

Who was responsible for the destruction of the synagogues and the desecration of graves? (Many of these people are still alive.) Why did the international community remain silent when Jewish rights in Jerusalem were abused and ignored? A commission to examine and report on these questions would contribute to a realistic understanding of the central issues that need to be addressed regarding Jerusalem's past.

In contrast, the attempts to twist and contort outdated and irrelevant UN resolutions to fit some obscure objectives regarding Jerusalem does not help to legitimize the role of the UN and international law. On the contrary, such efforts further discredit the international community and the United Nations.

A visit to Birmingham

It was my pleasure to spend some time in Birmingham, Ala., where I gave a series of lectures.

Birmingham is the bastion of the Old South, and while there I had occasion to visit one of its landmarks, the Civil Rights Institute. It is dedicated to the memory of Birmingham's role in the civil rights movement.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Unfortunately, from 1955 to 1965, that role was marked by the fierce opposition of most of its white citizens to the emerging struggle of the black community. The latter strove for the most fundamental civic rights and some measure of human dignity. The name of the police commissioner, "Bull" Connor and the governor, George Wallace, are inscribed in the annals of ignominy: fire hoses mowing down black demonstrators, lynchings estimated at about 100, and a legislature enshrining discrimination by legalizing it.

The institute made available the copy of a letter that was addressed to the black community and dated Dec. 5, 1955. It read: "Another Negro woman has been arrested and thrown into jail because she refused to get up out of her seat on the bus for a white person to sit down. It is the second time since the Claudette Colbert case that a Negro woman has been arrested for the same thing. This has to be stopped.

"Negroes have rights too, for if Negroes did not ride the buses, they could not operate. Three-fourths of the riders are Negroes, yet we are arrested or have to stand over empty seats. If we do not do something to stop these arrests, they will continue.

"This woman's case will come up on Monday. We are therefore asking every Negro to stay off the buses Monday in protest. You can afford to stay out of school for one day if you have no other way to go except by bus. You can also afford to stay out of town for one day. If you work, take a cab, or walk. But please, children and grown-ups, don't ride the bus at all on Monday."

A few years later, Birmingham became known as "Bomingham," because the 16th Street church suffered a bombing attack that killed four little girls attending Sunday school. The Civil Rights Institute is built across the street from the church. I visited it and felt the presence, not only of the dead, but also of the living spirit of Martin Luther King Jr., who gave some of his most inspired sermons from that pulpit. The institute itself is a measure of the great change which has come to the city, but a measure of segregation is still a fact. Blacks live in the city itself (which for a long time has had black mayors), but whites have increasingly moved to the suburbs.

I left the institute after having listened to King's famous speech in which the words, "I have a dream" and "Let freedom ring," were repeated with insistence. It reminded me when King spoke at Holy Blossom, and challenged his listeners to attain a new level of civic militancy – militancy not violence. In my mind, there has always been a parallel between the striving of the black community and that of the Jews. No one can truly liberate a people, unless it liberates itself.

The Kirshner File

Britain's mandate in Palestine examined

Routing Ottoman forces, British troops, commanded by Gen. Edmund Allenby, marched into Jerusalem on Dec. 9, 1917, establishing a critical beachhead and forming the nucleus of a League of Nations mandate in Palestine.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Scholars have produced an avalanche of monographs and books about the mandate, whose existence was marked by an escalating level of animosity and violence between Arabs and Jews.

Scarcely any of these studies have focused on the British officials who administered this strategic piece of real estate. Captivated by the increasingly bitter struggles that convulsed Palestine following the issuance of the Balfour Declaration on Nov. 2, 1917, a document which envisioned a Jewish homeland there, historians have generally dealt with the political aspects of the mandate. A.J. Sherman, who was born in Jerusalem and whose father was a mandate official, concentrates on the personalities in an eminently balanced book entitled *Mandate Days: British Lives in Palestine 1918-1948* (Thames and Hudson).

Living up to his objective, Sherman paints a nuanced portrait of the civilians and soldiers who found themselves in Palestine during the period under review. But inevitably, he grapples with the pressing political issues that other historians have addressed directly or glancingly. Strictly speaking, then, *Mandate Days* covers more ground than expected.

In common with their compatriots elsewhere in the far-flung British empire, officials in Palestine usually mixed among themselves. Almost none of them could speak Hebrew, and the ones who knew Arabic were rarely fluent. Nevertheless, it's clear that the majority of British preferred the company of Arabs to that of Jews. Palestinian Arabs were felt to be attractive by virtue of their physical courage, pride in their traditions and exquisite courtesy, generous hospitality, loyalty and well-developed sense of personal honor and of humor.

These beliefs, Sherman observes, were hardly shaken by events – the Arab Revolt (1936 to 1939), during which scores of British troops and policemen were killed, or the tepid and sometimes hostile Arab response to Britain's needs during World War II.

With the exception of native-born Zionist settlers, whose toughness and brashness invariably inspired respect, Jews were considered less appealing, particularly those of central European origin. They were perceived as tense and bourgeois, bereft of humor, seldom open and straightforward and lacking the small talk and ease of manner that lubricated social encounters.

"One cannot help having the greatest admiration for the Jews in their industry, their boundless enthusiasm and their loyalty to each other," Sherman quotes a British administrator as saying. "It is strange that so intelligent and gifted a race should as a whole be so completely devoid of tact, which has made their relations with both British and Arabs difficult."

As Sherman suggests, such attitudes were a function of at least two factors: anti-Semitism and an unwillingness by Jews to succumb to "British charm and moral leadership." Given their jaundiced view of Jews, it comes as no surprise that most British functionaries were pro-Arab and had no great sympathy for a Jewish homeland in Palestine, a concept from which Britain gradually withdrew. According to Sherman, they considered the idea contrary to Britain's wider interests in the Middle East.

For most British in Palestine, Zionism was associated dimly with Bolshevism, international conspiracy theories and notions of widespread Jewish influence.

But, Sherman adds, a few "exceptional individuals," such as the legendary Orde Wingate, went against the grain of British thinking, and embraced Jews and Zionism.

Turning to a related topic, Sherman explains that many British officials of Jewish descent fared badly, being under constant attack from both Arabs and Jews for presumed partiality, disloyalty or double dealings.

Norman Bentwich, the attorney general, a man of integrity, was forced to resign because he was deemed too controversial. On the other hand, Sir Herbert Samuel, the first British high commissioner, served out his term.

From the outset, as Sherman correctly states, the mandate was shot through with ambiguities. As a result, the discord pitting Jews against Arabs grew exponentially.

He theorizes that the communal strife in 1929 was a watershed, confirming the Arabs' implacable hostility to Zionism and shattering the delusion that Britain could foster a sense of Palestinian citizenship among Jews and Arabs.

The fighting prompted the high commissioner, Sir John Chancellor, to conclude that the Balfour Declaration had been "a colossal blunder," unjust to Arabs and impossible to fulfil evenhandedly.

In this spirit, the British government, on the eve of World War II, released a White Paper that drastically limited Jewish immigration to, and land purchases in, Palestine.

These policies, a sop to Arab opinion, unfolded with tragic consequences against the backdrop of the Holocaust. On Feb. 25, 1942, the *Struma*, an unseaworthy vessel filled with hundreds of Romanian Jews trying to reach Palestine, sank in the Black Sea. The two survivors were refused admittance to Palestine, an event which destroyed the last vestiges of what had been Britain's special relationship with the Zionist movement.

During the war, British troops poured into Palestine, making it the principal supply depot and rest and recreation centre for the entire Middle East. By 1942, private cars had been banned from roads and food rationing had gone into effect. But compared to the wartime austerities in Britain, Sherman writes, life in Palestine was relatively easy.

Palestine was comparatively sheltered from the war, but in the summer of 1940, the conflict hit home when the Italian air force bombed Haifa's oil refineries and accidentally attacked Tel Aviv, claiming countless casualties.

With the terrorist bombing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem and the campaign of insurrection launched by the Irgun and the Stern Gang, Britain's frayed relations with the Yishuv worsened in the post-war period.

Immediately after the King David atrocity, Sir Evelyn Barker, the commander of the British army in Palestine, forbade soldiers to associate with Jews. The 1947 *Exodus* incident, during which British naval boats intercepted a ship with Jewish refugees bound for Palestine, exacerbated the situation.

Orde Charles Wingate

Despite the growing burden of maintaining an outpost there, the consensus among senior British military officers was that Palestine should be kept permanently as a strategic base and an anchor of British interests in the region. But such sentiments carried no weight in London, and subsequently, Britain notified the United Nations of its intention to give up Palestine.

In the waning months of the mandate, there was a sharp deterioration of morale, as some soldiers assaulted Jewish and Arab civilians, illegally sold arms and ammunition and deserted to join Arab or criminal bands.

The mandate came to an ignominious close in 1948, in an atmosphere of bitterness and confusion. As Sir Alan Cunningham – the last British high commissioner – got ready to leave, David Ben-Gurion, the dominant figure in the Yishuv, prepared the momentous speech he would deliver to formally announce the proclamation of Israeli statehood.

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Relocating often frightening for immigrant children

By MICHAEL BRIKS

Guest Voices

You are 6 years of age, and you've just been told by your momma, or your papa, perhaps your bubbie or zayde, that in a little while you are going to move far, far away. You don't quite understand why you are moving, and you can't quite grasp where you are moving to, other than that this magical place is supposed to be better than where you are living now, whatever that means.

Your momma now spends countless hours sorting out "stuff" that will be going with you, and "stuff" that will remain – to be given to others. Nothing to go to waste.

Relatives come and go – they have tears in their eyes. They tell you that they will visit soon (whatever soon means) and that you are going to be happy, far, far away, even though as happiness goes, you are doing quite fine where you are now.

Close neighbors usher in your playmates to bid farewell. Awkwardly they sit with you. One child graciously offers a biscuit, another the small wooden car to which you claimed ownership several arguments ago. The playmates are not reassuring; somehow they sense that they will never see you again, never play with you again. This is the final goodbye.

You are 6 years old and you are about to embark on a journey that will lead you to a new life; new experiences, new neighborhood, new school, new synagogue. You are pale. You feel very small and frightened. It is difficult to speak. So much is whirling about you – packing, kvetching, packing, laughter, packing, tears – tears and hugs. Everything uncertain. Everything changing. The plight of the immigrant child – not a chance. A family move from Toronto to Vancouver; from Winnipeg to Ottawa or perhaps from Windsor to Halifax. Stressful indeed, traumatic...perhaps.

To your delight, little one, you soon discover that "magic land" looks strangely familiar. There are shuls, a Jewish Community Centre, restaurants, stores and shopping malls. People sound the same; drink water from the faucet, use flush toilets and buy all sorts of things with the same money you use. Kids flock to playground swings and shiny plastic slides, and bat balls in groomed grassy fields – just like back home. They even pull their ballcaps on tightly and backwards, wear faded jeans and chew bubble gum.

Thank goodness mamma didn't throw out the baseball glove!

Now picture, if you would, a single day in the life of a newly arrived Jewish immigrant child from Donetsk, or perhaps Kiev or Zvomik...

Michael Briks is national executive vice-president, Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada.

Making friends on the Web

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

You don't need a computer or a modem to make friends across the world.

People have had pen-pals in far away places since long before the World Wide Web. But the Internet and e-mail have revolutionized pen-pal correspondence, giving it an immediacy undreamed of even a few years ago. Today, how to make friends around the corner or around the world on the Jewish Highway. (Always be prudent on the Highway. Never give out your full name or your street address to a stranger.)

One of the most interesting sites is Virtual Jerusalem Pen Pals, which has an interesting mix of people who are looking for casual friends and more serious relationships **[http://join.virtual.co.il/cgi-win/penpals.exe/]**. A sampling:

• Judah from Minneapolis: "I have roots in Tunisia. I have recently discovered my Jewish ancestry. Talk to me!"

• Leigh from Sydney: "I'm a 15-year-old female who was born in Israel and moved to Australia when I was six. I would like to speak to anyone around my age about what Judaism is like where you live."

• Menachem from Phoenix: "I'm a Jewish vegan single male looking for a lifetime partner."

Sometimes schools around the world like to maintain contact. Here are some schools in Israel which could be twinned with friends in the Diaspora **[http://ietn.snunit.k12.il/byschool.htm/]** and **[http://web66.coled.umn.edu/schools/IL/Israel.html]**. For more Jewish pen-pal sites, see Chabad's Tzivos Hashem **[http://www.tzivos-hashem.org/penpals.html]**, Judaism.com **[http://www.judaica.com/jdckids/netpals.html]** and the massive ANJY database **[http://www.ort.org/anjy/penpals/penpals.htm]**.

One of the most interesting pen-pal sites I came across is run by Jewish Prisoner Services of Florida **[http://www.jewishprisonerservices.org/PenPalHead.html]**.

Jewish Prisoner Services provides visitation, Judaica and other assistance to Jews in prison. But one of their most important goals is finding pen-pals for Jewish prisoners. Corresponding with a convict may seem unusual, but it can have a lasting impact on the lives of those who are isolated and forgotten by most people in the community. The site quotes Maimonides: "Helping the imprisoned is the loftiest of all charitable acts, superseding all other forms."

* * *

Irv Osterer of Nepean, Ont., has written me looking for information on the Internet about hockey in Israel. Sounds like an interesting request on the eve of the playoffs in North America.

I found no site in English, but did come across one Hebrew language Web site devoted to the game. Slapshot **[http://up.co.il/users/slap shot/]** does a great job of explaining the game to Israelis. Most of the site is devoted to the rules, regulations and stars of the NHL. But there is an overview of the state of the game in Israel **[http://up.co.il/users/slapshot/israel.htm]**.

"Why isn't hockey more popular in Israel?" That question is posed in a delightful Hebrew article from *Ha'aretz* **[http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/2373/ICE-H.HTM]**. "In principle, the game has everything you could dream of in a sport: crowds, tension, an astonishing pace and more than that – what we Israelis love most – a lot of violence and juicy swearing."

If you do get the urge to play hockey in the Holy Land, there may be a place for you at the Roger Neilson Hockey Camp in Israel **[http://www.lindsaycomp.on.ca/rnhc/webdoc7.htm]**. Every summer, budding stars forego the glorious heat of the Middle Eastern sun to strap on their skates and work out in an air-conditioned rink.

With that kind of devotion, what's next? Hockey Night in Israel?

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at [mdm@inforamp.net].

Community branches out

***Branching Out The Transportation of the Canadian Jewish Community*, by Gerald Tulchinsky (Stoddart, $45).**

Books
Bernard Baskin

How many Jews are there in Canada? About 360,000, just a bit more than one percent of the population. Where do they live? Toronto and environs, about 160,000; Montreal, 90,000; Vancouver, 22,000; Winnipeg, 15,000; Ottawa, 12,000. And of course, small numbers in two dozen or so other cities and towns across the country.

In recent years, Montreal and Winnipeg have lost Jewish residents, as Vancouver, Ottawa and Calgary have gained them. Surprisingly, by the mid-1990s there were an estimated 10,000 South African Jews living in Toronto; and more than 40,000 Israelis, mainly in Toronto and Montreal. Unfortunately, the Israeli migrants are largely alienated or uninvolved with community religious and cultural life.

Today, some 40 percent of Canadian Jews are Holocaust survivors or their descendants, probably the highest percentage of any Jewish community outside of Israel.

These statistics are gleaned from *Branching Out*, an admirable and absorbing history of Jewish life in Canada from 1921 to the present day. It is a sequel to the author's previous book, *Taking Root: The Origins of the Canadian Jewish Community*, which traces Jewish origins in Canada from their earliest beginnings in the 1760s to 1920.

In 1921, Jews were a group of about 125,000, working or lower middle-class immigrants who lived in ethnic enclaves within major cities.

How that community grew and flourished; the nature of its contributions to Canadian political, social and cultural life; its religious institutions and response to anti-Semitism; its role in the creation and support of Israel; the problems it faced in terms of acculturation and assimilation to the larger community; some of its outstanding personalities and its hopes for the future – these are some of the major themes and concerns of this readable and accessible survey.

Although, a number of recent studies indicate that anti-Semitism is marginal and on the decline in Canada, many Jews are still worried. The author writes: "Some 70 to 80 percent of Toronto's Jews, according to one scholar, still view anti-Semitism as a 'potential danger,' and have 'a sense of foreboding and pessimistic assessment' of the potential for future anti-Semitism in North America."

A 1984 scholarly survey of the social geography of anti-Semitism found "surprisingly warm feelings towards Jews on the part of Canadians," 86 percent of whom held positive or neutral opinions. In this survey, anti-Semitism was found to be highest in Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Quebec, and lowest in Alberta.

"Not surprisingly, social class was found to be an even more important determinant of anti-Semitic attitudes than religion or francophone background, and the study found that irrespective of religion, the lower one descends in the socio-economic hierarchy... the more anti-Semitism one finds."

What troubles many Jews, is the government's inability or unwillingness to deal effectively with Nazi war criminals, the continuing fulminations of such cranks as Ernst Zundel and his ilk, and manifestations of anti-Jewish feelings among some ethnic groups and a portion of the black community.

Growing intermarriage and the question of continuity agitate Jewish leaders, at the same time that the day school movement has a larger percentage attending these schools in Toronto than in any other North American city.

This book brings to life the colorful and exciting saga of a creative and determined people over 75 years in Canada.

With Timbrels and Dance

I climbed the hill
at first shyly, gingerly,
furtively surveying stony boulders,
true to my Polish self
who like the fearful Yemenite Jew
must not ride a donkey
or climb heights,
but walk in invisible submission
obedient to the law of the land.

Then
transcending geography
of pain's implacable memory,
I took an upward plunge
toward freedom,
and with a neophyte's zeal
let my feverish feet
dance on every stone and promontory
with timbrels parting the Red Sea.

On good days
my soul caresses the blue-green cliffs
of forest's pinnacles,
and filling the blue edge
of misty Sinai,
we both tremble with freedom.

by Donia Blumenfeld Clenman

This poem was awarded honorable mention and a certificate of merit in the 1998 Israel Poetry for Peace Prize.

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Thursday, April 22, 1999, 8:00 p.m.
"Personal Reminiscing on Excavating The City of David, Jerusalem (The Elusive Search for Peace)"
Dr. Alex Gropper, Professor of Archeology, University of Toronto

The Beth Tikvah Family and the Community are invited to attend
Free Admission

Work on Technodome scheduled to start this year

Continued from page 3

they will move the park to Montreal if they can't buy the 31 hectares (77 acres) of land on the Downsview site. The federal government will only give them a 99-year lease.

Abraham Reichmann, 36, said recently the final site has yet to be chosen.

North York Spadina Councillor Howard Moscoe, who represents the neighbourhoods near the Technodome site, said it's "most unlikely" the project will move to Montreal. "It's blustering," he said, adding that "the only thing that will scupper the deal is if the Reichmanns can't get the financing."

David Sadowsky, executive director of CLC Downsview Inc., the Crown corporation responsible for the Downsview site, said no sale to Heathmount was ever contemplated.

He said revenue from the Technodome lease, as well as from the sale of lands south of Wilson to Costco for a big-box plaza, will be used to finance the $100 million needed to maintain the entire Downsview site and build a promised 140-hectare (350-acre) park.

Construction is scheduled to begin on the Technodome in September and to be completed "sometime in 2002," according to Heathmount vice-president of operations Rubin Dubiansky.

Heathmount estimates 11 million people will visit the park annually, and that the project will generate 17,000 construction jobs and 17,000 permanent jobs once completed.

The two million-square-foot facility will have an indoor mountain for year-round skiing, a waterpark with kayaking, a rain forest, an amusement park with rides, movie studios, 3-D cinemas and a 12,500 seat arena.

Last August, Friends of the Downsview Lands appealed to the OMB against an amendment to the city's official plan which was passed by council last summer. The amendment rezoned the entire 534-hectare (1,320-acre) site of the former Downsview base for parkland, housing, a high tech industrial park and Technodome.

A hearing date has not been set.

The appeal says the amendment contains "inadequate measures to safeguard adjacent neighbourhoods from traffic infiltration and parking."

City planners estimate that 80 percent of Technodome visitors will come by car.

With 40,000 potential visitors expected on any given Saturday, 32,000 people could come to the site by car in one day, said Vince Lombardi of the Downsview Lands Community Voice Association, another residents' group which is not part of the appeal.

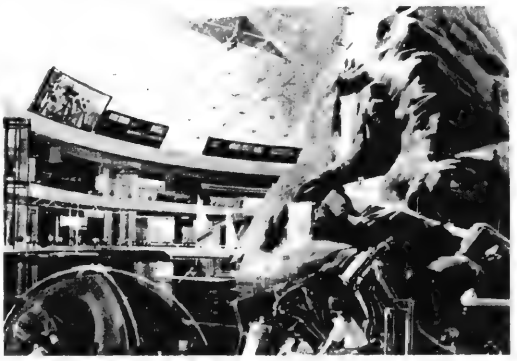
He said that with Technodome, Yorkdale and a new big-box plaza on Wilson Ave., all within a 1-square-mile radius of each other, there will be "too much congestion" on weekends and holidays.

Birnbaum said his group's appeal also cites concerns about the lack of community input into the planning process. "The issue is about plunking down an enormous development alongside an existing, stable community, which is likely to have a large effect on it, with a minimum of public involvement and discussion."

Consultation with local residents over the past two years through a community advisory panel was inadequate, Birnbaum said, since the panel was appointed by the old North York city council and panel members were not necessarily responsible to the community.

"Nobody knew about [the advisory panel]. If most people don't know about it, it's clear it didn't work properly."

However, speaking for Heathmount, Dubiansky said local residents have been adequately consulted.



Sports World, part of the proposed Destination: Technodome.

Heathmount also has an interest in minimizing traffic and parking problems, he said. "As a business it's important for people to be able to get to our door quickly and easily and have a place to park. So we have a business interest in all of this, aside from taking community interests into account."

Birnbaum said his group also intends to appeal the detailed agreement between Heathmount and the city, which will iron out details of the Technodome development.

The agreement will be based on amendments to the project imposed by city council in December, which included reducing the overall size of the 13-storey building by 10 per cent, eliminating three ice rinks and adding 2000 more parking spaces. As well, Heathmount will have to pay the fares of visitors coming to Technodome by TTC.

Once finalized, the agreement must be passed by city council before it can be appealed to the OMB. Birnbaum wants both appeals to be heard together to save

Continued on page 15

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MINYANIM IN THE GTA
WEEK OF APRIL 16-22/'99

Synagogue	Address & Tel.	Fri. Night	Shabbat	Sun. A.M.	Daily A.M.	Daily P.M.
Beth Tzedec (C)	1700 Bathurst St. (416) 781-3511	6:00 PM	8:45 AM	9:00 AM	7:45 AM	6:00 PM
B'nai Torah (O)	465 Patricia Ave. (416) 226-3700	7:51 PM	8:45 AM	7:00 & 7:20 AM	7:00 & 7:20 AM	7:55 PM
Chabad Lubavitch Community Centre (O)	770 Chabad Gate (905) 731-7000	7:41 PM	9:30 AM	8:00 & 9:00 AM	6:50	7:55 PM
Clanton Park Synagogue (O)	11 Lowesmoor Ave. (416)633-4193	7:46 PM	9:00 AM	7:30 AM & 8:15 AM	Mon. Thurs. 6:50, 7:15 Tues. Wed. Fri. 7, 7:15	7:55 PM
Darchei Noam (Rec.)	15 Hove St. (416) 638-4783	----------	10:00 AM	----------	----------	----------
Pride of Israel (C)	50 Lissom Cres. (416) 226-0111	7:00 PM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	7:30 & 8:30 AM	7:00 PM
Shaarei Tefillah (O)	3600 Bathurst St. (416) 787-1631	7:53 PM	8:45 AM	8:30 AM	6:30 & 7:30 AM	7:55 PM
Soleil Congregation (R)	2399 Folkway Dr. (905) 820-5915	7:30 PM	10:00 AM	----------	Tuesday 7:00 AM	----------
Temple Sinai (R)	210 Wilson Ave. (416) 487-4161	7:30 PM	10:00 AM	9:30 AM	7:30 AM	----------

This is not a comprehensive listing of the synagogues in the Greater Toronto area. The information is provided by the Vaad Harabonim of Toronto and the Toronto Board of Rabbis. The Vaad and the Board will periodically revise the listings. For statutory holidays, please call the Synagogue for any changes in times.

Greater Toronto Area

OMB to hear appeal of Technodome agreement

Continued from page 14

time and money and because issues for both appeals would overlap.

Rob Dolan, acting director of community planning for the north district, said city planners would defend plans for the Downsview lands at the OMB.

But an agreement on details is on hold as the city waits to hear from Heathmount. Dolan said there have been no discussions with Heathmount since the city wrote the developer in early March asking how it plans to incorporate the changes passed by council in December. The developer has yet to respond in writing, he said.

"I'm quite confident that [the project] is going to proceed as council originally dealt with it, but it's in [Heathmount's] court now," Dolan said.

Dubiansky said the delay is not related to the threatened move to Montreal, but has mainly to do with incorporating the December changes.

Moscoe says an appeal to the OMB would have a "marginal" chance of success.

"The general rule of the OMB is that they will not overturn the decision of a council – a democratically elected council – unless there was a grievous error in planning or an error in law," Moscoe said. At worst Technodome represents "an error in judgment," he said.

Moscoe said that he "would rather [Technodome] be in Montreal," but won't support the appeal, since he voted for Technodome at council. But he said the appeal has his "full moral support."

'Not necessarily' a done deal

He said Lastman had the votes for the Technodome "stacked since the beginning," so Moscoe said that instead of opposing it, he "tried to structure the project so that it will have the least impact on the community."

Birnbaum said Technodome is "not necessarily" a done deal, since Heathmount can't start building until all outstanding legal issues are settled. He said if the OMB appeal is not successful, his group may take the federal government to court to force a full environmental assessment for the entire Downsview site.

"A done deal is when building actually starts. And even then it's not a done deal....There's lots of things that can be done to slow things down."

But Dubiansky said no matter what the obstacles, "the project is not going to go away. It's a great business. It's great for the city. It's great for the local community."

Music Recording District, part of the proposed Destination: Technodome.

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, April 19, is deadline for April 29 issue, and Monday, April 26, is deadline for May 6. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Thursday, April 15

ADULT EDUCATION

Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman, guest speaker of the Dr. Dorothy Sone and Abby J. Sone Memorial Lecture at Adath Israel Synagogue, speaks on Reimagining Conservative and Reform Judaism: Similarities and Differences, 8 p.m.

NCJW MEETING

National Council of Jewish Women, Toronto Section's spring general meeting featuring a performance by The Kids on the Block, 7:30 p.m. Council House. RSVP 633-5100.

Sunday, April 18

JEWISH MUSIC

An Odyssey Through Jewish Music, an entertaining and educational afternoon at Temple Har Zion with guest singer and musical historian **Faye Kellerstein** accompanied by **Jordan Klapman,** 2 p.m., 7360 Bayview Ave. Tickets at door $5 members, $8 non-members. **Tara Abrams** 905-881-2617.

TAKE IT TO HEART

Dr. Rob Myers, cardiologist, Sunnybrook Health Science Centre, and author of *Take It To Heart: Your Complete Guide to Preventing and Treating Heart Disease*, speaks at Beth Tzedec Congregation, sponsored by Young Families Committee and Men's Club. Service 9 a.m., breakfast (nominal charge) 9:30, program at 10.

MARCH OF THE LIVING

A program of information, song and commitment by youth of Shaarei Shomayim Congregation about last year's trip to Poland and Israel, 8 p.m. at the synagogue.

JEWISH BROTHERHOODS

Council of Jewish Brotherhoods spring breakfast, 9:30 a.m., Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. $6.

OPEN HOUSE

At Temple Emanu-El, 120 Old Colony Rd., for day camp and preschool, 3 p.m. Entertainment for kids, information for parents. RSVP 449-3880.

DANCE LIKE A BUTTERFLY

Beth Tzedec Hesed committee presents *Dance Like a Butterfly* , a one-woman show about aging, featuring **Lisa Hurd**, 2 p.m. $5. Tickets at door or reserve by calling **Marlene** 781-3514, ext. 34.

RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

How Can We Promote Religious Diversity in Israel? (And Should We?) with **David Goldberg** 10 a.m. at Temple Sinai.

Monday, April 19

SUPPORT GROUP

Jewish Parents and Families of Gays and Lesbians meets 7:30 p.m., Jewish Family & Child Service, 6th floor, Lipa Green Building. Phone in confidence. **Ruth** 763-9111.

WARSAW GHETTO

Workmen's Circle and Jewish Labor Bund commemorate the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, 8 p.m. at Workmen's Circle, 471 Lawrence Ave. W., speaker **Prof. Cyril Levitt** of McMaster University, songs of the ghetto by **Lenka Lichtenberg,** readings by second generation children of survivors.

Tuesday, April 20

YOM HA'ATZMAUT

Beth Tzedec observes Yom Ha'atzmaut, Minchah 6 p.m., Yom Hazikaron observance 6:15 p.m., Ma'ariv 6:30 p.m., followed by Israel Trade fair. Music by **Yitzhak Argaman**, DooDoo the clown, fun and food for all ages.

ELECTIONS IN ISRAEL

New Fraternal Jewish Association meets 8 p.m. at Lodzer Centre. **Prof. David Goldberg** speaks on The Elections in Israel and Their Impact on the Peace Process.

DOWNTOWN MINYAN

Downtown Reform Minyan celebrates Yom Ha'atzmaut with a bonfire at Sunnybrook Park, 7 p.m. For details, **Ronit** 631-6937.

Wednesday, April 21

EVENING OF INSPIRATION

Bikur Cholim hosts an Evening of Inspiration with **Rebbitzen Esther Jungreis**, author of *The Committed Life*, 8 p.m. Beth Avraham Yoseph, 613 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill. By women, for women. $25. 783-7983.

CIRCLE OF CARE

Circle of Care Workshop focuses

Continued on page 17

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What's New

Continued from page 16

on Preparing Yourself for the Millennium – Can the Future Count on You – Stress, Fitness, Body and Soul, Healthy Aging. At Barbara Frum Library. Registration 10 a.m. Kosher lunch $5. Reserve. **Sandra Kingstone** 635-2900, ext. 467.

YOM HA'ATZMAUT

Beth Emeth Bais Yehudah Synagogue special Yom Ha'atzmaut service 8 a.m. followed by breakfast, candlelighting ceremony. Adult $3, children under 12 free. Tickets at office.

WAR AGAINST THE JEWS

Aish HaTorah presents The Secret War Against the Jews with **John Loftus**, war crimes prosecutor, 8 p.m., The Old Mill, 21 Old Mill Rd. $5. Reserve 905-764-1818

LIVELY AFTER 50!

Interested in getting together with an interesting and diverse group of women for a wide range of interesting activities? Then this Jewish Women's International group is for you. 12:30 p.m. at Santorini Grill, 288 John St., Thornhill. $20. Reserve. **Lucy Alt** 667-8474 or JWI office 630-9313.

KABBALAH CENTRE

The Kabbalah Way to Spiritual Growth: Personal Development Workshop, (first of a four-part series) 7:30 p.m , 678 Sheppard Ave. W. 631-9395.

Thursday, April 22

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

Holocaust and hope committee of The League for Human Rights and the Canadian Centre for German and European Studies of York University present **Thomas Lutz**, director, Topography of Terror Foundation in Berlin, Germany, speaking on Holocaust Education in the Country of the Perpetrator, 8 p.m., B'nai Brith Building, 15 Hove St. 633-6224.

COOKING PRESENTATION

National Council of Jewish Women, Toronto Section presents cooking demonstration and sampling of recipes from the cookbook *CalciYum* with **Rachelle** and **David Bronfman**, 7:30 p.m., Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. $10 members, $12 non-members. Reserve 633-5100.

SEFIRAH

Rachael Turkienicz speaks on Sefirah, the period between Pesach and Lag b'Omer 2 p.m., Forest Hill Place, 645 Castlefield Ave. Reserve. **Marlene** or **Susan** 785-1511.

And What Else Is New

SHALOM IN ISRAEL

Shalom in Israel, An Absolute Necessity is the theme of the Frances Bitterman Memorial Lectures at Beth Tikvah Synagogue.

Tuesday, April 20, 8 p.m., Shalom in Israel and the Effect of the Upcoming Election, **Alex Serota**, chartered accountant.

Thursday, April 22, 8 p.m., Personal Reminiscing on Excavating the City of David, Jerusalem (The Elusive Search for Peace), **Prof. Alex Groper**, professor of Archeology, University of Toronto.

OUR YIDDISH HERITAGE

Temple Sinai's Our Musical Legacy series marks 29 years of commitment to the preservation of Yiddish culture and music on Friday, April 23, with songs from the cantor, composer-in-residence, congregational choir and a guest soloist, plus comments from **Harvey Atkin**, Der Temple Sinai Filosof. Services at 8:15 p.m.

AISH HATORAH

Aish HaTorah, 949 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill. 905-764-1818.

Sunday, April 18, 8 p.m. – Bridging the Gap Seminar: Creating a Personal Vision: Where Am I In Life and Where Do I Want to Be?, **Rabbi Aryeh Pamensky**, followed by choice of seminars with **Drs. Esther and Robert Libman, Dr. Michael Kirzner, Lori Palatnik** and **Phyllis Zelcer**. $8.

Mondays April 19-June 14, 2 p.m. – The Sefirot – Mystical Pathways to Personal Growth with **Rabbi Mitch Mandel**. $45 for nine-week series.

TALMUD AND MIDRASH

The Beit Midrash at Adath Israel Congregation presents Talmud and Midrash: Live and Interactive with **Rachael Turkienicz**, Wednesdays 8 p.m., April 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19 (started April 14). Themes include Angels, Morality, Pluralism, Free Will and other concepts.

VILNA YESTERDAY, TODAY

Friends of Yiddish features Vilna, Yesterday and Today, a color slide presentation by **Vivian Felson** Sunday. April 25, 7 p.m., Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Guests $5. RSVP by April 21. **Sandy** 736-8073.

THEATRE SCHOOL

Leah Posluns Theatre School children, teens and adult drama classes start immediately! Classes include Junior Drama level 1; Children's Drama level 1, 2 and 3; Teen Drama, level 1 and 3, and Adult Drama, level 1 and 2. Cost $150 plus annual $25 non-athletic membership in Bathurst Jewish Centre. Enrol now! 636-1880, ext. 464.

ST. JOHN'S COURSES

Last call for Infant/Child CPR, Heartsaver CPR. First Aid Course, $36, evenings and Sunday mornings at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. **Rhonda** 905-731-9441.

JEWISH HEALING PROJECT

Toronto Jewish Healing Project six-week session on Jewish healing for those who are physically ill and who are interested in learning more about Jewish healing, led by **Rabbi John Moscowitz** and educator **Michelle Katz** at Holy Blossom Temple Mondays April 26-May 31, 1-2:30 p.m. To register, **Etta Ginsberg McEwan** 944-3359.

SINGLES SCENE

Beach Blast Volleyball, Sunday, April 18, for 25-35 group, RSVP to **Surit** 905-669-5499 evenings.

Comedywood evening for 35-55 group changed to Thursday, April 22. Show up at theatre.

Anniversary celebration for all ages, Sunday, April 25, 6:30 p.m. at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. For tickets 633-3838. For information **Rhonda** 905-731-9441.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24

FOR SENIORS

Beth Tikvah Friendship Group Babylonian Jewish Heritage Night, Monday, April 26, 8 p.m. **Avner Meiri**, his wife and daughter describe their life experiences, including a film. A sampling of foods typical of that culture. $5.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Casino Rama April 28, May 13, 27; May 4, Bata Shoe Museum and Manning Cookie Factory; May 5, *My Fair Lady* at Stage West; May 12, Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake; May 16, Spring Fair and Bake Sale in the clubhouse; May 23-25 Ottawa; July 5-11 Catskills. 395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). April 22, video; April 29, members meeting; May 8, Yom Ha'atzmaut dance, for tickets call **Malka Colla** 630-5771. All activities in Hebrew, English and Yiddish. **Jerry Bengal**, president 905-707-7334.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club: May 10, to celebrate Mother's Day, variety show, dancing, singing Yiddish, Hebrew, Russian, English, **Tanya Granonski**, 12:30 p.m., light lunch; Aug. 25, morning cruise, then matinee performance of *Move Over Mrs. Markham* at Gryphon Theatre; Oct. 12, *West Side Story* at Stratford. **Lena** 785-5773. Golden Book donations go to Laniado Hospital in Israel. **Dorothy Bloomfield** 787-1526.

LZA Seniors Club in the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave., is open for socializing Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ladies Folkdancing Thursdays 1:30 p.m. Cultural Discussion Group Tuesdays 10 a.m. Register now to see *My Fair Lady* at Stage West. **Libby** 782-2059 or office 630-9444.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

Arthritis Management Clinic with **Bev Tobe**, therapist with the Arthritis Society, Thursday, April 15, 1-4 p.m. Make appointment at Wellness Desk, ext. 131.

The School of Paris, Part II, with **Edith Altschuler**, Art Gallery of Ontario docent, Tuesday, April 20, 10 a.m. **Bookie Kwart** ext. 116.

Community Update Series, **Murray Mackenzie**, president and CEO, North York General Hospital; **Diane Anderson**, vice-president, Long Term Care Services; **Jeff Brown**, director of Planning, discuss Vision of Ambulatory Care at Branson Hospital, Tuesday, April 20, 1:15 p.m.

Healthy Cooking with dietician/nutritionist **Andrea Sturk**, Thursday, April 22, 1:15 p.m.

Computers for Seniors, in cooperation with West-Vaughan Recreation Services at Dufferin/Clark Library, April classes, Mondays a.m. and p.m.; May classes Thursday a.m., Friday a.m. Sign up at Ticket Sales desk. **Bookie** ext. 116.

Israeli Club Etrog: Do you speak Hebrew? Join club members every Tuesday at 7 p.m. for movies, lectures, dances, sing-alongs, bingo, picnics. Programs based on topics of interest to Israelis, conducted in Hebrew. April 20, Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day) ceremony with Israeli consulate; April 21 (Wednesday) Yom Ha'atzmaut party, 7-10 p.m. **Anna** ext. 110.

Movie, *Forest Gump* , Sunday, April 18, 2:30 p.m.

BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

Seniors Club: Thursday, April 15, 2 p.m., Keeping Your Spine Healthy: The Prevention and Reduction of Osteoarthritis in the Spine, **Dr. J. Bayani**, chiropractor; Thursday, April 22, 2 p.m. Recalling Jewish Immigrant Life in Toronto at the Turn of the Century, **Judy Weinryb**, senior coordinator.

Seniors excursion to Niagara-on-the-Lake region, Hillbrand Estates Winery, Niagara Historical Museum, Monday, May 26. $15 includes bus fare. Reserve by Thursday, April 22. **Judy**.

BATHURST JC

Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 636-1880.

St. John Ambulance Babysitting Course at the BJC Sunday, April 18, for teens 12-17 years. Register. ext. 229.

Celebration honoring Baycrest Jewish Centre Volunteers during Volunteer Recognition Week Wednesday, April 21, 10:30 a.m. to noon. RSVP ext. 229.

BJC and Mount Sinai Prenatal Class begins May 3 at BJC. Limited space available. Register ext. 229.

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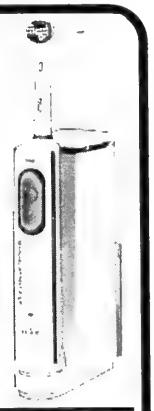

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Young Judaea's shaliach boosts youth trips to Israel

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Since Ryan Hass arrived here as Canadian Young Judaea (CYJ) shaliach in fall 1996, the Zionist youth movement has more than doubled the number of youngsters participating in its Israel experience programs, making it the largest Israel program high school group in Canada.

In 1997, 85 students representing a variety of Jewish backgrounds took part in the programs. This year, almost 190 are registered thus far, surpassing the goal of 150 students set by CYJ last year.

"It's hard work, but it's very fulfilling," said Hass, who devotes an estimated 70 percent of his time to Israel programs. "For a long time, the community has realized the Israel experience has so many significant ways to enhance one's Jewish identity."

Last year, UJA Federation established a subsidy fund for high school students participating in Israel experience programs. This year, the Bronfman Foundation, United Jewish Appeal and United Israel Appeal joined forces to provide subsidies of $2,000 per student for Israel-based university programs, on a first-come first-served basis.

Hass attributes increased interest in CYJ Israel programs in part to a Toronto ad campaign.

But the best advertising, he believes, is by word of mouth. To that end, CYJ Israel program alumni from Vancouver to Halifax have been involved in an outreach program, speaking to their peers about their experience.

Hass himself has travelled to a number of cities – as near as Hamilton and as far away as Vancouver – to speak with potential Israel program participants.

Stephanie Tuchmayer, 17, a student at Westmount Collegiate Institute who took part in Camp Biluim Israel last summer, has been helping promote CYJ programs here.

Her six-week trip increased her awareness about Judaism and Israel's background and cultural mix, she said. She also gained leadership experience, learning new skills by running programs along with other students.

The Biluim Israel program is the culmination of the CYJ summer camp system, which has seven camps across Canada. The organization also offers half a dozen other Israel programs, all including pre- and post-programming.

CYJ's newest program, Hagshama, has a volunteer component and is its only program geared for post-high school students.

Hass – who as a young teen went on an Israel program run by CYJ's sister movement in England – feels the outreach effort is worthwhile even if he only has the opportunity to talk to a couple of teenagers, and even if they end up choosing an Israel program run by a different organization.

"[It's for] such a good cause," Hass said, "because you know how positive the experience is."

Weinrib busy with two projects

Continued from page 6

rather than an academic job on the side."

Weinrib, who works out of a somewhat cluttered office near the planetarium, is currently busy with two projects.

In addition to writing a monograph about the charter, she is planning a book about its influence on South Africa and Israel.

An ardent observer of the Israeli legal scene, Weinrib has been closely watching the topical battle which pits Israel's activist Supreme Court against the Orthodox establishment. In this increasingly bitter showdown, the tensions between Israel's dual identity as a Jewish homeland and a secular democracy flare up with acrimonious regularity.

Lectures widely on human rights

Weinrib can't quite fathom the intensity of the haredim's reactions to recent Supreme Court decisions. "Some of them have been straight applications of statutes passed by the Knesset. So the outrage should be levelled at the Knesset, not the court."

In other instances, she noted, the Supreme Court determined that government policies were inconsistent with "basic democratic functioning."

Weinrib, who lectures widely on human rights, is following the proceedings of Israel's Supreme Court on another front. The court, for the first time, has decided to render a decision as to whether the Shin Bet security service is on firm legal ground when it resorts to torture during the interrogation of Palestinian terrorist suspects.

In her opinion, the burden of this controversial question should not fall solely on the court, but should be resolved jointly by the Executive, the Knesset and the Supreme Court.

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Langer leads by example

During her first year as President of Jewish Women's Federation, Janice Langer has tackled some very tough issues, including women abuse and the ongoing controversy surrounding the Jewish *get*. But this veteran UJA Federation volunteer says her long term community involvement is also about setting examples for future generations to follow.

"My community work helps me fulfill my responsibility to my fellow Jews," explains Langer, who has held volunteer positions with Jewish Women's Federation, Jewish Family and Child Service, Kehilla Residental Housing Project and Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science. Langer was also a board member of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto and Associated Hebrew Schools where she served as President of the Parents Association. "I remember how my parents sacrificed so that I could attend Hebrew school and that makes me want to give something back."

Looking back on the past year, Langer is most proud of JWF's highly successful Women Abuse program, which attracted over 400 people and featured acclaimed Rabbi Abraham Twerski. "It was a giant step forward in raising awareness about the issue as well as letting women who are victims of abuse know that they are not alone," notes Langer. As part of JWF's advocacy efforts, Langer also organized an unprecedented meeting between Twerski and 20 local orthodox rabbis to discuss the issue of women abuse in Toronto's Jewish community. "I called many of the rabbis personally because their participation was very important to me."

Among other 1998-99 highlights: the growing success of JWF's Simcha Basket Project, the Shalom Toronto greeting program, the ongoing *Healthy Living Learning Series*, which JWF co-sponsors with Mount Sinai Hospital and Langer's participation in the General Assembly of The Council of Jewish Federations in Israel last fall. "Above all I learned what a great job JWF is doing here at home."

jewish together toronto

Jewish Women's Federation of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

JWF says it's about time

Being a wife, mother of three, full-time legal consultant and a part-time volunteer is a constant juggling act for Lori Disenhouse. But help is on the way for her and other women on-the-go thanks to an upcoming time management seminar being sponsored by Jewish Women's Federation.

"I would be grateful for any advice on how to manage my commitments with less stress and less guilt," says Disenhouse, whose busy schedule often leaves her feeling torn. In addition to her job, Disenhouse is a member of two school boards and JWF. She is also a participant in the Wexner Heritage Foundation program, devoting four hours a week to study. "Sometimes I feel like I've taken on too much," Disenhouse confesses.

"Many women find it hard to cope with being pulled in different directions," notes Ingrid Kay, who along with Disenhouse, is co-chairing JWF's *Balancing Your Act*. The program, co-sponsored by UJA Federation Women's Campaign, is on April 26, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst Street.

Stress Management expert Jerome Shore says his four step program will offer participants strategies to alleviate daily stress, allocate time more effectively and teach women how to make time for themselves. "Most women forget about personal time because they don't see themselves as a priority," says Shore.

"JWF recognizes that women are increasingly taking on multiple roles and responsibilities and that's why we feel it's important to offer these kinds of valuable programs," notes Renee Schachter, Vice President of JWF's Social and Political Action portfolio.

"If we are to maintain a strong core of community volunteers, we must be sensitive to the unique circumstances many women find themselves in and try to accommodate them," she adds.

JWF's second spring program, co-sponsored by UJA Federation Women's Campaign, "Women and Financial Awareness," Tuesday May 18, will feature a panel of experts covering a wide range of financial issues relating to women.

For information about these upcoming programs, call (416) 635-2883 ext. 135. Space is limited.

Above: Disenhouse, shown with youngest daughter Yael, always makes her family a priority in spite of a hectic daily schedule. Photo: Stephen Epstein, Big Dipper Communications.

Around jwf

Emunah Women Of Toronto
Annual "Mother in Israel" Dinner, May 17, Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, 470 Glencairn Avenue, 6:00 p.m. Dinner, 8:00 p.m. Guest Speaker: Rena Shochet, *Torah Life and Living*. For reservations call (416) 636-0036.

Na'amat Toronto
Craft and Gift Show, May 24, 10:00 a.m. - 5 p.m., Bayview Village Shopping Centre - Fundraiser for Childcare and Education for Women and Children in Israel. Call (416) 636-5425.

Jewish Women International of Canada
"Mom's Own Moment," topical workshops for moms. April 16 - June 11, 4588 Bathurst Street
Fri. mornings 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. - $85.
Babysitting available. Call (416) 630-9313.

Mount Sinai Hospital Auxiliary
8th Symposium on Women and Health - "Prevention and Treatment of Aging Skin," May 6
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts.
For reservations/info call (416) 586-8290.

***National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section in cooperation with Scotiabank Fraud Awareness* "ABC'S of Fraud"** April 27, 1:00 p.m., 4700 Bathurst Street Free. Call (416) 633-5100.

Emunah Women of Toronto, JF&CS, Netiwot HaTorah and Ulpanat Orot Parents Association
"Mirror Mirror On The Wall: Body Image and Eating Disorders - The Orthodox Perspective" May 2, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. $18 includes lunch. Lipa Green Building 4600 Bathurst St. Call (416) 484-1256 or (905) 764-0533.

Mount Sinai Hospital, JWF, Bathurst Jewish Centre and National Council of Jewish Women,
Healthy Living Series - "Heart and Stroke," May 3, 7:30 p.m., Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St. Reservations/info call (416) 586-8338.

jewish toronto, *a supplement of the Canadian Jewish News, is sponsored and produced by UJA Federation. Jewish Toronto Website: www.feduja.org*

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Aid sought for Kosovo refugees

Continued from page 1

The refugees were living outdoors as best they could, in rain, mud and cold, just as so many Kosovar Albanians are, Frieberg recalls.

Frieberg herself was deported in March 1940. "The effects of that never leave you. You suddenly find yourself belonging nowhere and lining up for a piece of bread. I see those people [Kosovar Albanians] being so confused. That's exactly how we felt."

Jews, especially Holocaust survivors, she feels, have a special obligation to help, given the haunting similarities in language being used today – of men being taken outside and mowed down by machine-gun fire, of people being rounded up and told to get out.

"I've been there," Frieberg says. "I know their pain. It never leaves you. It's for life."

Across Canada, Jewish communities are being asked to respond to the tragedy. Donations may be sent to:

• Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee (Kosovo Relief), 1590 Avenue Docteur Penfield, Montreal, Quebec, H3G 1C5. Phone 1-514-931-7531. Following the Passover holidays, Congress was returning dozens of calls.

• Money and clothing may be sent to the Humanitarian Relief Fund of B'nai Brith Canada, 15 Hove St., Toronto, M3R 4Y8. Phone 1-800-892-2624.

• The UJA Federation network has established Kosovo relief funds across Canada at every local federation. In Toronto, cheques can be made out to UJA Kosovo Relief Fund, 4600 Bathurst Street, Toronto, M2R 3V2. Credit card donations are being accepted by calling 416-631-5705.

Jews have "a moral and historic obligation to assist in any way we can," said Toronto UJA Federation president Joseph Steiner.

The money will be forwarded to the Jewish Agency for Israel (funded by UJA campaigns around the world), which is shipping 43 tonnes of supplies, including tents, sleeping bags, blankets, baby food and milk to Albania.

The supplies and nearly $200,000 (Cdn) were donated by Israelis through the Spirit of Israel drive. A rock concert in Tel Aviv's Rabin Square raised approximately $750,000 (Cdn).

The government of Israel is also sending a field hospital to the region.

The Toronto-based Ve'ahavta – the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee is also collecting funds, to be distributed to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, (JDC).

Donations may be mailed to Ve'ahavta, Kosovo Relief Fund, 20 Eglinton Ave. W., suite 901, Toronto, M4R 1K8. Credit card donations may be made by calling 416-487-5472.

Executive director Avrum Rosensweig says Ve'ahavta is also exploring the possibility of sending a medical relief mission to Kosovo, similar to the teams of Jewish health professionals it has sent in the past to Guyana and Zimbabwe.

The Toronto Board of Rabbis was scheduled to meet this past Monday, and the issue of Kosovo was likely to be raised, said board president Rabbi Philip Scheim.

Other agencies are on alert should refugees be airlifted to Canada.

"If we are called upon, we will help any way we can," said Jack Kugelmass, executive director of Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) of Toronto. JIAS stands ready to provide help for those dealing with the psychological and emotional consequences resulting from upheaval, violence and conflict, added Kugelmass, who has spoken with key local agencies, which have also offered assistance.

According to on-the-scene emissaries from the Jewish Agency, Yugoslavian Jews are fleeing war-ravaged regions in larger numbers. Since the Kosovo crisis began, at least eight buses of Yugoslavian Jews have reached safe haven in Budapest.

Another 45 took an Agency-sponsored pilot trip to Israel to explore the possibility of aliyah. An estimated 100 more are expected. The Jews leaving Yugoslavia are predominantly between 18 and 40 years old and over a third are under 18.

Latest reports say Israel is also airlifting 100 Muslim Kosovars to the country. They will get six months asylum in Israel. Muslim Arabs in Galilee have raised about $15,000 (Cdn) for refugee relief.

In Kosovo itself, 15 Jews who have remained behind were said to be making preparations to leave, but their fate was not known as of last Friday.

One Jewish Kosovar family moved to Israel before Passover and attended a seder at Prime Minister Netanyahu's residence.

The war's impact has spread to Skopje, Macedonia, where 132 Jews are preparing to settle temporarily in nearby Bulgaria, hosted by the Jewish community of Sofia.

Bombs are reported to have exploded close to the Yugoslavian Jewish community in Belgrade. However, Jewish residents are apparently safe and food supplies are adequate.

— *Advertising Feature* —

The Readers Ask:

By:
EARL CRACKOWER
RICHARD ORVISS
&
ALLAN KALIN

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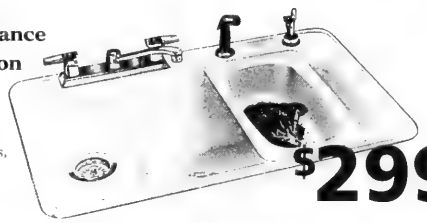

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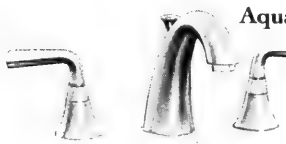

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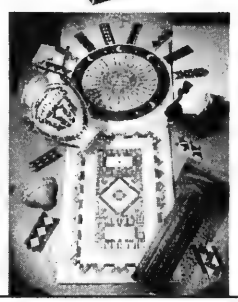

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Messianic group gets new listing

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – A local messianic group previously listed under "Synagogues" in the *Yellow Pages* will in its 1999 edition be categorized under, "Synagogues – Messianic," according to Bell ActiMedia, the directory's publisher.

But that compromise has failed to satisfy the leadership at Canadian Jewish Congress, Quebec region (CJC-Q).

"My first reaction is one of disappointment," CJC-Q chair Dorothy Zalcman Howard said in an interview.

"I'm disappointed because part of our complaint was related to the fact that messianic groups represent themselves as being part of the Jewish religion," an impression that could remain even under the revised listing, she said.

"These are evangelical Christians masquerading as Jews. I suppose it's an improvement, but it doesn't address our main concern that they are misrepresenting who they are."

Mike Poirier, assistant manager of the *Yellow Pages'* headings department, sent a letter on March 23 to CJC-Q saying that it had conducted research on Kehilat She'ar Yashuv, the messianic group involved in the dispute, by consulting with academics in religious studies and examining similar listings across North America.

"We determined that the most equitable solution is the establishment of a new heading titled Synagogues – Messianic," he wrote.

"This new heading identifies a clear distinction from traditional synagogues while still allowing messianic organizations to identify themselves to their members.

"We realize that this is a very sensitive issue for the Jewish community and have given careful consideration to our decision.

"This compromise should allay fears that the public is being intentionally misled by our advertisers, without sacrificing the completeness and ease-of-use for which Bell ActiMedia directories are known."

The controversy of how messianic groups are listed in the *Yellow Pages* dates back about six months, when CJC-Q complained about how the She'ar Yashuv congregation was listed in editions of the *Yellow Pages* published in Montreal and St. Laurent-Cartierville.

A similar incident involving a messianic group took place in Ottawa.

The pages were then published by Tele-Direct, which last November gave assurances to CJC-Q that messianic groups would no longer be placed under the heading of Synagogues.

Based in St. Laurent, She'ar Yashuv has operated out of a Salvation Army depot in Dollard des Ormeaux for six years. The congregation has maintained that it has the right to be listed under Synagogues, since its members see themselves as Jews who believe in the divinity of Jesus Christ.

The Jewish community, on the other hand, accuses messianic congregations of using deception to convert Jews to Christianity.

In its 1998 annual audit of anti-Semitic activity in Canada, B'nai Brith Canada spoke of the increased activity of messianic groups in Canada as, "one of the more alarming trends."

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He resigned from the Justice Department and exposed the shocking Nazi scandal on an Emmy Award-winning segment of "60 Minutes." In 1982, he received CIA clearance to publish his first book, *The Belarus Secret*.

For the past ten years, John Loftus has been an international advisor on Nazi prosecution. He has authored several books and articles, and received numerous humanitarian awards.

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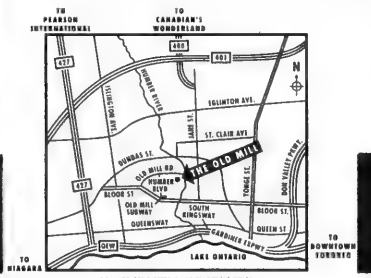

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Scene in Ottawa

By G.K. SIMCOE

They call it the "Pizza Parliament." Five parties reflecting five very different regions of the country. Periodically, over the next couple of months, we will peek behind the secretive party caucus doors. Hopefully, what we see, will help interpret events as they unfold in the coming year.

We begin this occasional series with a two-part examination of the governing Liberal party. Looking at the government side of the House, the pizza analogy could be applied in describing the national caucus.

Although most of the caucus comes from Ontario, seldom could one observe a more fractured group. They rally around the Liberal flag, but few sing the Liberal mantra in the same key. Some caucus members are so "off-tune," their colleagues have called for them to "get the boot" from the national caucus.

Take Roger Gallaway or Albina Guarnieri (aka, G & G), as two cases in point. Gallaway, a chain-smoking, teddy-bear type, introduced a private member's bill on negative billing. He wants to prevent companies from gouging consumers by billing them for services not explicitly ordered. He argues that companies like our cable providers know most customers will passively accept the new billing rates. A genuinely 'liberal' idea, *n'est-ce pas*? Yet the government has employed every tactic to quash Gallaway's effort.

For her part, the endearing and soft-spoken Guarnieri has desperately been trying to pass another private member's bill to require consecutive (as opposed to concurrent) sentences for convicted killers and rapists who commit multiple offences. Yet another traditional Liberal notion. Well, in the week before the Easter recess, it was Guarnieri's bill that got killed, triggering bitter recriminations within the Liberal caucus.

Scores of other Liberal backbenchers are resentful and despair about playing any kind of meaningful role in Parliament. They complain that committee work is pointless since the cabinet overrules any proposals or amendments that challenge the original legislation tabled by the government.

They point to G & G as evidence of the futility of taking on personal initiatives. And, they have abandoned the dream of any backbencher...to make it into Cabinet. For the Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues, this represents a recipe for disaster. Next week, we will look at how Chrétien et al plan to reduce the heat of the stew that's moving from simmer to steam!

G. K. Simcoe is a pseudonym.

Hatzoloh responds to Orthodox medical needs

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL— After more than two years of operation and responding to about 2,000 calls, the Orthodox community's emergency medical service is still unable to obtain official recognition from the Quebec government. The government refuses to explain why.

Zev Neuwirth, director of the Hatzoloh Rescue Squad, believes that if it had the same authority as Urgences Santé, the sole ambulance service in Montreal, it would be able to more efficiently care for the Orthodox community, and perhaps save more lives.

Without this recognition, Hatzoloh, an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, is not allowed to use lights and sirens that can cut the time it takes to get to the scene, often by critical minutes, said Neuwirth.

The government's stamp would also give Hatzoloh the authority to work in greater harmony with Urgences Santé, and be integrated into the emergency care system, he said. At present, Hatzoloh walks a fine line with Urgences Santé, which welcomes its assistance in overcoming cultural barriers, but is concerned people may be putting themselves at risk if they call Hatzoloh first.

Hatzoloh initially presented its case to Health Minister Jean Rochon last year, but received nothing more than an acknowledgment of receipt, he said. "With the new health minister [Pauline Marois], we're back to square one."

As it stands, Hatzoloh has little more status than "a neighbor helping a neighbor," Neuwirth said.

Hatzoloh did have lights and sirens until July 1997, but the permit was not renewed by the Société de l'Assurance Automobile du Quebec. According to Neuwirth, the loss of the permit had a discernible effect on Hatzoloh's response average, raising it from 2.4 minutes to close to three. (Hatzoloh does not transport patients to hospital.)

Neuwirth was told by the local office of the Société de l'Assurance Automobile du Quebec that the original permit had been erroneously issued to Hatzoloh. He was led to believe that the required recommendation from Urgences Santé to authorize an ambulance permit had not been forthcoming.

Neuwirth has tried to impress upon the government that Hatzoloh provides an essential service to the chassidic and observant communities in Outremont, Cote des Neiges and Snowdon.

That's not simply because Chassidim feel more comfortable interacting with those of their own community, he said. Their strict observance of Jewish law can make a life-and-death difference in how cooperative they are with medical assistance.

Official recognition denied

Although Halachah sanctions compromise when life is at stake, such as travelling on Shabbat or ingesting something on a fast day, it may be difficult to convince the observant that the situation is serious enough to warrant it, Neuwirth said.

The technicians all have rabbinical training, some even ordination, and a rabbinical advisory board oversees Hatzoloh. This reassures the community that the technicians have the knowledge to make a halachic judgment.

Hatzoloh is also particularly important for women who avoid contact with strange men, and for Holocaust survivors who often have a reflexive fear of strangers in uniforms, he said. In addition, all the technicians speak Yiddish, the language many are most at home with, and revert to in a crisis.

Hatzoloh (which means lifesaver) was founded in Williamsburg, a chassidic district in Brooklyn, in the1960s, and today is an integral part of New York's emergency care system with over 800 paramedics and 70 ambulances. Hatzoloh also operates in London, Melbourne, Johannesburg and Jerusalem, and has just started in Toronto.

In Montreal, Hatzoloh has about 40 emergency medical technicians (paramedics are not recognized in Quebec), who have an average of 350 hours of training in pre-hospital care and certification by New York state, and seven rotating dispatchers.

The technicians are on call 24-hours-à-day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. There's no charge for the service.

Hatzoloh's medical director (also volunteer) is Dr. Alex Guttman, an emergency room physician at the Jewish General Hospital.

These men respond to all calls, leaving whatever they are doing: be it working, praying in synagogue, sleeping at home, to rush to the scene in their own cars. Their average response time is under three minutes, said Neuwirth, because they live and work in their territory and know well the people they serve. "These are our relatives, friends and neighbors," he said.

Neuwirth considers it a slow day if he gets two or three calls.

Its response is a lot faster than Urgences Santé's claimed average in that area of 9.5 to 10 minutes. Neuwirth claims, moreover, that Hatzoloh's technicians have equivalent medical training to Urgences Santé's and carry similar resuscitative equipment, including oxygen, defibrillators and suctions, as well as basic first aid.

Because paramedics are not recognized, Hatzoloh, like Urgences Santé, cannot, for example, administer drugs, start an IV or intubate a patient.

To date, they've handled everything from heart attacks to car accidents to chokings. They've delivered a baby on the street, intercepted an attempted suicide and, on many occasions, simply provided reassurance when problems turn out not to warrant going to hospital.

Neuwirth, who is in the export business and the father of two, stressed that Hatzoloh does not want to replace Urgences Santé, but rather to complement it. Hatzoloh is not seeking the right to transport patients to hospital.

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Coast to Coast

Canadian Jews, Palestinians buy bus

TORONTO — In a joint project intended to place people above politics, Canadian Jews and Palestinians have combined forces to acquire a much-needed bus for a Palestinian community in the West Bank.

The bus, to be purchased with funds raised by the Canadian Friends of Peace Now and Palestine House, is scheduled to be presented April 15 to the Charitable Society of Sebastieh, located about 40 kilometres from Jerusalem.

The bus will be used to transport children to day care and on educational trips. It will also take the elderly and disabled Palestinians to the local community centre and clinic.

The bus will also be filled with a variety of gifts – everything from Lego sets to prosthetic devices – donated by Toronto Jews and Palestinians.

The Peace Bus project is spearheaded by Robert Eisenberg of Canadian Friends of Peace Now and Rashad Saleh, director of Palestine House in Toronto. Peace Now says that humanitarian initiatives involving the two groups can move forward despite snags in the peace process.

"Peace Now and Palestine House together worked on this project for many months, and demonstrated that co-operation is possible," said Eisenberg. "Often, the Diaspora is more xenophobic than the homeland. But we have tried to promote peace, not fuel hatred."

Said Saleh: "We hope that this project will inspire morally and financially to get involved in other projects."

Saleh and Eisenberg, accompanied by members of Peace Now, were slated to pick up the bus in Ramallah and drive it to Sebastieh for a ceremony Thursday afternoon.

Winnipeg teenager a Bible contest champ

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Alissa Kaplan, a 15-year-old Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate student, is one of four Canadian high school students participating in the International Bible Contest in Jerusalem.

Originally from Moscow, Kaplan and her family came to Winnipeg nine years ago. She consistently wins a place on the honor role at school for her 90-plus academic average. She is an active member of Or Hagolah, the local National Conference of Synagogue Youth chapter here, and she is a member of the Ruach Dancers, the Sarah Sommer Chai Folk Ensemble's junior troupe.

She first entered the Bible contest three years ago. Last year, she did well enough to compete in Ottawa at the Canadian championships.

"I thought that participating in the Bible contest would be a good learning experience," says Kaplan, who hopes to become a doctor one day. "I wanted to learn more Tanach. I also thought that it would be a good way to meet new people."

Kaplan left for Israel on April 4. She was going to visit relatives there before the competition, which began April 11. She expects to be competing against at least 50 other teens. The other Canadians are from Montreal and Toronto.

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Dr. Zion Sasson Staff Cardiologist and Director of the Echo Cardiography Lab, Mount Sinai Hospital; Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Toronto.
Fran Berkoff Ambulatory Care Nutritionist, Mount Sinai Hospital.

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Ottawa shuls join Agunah centres network

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

OTTAWA — Congregation Machzikei Hadas in Ottawa and Beth Shalom West in Nepean are the only Canadian institutions among over a dozen North American synagogues to join a brand-new network of Agunah Help Centres.

The centres were the initiative of New York-based Marilyn Mattie Klein, who also came up with the idea of Agunah Get Days to facilitate the Jewish divorce process for recalcitrant husbands.

Last year Klein formed L'Maan B'nos Yisroel International, an Orthodox organization serving all segments of the Jewish community, to help women trapped in marriage by husbands refusing to give them a get.

"This is something we all have an obligation to do," said Rabbi Reuven Bulka, spiritual leader of Machzikei Hadas.

His congregation was one of the first to rule that membership be denied to anyone not co-operative in the get process.

Similarly, at Beth Shalom West, recalcitrant husbands are denied membership, honors and recognition as part of a minyan, said Rabbi Howard Finkelstein, whose wife Rifka also serves as a resource person for agunot.

Rabbis Bulka and Finkelstein belong to the advisory board of L'Maan B'nos Yisrael, and have worked with Klein in helping agunot here.

She is at a loss to find words that best describe the two colleagues. "Use any superlatives," she instructs in a phone interview.

Nothing tangible has changed at the two synagogues now that they are identified as Agunah Help Centres.

Although Machzikei Hadas and Beth Shalom West are the only two Canadian shuls to bear the new designation, it would be wrong to conclude that other centres are not active or concerned, said Rabbi Bulka.

Rabbi Finkelstein believes the agunah problem is less extensive in Canada than in the United States. "I think the Canadian get law has been helpful," he said, referring to the 1990 amendment to Canada's Divorce Act to ensure that spouses remove barriers to religious remarriage before a civil divorce is granted.

Under Jewish law, a woman cannot remarry without a get. Should she remarry civilly without a get, children of the subsequent marriage are considered mamzerim (illegitimate) and may only marry another mamzer or convert.

"We don't know what future generations of babies are prevented from being born, and we don't know the value of those souls," said Klein.

Of more immediate concern to some agunot are needs like shoes for their children. "I have women who don't have food on their tables," said Klein, herself happily married for 25 years.

Agunot whose material needs are met, may not have a place to go for Shabbat or yom tov, or their children may need a surrogate father, she added.

Other problems include frustration, anger and a sense of helplessness on the part of agunot, said Rabbi Bulka.

Agunah Help Centres are in a position to help agunot meet such needs within their own community, as well as to help facilitate the get process.

The centres came about after the organization received many requests for help from outside the New York area.

"What [the Agunah Help Centres have] done is to identify rabbis, rebbitzens, communities and shuls that are 'agunah friendly,'" Klein said. "It makes women feel less vulnerable. It's making a very powerful statement."

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JCS, JVS co-sponsor mentoring program

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Sandy Benayon, a 20-year-old Jewish Studies major at the University of Toronto, has always been interested in pursuing a career as a teacher. Now, as one of the first students to participate in a new career mentoring program, she's gaining an understanding of what it means to work in a high school classroom.

The program, called Career Connections, is co-sponsored by Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto (JCS) and Jewish Vocational Services (JVS) to connect third and fourth year Jewish students and recent graduates with Jewish professionals.

"I definitely wanted to get to know people in the field," said Benayon, whose mentor is Rabbi Igael Minerbi, Jewish Studies principal at Ulpanat Orot.

Before Rabbi Minerbi agreed to participate – a minimum commitment of one hour a month for six months – he met with Benayon, an alumna of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto. Benayon is applying to the master of education program at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education for next year.

"I saw that she is very serious," Rabbi Minerbi said. "She wants to be an educator, and I think [this type of program] is very important," he said.

When Benayon applied to the mentoring program, she specified that she would like in-classroom experience at the high school level at a Jewish day school. At Ulpana, she spends two mornings a week in the classroom, after which she and Rabbi Minerbi discuss what she has learned.

"I realize I like the high school environment in terms of the quality and sophisticated education you can give," she said. "I'm certain I want to teach in a high school environment."

Connects students, recent grads

She would advise other interested students to be assertive in terms of what they want to get out of the mentoring program.

JVS has fielded almost three dozen inquiries about the program, said career counsellor Barbara Fish.

"We are just at the beginning of putting the matches together," she said.

Areas of interest indicated by students include scientific journalism, environmental studies, politics, international policy development, dietetics, mechanical engineering, computer networking, gerontology and the pharmaceutical industry.

"It's certainly been a worthwhile experience," said Benayon.

UWO's JSU seeking Jewish students

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

LONDON, Ont. — Arye Berk, director of the Jewish Students' Union at the University of Western Ontario, is seeking Canadian Jewish university students wherever they may be.

"We will not pester the students once we have their names," he promised in a recent e-mail. His intention is to pass on student names to the appropriate Hillel or Jewish student organization.

"We will send them a letter asking if they would like to join our groups, if we can help them with any Jewish issues on campus, [or] if they would just like to meet and hang around with other Jewish university students."

Thus far he has passed on at least 70 names, including that of one student in Amsterdam.

"There's no national [campus] structure in Canada to go ahead and do this," said Berk, explaining his reasons for undertaking the project.

Besides, he added, he's a "computer geek" and enjoys spending the time on-line.

To contact Berk, e-mail him at ljfjsu@info.london.on.ca.

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FEDERATION CJA, the central address for Jewish philanthropy and community service in Montreal, is currently undertaking a comprehensive expansion and renovation of its facilities.

The new facility will be animated by a number of original art works in a variety of media that express themes of Judaic heritage, traditions and values, etc.

As such, the Campus '99 Art Committee is pleased to announce a public call to all artists interested in being considered for commissioned works for this important project/cause.

If you would like to be considered for commissioning, please send the following to FEDERATION CJA, 5151 chemin de la Côte Ste-Catherine, Montréal, Québec, H3W 1M6....**ATTENTION**: **Campus '99 Art Committee**, postmarked ***no later*** than **Friday, April 30th, 1999.**

- A maximum of 5 labeled slide reproductions of your works that you feel represent an expression of Judaism and its related themes.
- Your C.V., including exhibition, collection and commissioning experience.
- A brief statement describing how you feel your past experience will translate appropriately for this project.
- Please include all material on 8½ x 11 paper as well as a SASE if you want your materials to be returned.
- We ***will not*** be accepting submissions by phone.

- Artists of all cultural backgrounds are welcome to submit.
- All Media is acceptable including textile, fibre, sculpture, mosaic, metal, photography and mixed media.
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אחרי אלפיים שנה, נבחרה בישראל מלכת יופי ערבייה, נערה שגדלה בעוני בחיפה, שבזמנה הפנוי מתנדבת לעבוד עם ילדים במצוקה. מעניין כמה מלכות יופי יהודיות עבדו אי פעם עם נוער במצוקה. לפני מספר חודשים היא השתתפה במופע דוגמנות בחסות שר הבטחון, והתנאי להשתתפותה היה ששמה והרקע הערבי שלה לא יצוין. היא אומרת שהזילה הרבה דמעות על כך, "אבל מה יכולתי לעשות, אני צריכה את העבודה הזו". כל כך מזכיר את היהודים בגולה. כל כך מיותר וטפשי. היא מאמינה בדו קיום ומדגישה את העובדה שבישראל חיים מאות אלפי ערבים, שלמרות הזדהותם עם אחיהם הפלשתינאים, מעריכים את האפשרויות העצומות שמעניקה להם המדינה המודרנית שבה הם חיים. אני מרגיש נאווה אמיתית שישראל של 1999 יכולה לבחור אזרחית ערבית בגלל כישוריה.

יהודה רוטנר מגיב על "חורף99" :

לפני כחודש כתבתי שהקופה הציבורית בישראל נשדדת על ידי הדתיים. דברי הרגיזו את יהודה רוטנר, והרי תגובתו:

"זה מרגיז. קופה נשדדת ע"י דתיים. זה גם אני. מדוע? לא צריך להכליל ! האם רק דתיים? למה סלקציות??? נידי, אינני מבין? להכפיש קהל? גם אני בוגר צבא ומלחמות (התשה ויוה"כ). גם אני בוגר ישיבה ליטאית. זה חורה, מרגיז אך מדוע לכנות בשמות דתיים. רק הם?! כל היתר צדיקים?! וכאילו רק הם שודדים לאור היום!!! ישראל בשבילנו (כאן בגלות) צריכה להיות צפור הנפש בכל.. שמירה על השם בכל המובנים. זה כואב לראות ולשמוע. אבל כך זה, ואין צורך להביא דיבת הארץ רעה... נידי, אתה בחור אינטליגנטי דיו כדי להביא כתבות יותר אופטימיות..

מאחד שאכפת לו (קורא שרוף של מאמריך) אבל... שישאר בינינו

החזן יהודה רוטנר."

תודה לך, יהודה, על מכתבך. אתה צודק- צריך הייתי לומר "המפלגות הדתיות" ולא להכליל את הדתיים כולם. אינני רוצה להיכנס לעובי הקורה שוב, אבל יש בישראל קונסנזוס רחב שהמפלגות החרדיות, לפני כל הצבעת תקציב, זוכות לתרומות ייחודיות שלא קיימות בשום מדינה דמוקרטית מערבית. זה חורה ומרגיז מאוד את הרוב החילוני, והדעות שהשמעתי כאן מתונות בהרבה ממה שנכתב בעיתונות בארץ.

אני חולק על דעתך לגבי "הוצאת דיבת הארץ". אני כותב טור בעברית לישראלים. הישראלים הם אנשים פתוחים שמעונינים בדיון פתוח על ישראל. אני מתראיין פעמים רבות כל שנה באנגלית על ישראל, וכמובן שֵׁשׁ הדיון שונה ואינו נכנס לעניינים שבמשפחה. לגבי בקשתך לכתבות אופטימיות יותר- הינה לראייה' מתוך שלוש הכתבות, אחת עסקה בספרו הנפלא של עמוס עוז, אחת הגיבה על התקפת הכורדים על ישראל (נושא שאינו שנוי במחלוקת בין ישראלים ויהודים), ורק אחת היתה "פסימית" כדבריך. לעומק העניין: כתבות אופטימיות בצורה לא מציאותית על ישראל (כפי שמופיעות הרבה פעמים בעיתונות היהודית) מיועדות לקהל שונה, שחולם על ישראל בלתי מציאותית. לישראלי שחי בצפון אמריקה (שהוא קהל היעד של הטור שלי) יש ציפיות אחרות. ואכן-רוב הביקורת על "שישאר בינינו" מגיעות מיהודים קנדיים קוראי עברית ש"הזדעזעו" מעניין זה או אחר. שיזדעזעו. סך הכל לא צריך לקרוא בעיתון כל מילה. ואם זה מזעזע, אפשר לקרוא בבוקר ולא לפני השינה. ואם מתעקשים לקרוא לפני השינה - אפשר לקחת חצי ואליום.

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U.S. envoy critical of Israel's Russia policy

By DAVID MAKOVSKY
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — In a meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu here last weekend, Martin Indyk, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs, was highly critical of Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon's new Russian policy.

Indyk indicated that he did not believe Sharon was acting on his own with the new policy.

In his criticism, Indyk quoted from an interview in the *New York Times* in which Sharon said that he was trying to win support from Israeli voters of Russian origin. Indyk also expressed dismay that Sharon has not thrown his weight behind U.S. efforts in Yugoslavia.

But Sharon, in Moscow for meetings with political leaders and interviews with the Russian media, told Channel One in a phone interview this week that he is "in full agreement" with the United States when it comes to Russia.

Stressing that he was not changing Israel's orientation away from the west, he added that Israel needed a "more balanced policy" toward Russia than it has had.

Sharon's aides deny that the foreign minister had planned to send a message to Syrian President Hafez al-Assad, who was due to begin a visit to the Russian capital yesterday. Assad suddenly decided not to go.

There was intense speculation that Sharon wanted to capitalize on being in Moscow at the same time as the Syrian leader, which was coincidental, to ask Assad to lower tensions in south Lebanon, and to tell the Syrian leader – through Russian intermediaries – that after the elections a government headed by Netanyahu would be ready to negotiate in earnest with the Syrians.

Sharon's mission to Russia came up in his meeting last week with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who expressed concern that Sharon had not coordinated his new policies regarding Russia, with the United States.

Those new policies include a "carrot and stick" approach to Moscow in an effort to win Russian cooperation in halting the transfer of technological military know-how to Iran.

Participants in the meeting at the prime minister's office say Indyk was critical of Sharon's lack of unambiguous support for NATO action in Kosovo, including the foreign minister's refusal to explicitly condemn Serbia.

In his interview with Channel One, Sharon refused to back the NATO attack; instead, he called for the United States and NATO "to stop the fighting and bring the parties to the negotiating table."

Participants said Indyk pointed out to Netanyahu that since Russia vehemently opposes U.S action in Yugoslavia, now is not the time for Israel to ally itself closer with Russia.

Moreover, U.S. officials say they are not reassured by reports that Sharon is seeking a deal for commercial satellite launches on Russian rockets, at the very time Israel expects Washington to restrict Russian commercial launches on U.S. rockets.

The United States has so far restricted Russian commercial launches as a way to extract cooperation in stopping the leakage of nuclear and missile technology to Iran.

According to participants, Indyk noted that Netanyahu's statements regarding U.S. action in Serbia were more in tune with Washington's expectations, but Indyk added that it was difficult to believe that Sharon was acting without Netanyahu's support.

Britain convicts war criminal

By DOUGLAS DAVIS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LONDON – British Jewish leaders are hailing the two life sentences given a man convicted of murdering 18 Jews while serving in a Nazi-allied police unit in Belarus during World War II.

After a two-month trial in Britain's first war crimes prosecution, Anthony Sawoniuk, a 78-year-old retired British railroad ticket collector, was convicted last week on two separate charges: murdering two Jewish men and a woman; and shooting 15 women with a sub-machine-gun after ordering them to strip and face an open grave.

Sawoniuk settled into a life of domestic anonymity here in 1946 after fleeing with the retreating German soldiers from his home in the Belarus village of Domachevo. He was also implicated, though not charged, with the murders of several children and an infant, as well as for his role in a 1942 Yom Kippur massacre.

Lord Janner of Braunstone, chairman of the Holocaust Educational Trust, said he was "very glad that this murderer has received a fair trial and that justice was both done and seen to be done.

"The Nazis gave neither trial nor justice to their victims," he said.

"I am sorry that so many other war criminals who sadly found refuge in Britain have so far escaped justice."

But he added: "The trial is a symbolic beacon, relighting memories of the hideous barbarity of the past."

The trial followed extensive investigations by a team of police and historians that was set up after the landmark War Crimes Act was passed in 1991.

The law, which provoked a wave of controversy among senior members of the legal community because it was enacted after the crimes were committed, gave British courts jurisdiction over non-Britons for crimes against non-Britons on non-British soil under Nazi occupation.

The investigation has cost a total of $18 million and although one other case is still under investigation, it is considered highly unlikely that further trials will be held.

Lord Janner, who helped steer the War Crimes Act through Parliament, defended the expense.

"We don't count the cost of murder trials – it is a question of justice," he said.

Thousands of men from eastern and central Europe were allowed to enter Britain virtually unscreened in the immediate aftermath of the war in order to ease a critical labor shortage.

Many, like Sawoniuk, are now believed to have used this opportunity to escape from their hometowns and villages after perpetrating war crimes.

The eight-year investigation of war criminals in Britain has involved 376 suspects. Of those, 117 were dead. And in 257 additional cases, investigations were dropped either because of insufficient evidence or because the suspects were too old and too ill to be questioned and prosecuted.

France considers requesting extradition

By DOV ALFON
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

PARIS — France is considering asking the United States to extradite John Demjanjuk, sources in the French legal world told *Ha'aretz* last week.

Demjanjuk, suspected of being the notorious guard, Ivan the Terrible, at the Treblinka death camp, was tried for war crimes in Israel in 1993 but exonerated due to insufficient evidence.

The day after his release, an action was filed against Demjanjuk in France by French attorney Arno Klarsfeld, who represents an association of children whose parents perished in the Holocaust.

In the action, Klarsfeld, who is the son of Nazi hunter Serge Klarsfeld, charged that Demjanjuk was proven during the Jerusalem trial to have served as a guard at the Sobibor death camp from March 27, 1943, to Sept. 30, 1943. Despite the Jerusalem court's findings, he claimed, Demjanjuk could still be indicted for crimes against humanity.

According to Nazi records, French Jews were packed into four trains and sent from Paris to Sobibor during the time Demjanjuk was a guard there.

Those records offer the basis for a legal claim against the French government and for France's right to request that the United States extradite the former guard, the action stated.

The effort to revive the case against Demjanjuk gained steam after a document that suggests Demjanjuk was connected with Maidanek, another death camp, was unearthed in government archives in Latvia in 1995.

The association then amended its pending action to include the new information.

Meanwhile, the French daily newspaper *Le Monde*, reported that escaped Nazi war criminal Alois Brunner, Adolf Eichmann's deputy, is to be tried in Paris in absentia.

The paper said the trial was the result of French authorities' increasing impatience with Syria's unresponsiveness to extradition requests.

Brunner is considered responsible for planning the extermination of the Jews of Austria, Salonika and Slovakia, and for the systematic persecution of Jews in other countries occupied by the Nazis.

Between June 18, 1943, and the end of April 1944, Brunner is thought to have supervised the transfer of 25,000 Jews from France to Auschwitz.

Israel Election Notebook

May 17

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — One Israel leader, Ehud Barak, said last week that the elections could "be over in one round if Yitzhak Mordechai would acknowledge that he has no chance of making it to the second round." Either way, Barak expressed confidence that he would win.

Speaking to campaign staff, Barak presented a Teleseker poll showing that if Mordechai withdraws from the race before the first round and announces his support for Barak, Barak will get 53 percent of the votes, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu receiving only 39 percent.

If Mordechai does run, he will get 14 percent of the vote, with 35 percent going to Netanyahu and 39 percent to Barak. In a second round, according to the poll, Barak would get 49 percent and Netanyahu 44 percent, with seven percent of the voters still undecided.

• Centre party leader Yitzhak Mordechai and party member Dalia Rabin-Pelossof have decided against kicking off the party's election campaign in Jerusalem with a moment of silence at the grave of late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, ignoring the advice of strategists who believe it would help boost the party's popularity.

Mordechai and Rabin-Pelossof, the late prime minister's daughter, decided to keep the slain leader out of the current election campaign.

The Centre party's campaign in Jerusalem began on Sunday with its main figures – Mordechai, Shahak, MK Dan Meridor and former Tel Aviv major Roni Milo – addressing supporters at the Jerusalem Theatre.

Party strategists decided that the four should campaign together after it emerged that the party was viewed as lacking a clear, united stance on major issues.

• Rabbi Uri Zohar will get a chance to revive his former skills as a comic actor and director by directing election campaign television ads for both Shas and the United Torah Judaism parties.

Zohar, who gave up a successful show business career when he became haredi several decades ago, began producing election propaganda for Shas a month ago and has now taken on work for United Torah Judaism as well.

The former actor is considered to be a follower of the Lithuanian branch of the haredi community. The branch is headed by Rabbi Eliezer Menachem Schach.

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Book denies Holocaust

By RUTH E. GRUBER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

ROME — A scandal has erupted in Poland surrounding a new book whose publication represents what some see as the first serious case of Holocaust-denial in the country.

A popular professor at the University of Opole in southern Poland, Dariusz Ratajczak, was suspended from his teaching post following protests over his book, *Dangerous Topics*, in which he writes sympathetically about published material that denies the Holocaust.

Legislation that came into effect in January makes Holocaust denial punishable in Poland, and the state prosecutor's office has begun an investigation into the case, according to Stanislaw Krajewski, a leader of the Polish Jewish community and the American Jewish Committee's consultant on Poland.

In his book, Ratajczak appears to agree with Holocaust deniers who claim that for technical reasons it was not possible to kill millions of people in the Nazi gas chambers, that Zyklon B gas was used only for disinfecting, that there was no Nazi plan for the systematic murder of Jews and that most Holocaust scholars "are adherents of a religion of the Holocaust."

Krajewski described the book as shocking. "Until recently there was no attempt at Holocaust denial in Poland," he said. "The proximity of that tragedy and the abundance of witnesses suggested it would never occur, even among extreme anti-Semites. But finally the distance in time has produced similar consequences as the distance in space did for Westerners."

Ratajczak's book drew swift and vociferous protests from numerous sources, including Senator Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, an Auschwitz survivor himself.

Tikva born in camp

Continued from page 1

home village. She said she would wait until she was reunited with her husband before deciding on a name for the baby. But the head of the hospital, Dr. Chezi Levy, said that the newborn would be called Tikva (Hope), at least by the medical staff, as a reflection of its joy at the birth.

An hour later, Ramziha Halim, 29, another expectant mother, entered the facility. She gave birth the same evening, also to a girl.

The next day, a Macedonian official showed up at the field hospital and asked to take the two mothers and their newborns to a hospital in Albania, but without the rest of their families living in the refugee camp.

Israeli hospital staff turned down the Macedonian authorities' request because they did not want the women to be separated from their families.

The joy over the births was dampened by the death of a 56-year-old woman from Pristina, Hamida Zanila, who apparently suffered from heart trouble and high blood pressure.

On another evening, the tent ward was occupied by an unconscious elderly man. He showed symptoms of not having drunk or eaten for several days, and was so dehydrated that his life was in danger. The staff hooked him up to an intravenous line and later gave him baby food. His medical chart listed his identity only as "unidentified." When he became conscious yesterday, he said his name was Hamidi Barisha and added that he was "probably more than 75 years old."

Among the Israeli staff are two doctors of Albanian origin – Dr. Matityahu Dina and Dr. Bella Biram – who are also helping the staff communicate with the Albanian patients.

April 5

• Israeli riot police patrolled the streets of Nazareth urging residents to remain indoors. The police clampdown came after at least seven people were injured in clashes between Christian and Muslim Arabs that coincided with the Easter holiday.

(Later in the week, two shops, one owned by a Christian and the other by a Muslim, were firebombed in renewed violence.)

• Two soldiers died at an army base along the Lebanese border in a murder-suicide incident that apparently began as an argument over who had the right of way in a narrow trench during guard duty.

April 6

• Israeli planes carrying humanitarian aid, equipment for a field hospital and medical staff arrived in Macedonia and Albania to provide support for refugees streaming out of Kosovo.

• Avner Shalev, the director of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial called on the world to protest ethnic cleansing by Serbs in Kosovo, but added that comparisons should not be made to the Nazi genocide of Jews.

April 7

• The IDF announced that, for the first time, it will admit women to an officer training course for combat units.

April 8

• One of three Palestinian offices in east Jerusalem ordered closed by the government will be shut down and two others will stay open, under a deal agreed with Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani.

April 9

• Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon sent an emissary to meet with Russian authorities to inquire about the release of the three American servicemen held by Serb forces in Belgrade. Sharon also phoned Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, asking him to use Moscow's influence to obtain the release of the three soldiers.

With files from the JTA

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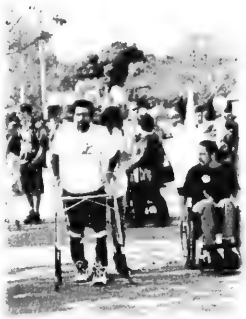
Four thousand people took part in the first Israeli Terry Fox Run on April 9, 19 years and three days after the Canadian teenager began his courageous run across Canada. The seven-kilometre course in Tel Aviv was open to anybody who wished to participate by walking, running jogging or biking. The Israel Cancer Association expected to earn over $40,000 (Cdn) from the event. Lower left, Canadian Ambassador David Berger, behind the Canadian flag, meets with a group of students from Dawson College in Montreal who are in Israel for the year.

[Isranet photos]



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Health

PMS a real medical problem, says doctor

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — Premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMS) is a real problem, but not as common as people think, says the director of the Program in Women's Mental Health, Toronto Hospital.

Over 150 symptoms have been described by women, but to be considered PMS, symptoms must occur during most menstrual cycles, in the first week before menstruation and must get better within a few days, Dr. Gail Robinson said at a recent lecture sponsored by Holy Blossom Temple Sisterhood.

It is important for women to establish that there is a time when they are entirely symptom-free, she said, otherwise the problem may be related to something else.

Severe PMS symptoms, which occur in about two to eight percent of women. Robinson said, can include mood fluctuations, persistent anger, irritability, a decreased interest in usual activities, a change in appetite, or a sense of being overwhelmed or out of control. In essence, "it is a mini-depression that comes quickly at a particular time and goes away."

At least 50 percent of the women who think they have PMS do not, she said, "but if you think you do, it is important to chart your symptoms. Each day, you must mark your mood, and after a few months you will know if you have a typical [PMS] curve."

If women do go to a doctor with the symptoms, Robinson said, that chart must be drawn up. "If the doctor makes a diagnosis on the first visit, then it is an improper diagnosis."

Progestins, vitamin B, and diuretics, which have all been touted to help PMS, she said, do not work. "Drugs that do work are antidepressants. These drugs work naturally, so they take several weeks to work, but they do work well for PMS."

A lot of women, she said, take antidepressants during the second half of their cycle and have seen a marked improvement. "There is hope out there."

After giving birth is another time when women may suffer from psychiatric illness, said Robinson. "This is an incredibly stressful period, when women go through hormonal changes. Maternity blues hit about 50 to 70 percent of women."

About 10 to 15 percent of women, she said, suffer a major depression after giving birth. "It is important for women to be aware there is a huge possibility that they may suffer from depression after having a baby."

Treatment for postpartum depression includes support for the mother, possible hospitalization in a mother/baby unit and antidepressants. "With proper treatment, the majority of mothers recover quickly."

Contrary to what many women believe, said Robinson, menopause is not a time when women are likely to suffer from depression. "Menopause is not what people think. Most women get through it very nicely, and many feel relieved."

The vulnerable women, she said, are those who have had a previous depression or who have suffered from PMS. Many women who think they are depressed, she said, are reacting to the physical changes of menopause. They also may associate menopause with loss, and a fear of not being valuable in the community.

Robinson said that women at any stage of their lives should be encouraged to seek help if they feel depressed. "A depressed person feels hopeless, but depression does go away. It is hard to feel better, but if you stick with [treatment], it does go."

If a woman does seek medical help, and the depression persists, she should ask her doctor about the dosage of her medication, she said. "Some doctors do not prescribe proper dosages. If a woman is not feeling better, something should be done."

Women should also be aware of a doctor who constantly changes dosages. "She never gets a chance to feel better. Make sure the doctor has a good plan and goes about it in an orderly fashion."

It is essential for a doctor to check out other medication a woman may be taking, said Robinson, because depression may be a side affect of some medications.

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EXPERTS GATHER TO EXPLORE HEARING LOSS

Six Israeli, 11 Palestinian and two Canadian experts gathered recently at Al Quds University in eastern Jerusalem for a one-day workshop on the Management and Science of Hearing Loss. The workshop was organized by Al Quds University, the University of Toronto and CISEPO, the Canada International Scientific Exchange Program, which has planned a full array of Canadian and international scientific and medical programs with a view toward bridge-building between Israelis and Palestinians.

JGH gets over $900,000 for two pilot projects

MONTREAL — The Jewish General Hospital (JGH) has received grants totalling over $900,000 from the federal government for two pilot projects deemed to be innovative in the delivery of health care.

One project, which has been granted $456,449, is designed to improve and evaluate discharge planning and followup for elderly patients in the emergency department.

A discharge co-ordinator will be hired to "facilitate and ensure rapid, efficient and safe discharge of patients on the basis of an evaluation of their health, functional status and needs."

The co-ordinator will prepare a care plan and arrange for followup, as required.

"This approach is expected to reduce the number of return visits to the emergency department, [reduce] the rate of hospitalization within two weeks of the visit to emergency, improve patient satisfaction, and ensure more effective monitoring of drug consumption," said emergency physician, Dr. Marc Afilalo.

The second project, funded with $453,676, will develop and evaluate cultural sensitivity in the delivery of mental health care.

The JGH says mental health services are under-utilized by immigrants and aboriginal peoples because of linguistic or cultural barriers.

This project is designed to improve access to these services by this population through the development of specialized consultation.

Consultants and linguistic interpreters will be trained to offer culturally appropriate services.

The grants, announced by Mount Royal MP Sheila Finestone on behalf of Health Minister Allan Rock, were provided by the Health Transition Fund. The projects were recommended by the Quebec health and social services ministry.

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Holocaust movies available on video

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

A number of people have asked me recently to recommend some good Holocaust videos. And with Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom Hashoah) rapidly approaching, I gave this question a great deal of thought and came to the conclusion that there are a large number of such films available.

One of the early Holocaust films was *The Pawnbroker*, a groundbreaking film that dealt with the traumas suffered by a survivor who tried to rebuild his life in the United States. Rod Steiger gives a tremendous performance in a film of classic proportions.

The Shop on Main Street was another early masterpiece that focuses on one woman's life after her country is occupied by the Nazis. This film also gives us some idea of the greatness of Yiddish actress Ida Kaminksi, who plays the lead role in this Czech film.

A film that is frequently forgotten and difficult to find is *Border Street*, a Polish film produced in the late 1940s. It gives one of the earliest and best pictures of life in Poland under the Nazis. Unfortunately, this film has never been distributed in Canada. However, it is available from an American retailer called Facets, which can be reached on the internet at facets.org.

But for films which are better known and more easily accessible, I don't think any recent film has approached the emotional power and impact of *Schindler's List*. This film, which took in over $300 million at the box office world wide, loses none of its power on the small screen.

Another extraordinary film available on video is *Europa, Europa*. This European production was filmed mainly in Germany and tells the true story of a young Jew who is forced to flee his home when war breaks out in Europe. Through an unusual set of circumstances, this boy managed to serve in both the German and Russian Armies. His talent for languages and his ability to adapt, enabled him to survive to tell his incredible story.

Also moving, is the Polish-produced *Korczak*. This film tells the story of Janusz Korczak, the Jewish doctor who ran an orphanage in the Warsaw Ghetto and who went to the gas chambers rather than abandon his children.

An outstanding television film about the Holocaust is *Playing For Time*, the stark and realistic dramatization of the Fania Fenelon story. Fenelon was a musician who was part of the camp orchestra that played as people were led off to the gas chambers in Auschwitz.

The only drawback to *Playing For Time* is Vanessa Redgrave's performance in the lead role. But if you can get past that, the video will leave an indelible mark on your conscience.

Another excellent film is *Triumph of the Spirit*. This is also a true story and is about a young man who before the war was a boxing champion in Greece. The film follows him through his struggle to survive the death camps. Only his boxing skills, which he was forced to use for the amusement of the Nazis, allowed him to survive the War. He later made a new life for himself in Israel.

A strong romantic interest drives the film *War and Love*. This true story opens in Warsaw just before the beginning of the War. A young teenage boy falls in love with a young girl who has just moved into the neighborhood.

The two youngsters are separated by the war but they manage to find each other and their love helps them survive the Warsaw Ghetto and the concentration camps. After the War the young man won't rest until he is reunited with his true love.

Au Revoir Les Enfants tells the story of several Jewish children hidden in a Catholic boarding school in France during the occupation of that country.

The Assisi Underground shows how church officials and the ordinary people of the town of Assisi saved several hundred Jews during the German occupation of Italy.

Also of interest is *The Murderers Among Us*, the personal story of Simon Wiesenthal, who after the war became the well-known Nazi hunter.

The Boat Is Full is a Swiss-made film detailing the inequitable treatment accorded Jewish refugees who managed to escape into Switzerland during the War.

Hannah's War is the story of Israeli poet Hannah Senesh, who parachuted into Nazi-occupied Europe in an attempt to make contact with the Jewish communities there. She was captured, tortured and eventually executed, but she has become a genuine heroine in Israel.

Her poem, *Eli Eli*, was set to music by an Israeli composer after the war and has become almost an anthem of the Holocaust in Jewish communities around the world.

There are also a number of very good documentaries available, including the 9½-hour *Shoah*. Basically, *Shoah* is a series of interviews with survivors, perpetrators and witnesses of the Holocaust. Its simplicity and lack of pretension provides *Shoah* with a power beyond that of most films on this topic.

And we must not forget several television miniseries that first brought wide-scale media attention to the whole topic of the Holocaust.

QB VII tells the story of an American author who writes a best-seller about the Holocaust and accuses a British doctor of being a war criminal. The doctor sues the writer and the court case sheds light on many of the atrocities committed during the Holocaust. Ben Gazzarra and Anthony Hopkins are superb in the lead roles.

Holocaust was of questionable quality, spreading itself very thin in trying to expose the wide breadth of the Holocaust. But it was also the miniseries that brought the Holocaust out of the closet and to the full attention of the western world. It was also the first time many of us witnessed the work of such superior actors as Meryl Streep, James Woods, Tovah Feldshuh, and many others.

And finally we have *War and Remembrance*, a 12-part miniseries that incorporates some of the most harrowing concentration camp scenes ever put on film. The effect is chilling.

These are only some of the Holocaust films presently available on video. But viewing even some of these videos will serve as a useful and educational experience and these videos will also serve to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive for many generations to come.

Mammy! Jolson's back

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — He had to scour New York to find an antique victrola which would play it, but Mike Burstyn finally heard his father sing *Sonny Boy* (Zundele Mein) in Yiddish.

It was recorded in 1927 in the years when Pesach'ke Burstyn, a star of Yiddish theatre, used to follow Al Jolson into the recording studios in New York, using the same orchestras and arrangements, to do Jolson's famous songs in Yiddish.

In Toronto for the opening of *Jolson: The Musical* at the Princess of Wales Theatre (April 20 to May 2), Burstyn recalled for *The CJN* the first time he heard "Jolie" sing on a 10-inch 78 at the age of 10.

"I've been a fan of his ever since," said Burstyn, a superstar in his own right and a part-time resident of Israel, where he won an Israeli "Oscar" for his part in *The Two Kuni Lemils*, a film in which, incidentally, he got a small part for his father, who died in 1986.

His mother, the former Lilian Lux, also a star of Yiddish theatre, still lives in New York's east side, where Burstyn grew up on Second Avenue.

Burstyn said he spends as much time as he can in Israel, where his son lives. He hosted and performed with Danny Kaye on a month-long

Continued on page 36

Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

JEWISH VILNA LOVINGLY REMEMBERED

Friends of Yiddish presents a color slide presentation by **Vivian Felsen**, a visual artist who recently participated in an international Vilna program of Yiddish language and literature.

In a talk, predominantly in English, entitled Vilna, Yesterday and Today, Felsen describes the city that was known throughout the Jewish world as Yerushalayim D'Lita, the Jerusalem of Lithuania. Vilna was home of the Vilna Gaon, birthplace of the Bund, cradle of the Jewish Enlightenment, and site of a tragedy during the Holocaust years.

Members free, guests $5. Sun. April 25, 7 p.m. Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. RSVP by April 21 to Sandy, 736-8073.

* * *

Literary Event: Medina Theatre Ensemble presents Author, Author, an evening of three literary readings featuring **Howard Engel**, **Jack Kuper** and **Judith Thompson**. Members $4, non-members $6. April 26, 7:30 p.m. B'nai Brith Building, 15 Hove St. 785-1074.

* * *

Ashkenaz Presents Joel Grey: Famed star of Cabaret and Chicago, master showman **Joel Grey** is the centerpoint of Kensington Cabaret, a black-tie fund-raising gala in support of the Ashkenaz festival of new Yiddish culture. Theme of the gala is the Kensington Market and Spadina neighborhood of the 1930s and 1940s.

The son of a Yiddish comedian from the vaudeville stage, Grey is set to present an energetic concert in both English and Yiddish, backed by a 17-piece orchestra. Knowledge of Yiddish is not essential. A gourmet kosher meal will be served.

Tickets begin at $200 per person, sponsorships from $1,000. June 17, Sheraton Centre Grand Ballroom. 703-6892.

* * *

Song of Songs Celebration: A program of art, music, drama and dance inspired by the ancient text of *The Song of Songs* is the focus of an upcoming event sponsored jointly by the Bloor JCC, Trinity-St. Paul's United Church and the Bathurst Jewish Centre.

The event includes a cantata by **Milton Barnes** performed by the **Chamberworks Players**, with **Benjamin Maissner** and **Renee Bouthot**, along with a performance of the **Me'irim Dance Company**, with **Shula Saltzman**, choreographer.

Other performers include **George Sawa** and the **Traditional Arabic Music Ensemble**, three choral groups presenting visions of *The Song of Songs*, the **Children's Israeli Dance Ensemble**, and a new choral work by a young, as-yet-unnamed Canadian composer.

The opening night gala, sponsored by the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, is May 26, 8 p.m. at Trinity-St.Pauls's Church, 427 Bloor St. W. $75 gala patron; $20 general admission.

Tickets for a second performance at Trinity-St. Paul's on May 30, 3:30 p.m. costs $12 & $10. A third performance occurs June 2, 8 p.m., Leah Posluns Theatre. $20 general admission.

For ticket information, please call BJC, 636-1880, ext. 0. Or Bloor JCC, 924-6211.

* * *

Arts Briefs

•**The Willowdale Group of Artists** presents its 52nd annual juried Spring Show, April 25 to May 9. North York YMCA, 567 Sheppard Ave. E. at Bayview. Free admission. 225-7773.

• *Defending the Caveman*, an affectionate comedy about men and women, written and performed by **Rob Becker**, plays at the Elgin Theatre, April 27 to May 9. Becker's witty examination of the misunderstandings between the sexes has won accolades from San Francisco to Broadway, where it became the longest-running solo play in history. $45-$65. 872-5555.

• Play "Scrabble with the Stars" and raise money to promote literacy. Celebrities include **Sonja Smits**, **R.H. Thomson**, **Jonathan Torrens**, **Suhana Marchand**, **Erika Ritter**, **Ernie Coombs** and **Luba Goy**. Many prizes. Joe 'Badali's Restaurant, 156 Front St. W. April 19, 6:30 to 10 p.m. 410-4193.

• **Mandy Patinkin** performs Yiddish songs in his acclaimed Mamaloshen concert. Hummingbird Centre, May 17. 872-2262.

• **North York Symphony**, with **Kerry Stratton** conducting, plays a Bohemian rhapsody, featuring music by **Benda, Stamitz, Dvorak** and **Vorisek**, and soloists **Barbara Collier**, soprano, and **Kelvin Enns**, viola. $28-$20. April 22, 8 p.m. Ford Centre, George Weston Recital Hall. 870-8000.

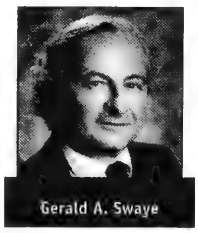
Joel Grey is the centrepoint of Kensington Cabaret.

The Hamilton Law Association has endorsed two of its members for re-election to the position of Bencher.

Please give our profession the leadership it deserves by supporting these two candidates of outstanding character and reputation.

Kim A. Carpenter-Gunn

Kim A. Carpenter-Gunn was called to the Ontario Bar in 1983. She was first elected a Bencher in 1995. During her tenure as Bencher, she has been a Director of L.P.I.C.; has been a member of the Litigation Committee, and a Member of the Professional Development & Competency Committee. Kim is a Partner in Waxman, Carpenter-Gunn, a two-woman firm, specializing in all aspects of Civil Litigation. She is a Member of the Women's Law Association of Ontario, the Advocates' Society, a Founding Director of the Ontario Trial Lawyers' Association, a C.B.A.O. Member and a Member of B'nai Brith Canada.



Gerald A. Swaye

Gerald A. Swaye was called to the Ontario Bar in 1964. He was first elected a Bencher in 1995. He is a sole practitioner, employing three Associates, and practices all aspects of Civil Litigation with special expertise in Insurance Law. Gerald is Past Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, Ontario Region, and a member of the Advocates' Society, CBA and B'nai Brith Canada.

Your support and election of these candidates will ensure their ability to enhance the public perception of the profession and to:

- **solve the Paralegal crisis**
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- **work to further reduce L.P.I.C. and L.S.U.C. premiums**
- **work towards merger if supported by the profession**

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Designer inspired by Lloyd Wright and Art Deco

By MIRIAM CHINSKY
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Bonita Silver fell under the spell of architect Frank Lloyd Wright and his Art Deco influence in her teens, when her Kitchener school art class visited a home in Upstate New York designed by the late 20th century icon. That was 25 years ago.

Later, when choosing a career, Silver looked first to practicality, and earned a degree in secretarial administration at Ryerson. But she never forgot her mentor and the elegant, yet clean lines of Art Deco. She created and produced her own works emanating from his style.

Now, Silver has taken the plunge and opened Bonita's Dimensions Inc., a design centre featuring her original concepts in the Art Deco mode. "With a pocket full of dreams," she notes, "I ventured out in search of the missing link" – the tie between personal joy in fashioning alluring design, and an appreciative public.

What she has achieved, is a series of fine, yet functional interior design applications for commercial and residential use, as well as giftware, advertising and logos appealing to the discriminating consumer.

A handsomely illustrated catalogue details the products – carpets, wallpaper, glassware, porcelain and stone tiles, office accessories and patterns on wood.

The designs are all-Canadian, all Silver. Carpets are manufactured in Ontario, glass and tile are superior quality from European markets.

All of the work is customized and an accomplished carver will translate certain concepts into stone, if desired.

Paris-based Roche Bobois franchises are displaying Silver's glassware in their Montreal, Miami, Houston, Washington and Mexican locations. She also expects to place her distinctive pieces in the Toronto area. You can view her work at www.bonitasdimensioninc.com.

Art Deco glass design, sandblasted. Bonita Silver [inset].

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Burstyn brings Jolson to life

Continued from page 34

tour of army bases and hospitals following the Six Day War.

"I don't do an imitation of Jolson; I bring him back to life as he was," said Burstyn, who sings 18 of Al Jolson's songs in this new production of the musical, including *Sonny Boy*, *California Here I Come*, *Toot Tootsie Goodbye*, *April Showers*, *My Mammy*, *Swanee*, *Baby Face*, and *Give My Regards to Brodway*.

Burstyn has appeared in Toronto many times for fundraising events but particularly remembers his leading role in *The Megillah* at Ontario Place in 1969.

One of the reasons he looks up to Jolson, he said, is that the singer "was the first superstar to appear on Broadway and proudly say he was Jewish."

On the road with *Jolson: The Musical* since last October, Burstyn said he is glad that whole families enjoy the show, even though the children have never heard of the entertainer and don't know his songs.

He is also conscious of the magic charm that Jolson's songs have for adults who identify with the music, which has more meaning for them than musicals like *Rent* and *Stomp*.

Mike Burstyn and co. resurrect Al Jolson.

He is pleased that his mother has finally arranged an English language edition, through Syracuse University, of his father's autobiography originally published in Yiddish in Israel.

Built along the same compact lines as the singer, and the same height (5 foot 7), Burstyn enters into Jolson's role with gusto. And wouldn't you know it? His favorite song in the show is *Sonny Boy*.

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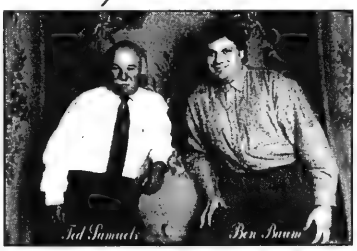

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TRAVEL TALK

BY BILL GLADSTONE

FOOD FIT FOR A KING

When the Egyptian-Jewish Mosseri family opened the King David Hotel in Jerusalem in 1931, the supreme holy city was a provincial backwater lacking even a single fine restaurant worth its salt. Spiritual capital of three great faiths, Jerusalem offered tremendous succor for the soul but only paltry nourishment for the stomach.

The Mosseris paid $150,000 to the Greek Orthodox Church for the 4½-acre site upon which they built the King David. It was designed as a first-class hotel from the start. The lobbies and public rooms were conceived in a grand neo-Egyptian style, with Assyrian, Hittite, Phoenician and Greek-Syrian motifs subtly gracing the pillars and moldings. A few art deco flourishes were superbly integrated into the whole, a tasteful nod to the contemporary.

The hotel's service was as regal as its decor. The bellboys and pages wore olive-green jackets and gold-braided vests over white shirts and baggy Turkish pants. The waiters, tall black Berbers from north Africa, wore white robes and gloves, red fezzes, and broad red sashes from shoulder to waist.

And the food? No suitable chef could be enticed to make aliyah to Jerusalem, so the King David's meals were shipped by train from Cairo each night, arriving fresh at the train station the following morning. Probably only a few guests ever realized the extraordinary lengths to which the hotel routinely extended itself to insure their perfect room service orders.

Rebuilt in all its former grandeur after the 1946 bombing, today's King David still goes to considerable lengths to provide top-quality gourmet cuisine to its guests. As witness La Regence, the smallish, intimate, European-style restaurant that is just downstairs from the main lobby.

Tuxedoed waiters escort guests to their tables, each table adorned with a tiny corsage of red roses. The room is decked out regally in dark panelled wood and rich red brocades. From a dark corner by the kitchen, sophisticated piano music softly emanates. The lighting is also soft.

It's motza'ei Shabbat, and La Regence has opened up for the Saturday evening traffic, not nearly as heavy here as in Tel Aviv. Still, several tables are filled – as is the air – with lively conversation in several languages: Hebrew, English, French, Russian. Except for the Hebrew, we might be dining in any one of a handful of European capitals.

But something else distinguishes La Regence from comparable establishments in Europe or North America: everything on the menu is kosher and non-dairy — including the the Goose Liver Pate, the Oxtail Consomme, the Chicken Barbanconne, the Gnocchi au Pistou and the Mallard Duck in Mango Sauce. If you're yearning a cheese omelette or pasta alfredo, head for the strictly dairy (and considerably less expensive) King David Garden Restaurant upstairs.

Though the menu boasts "continental" (read "European") as opposed to regional fare, the La Regence wine list, not surprisingly, heavily favors Israeli labels, with Carmel and Golan being the best represented.

I start with La Regence Salad, an artfully designed plate of greens in a vinaigrette sauce. The Clear Fish Soup arrives in stages: first the bowl, then the soup, which the waiter ladles from an imperial silver chalice. It's not as clear as advertised, and looks remarkably like my mother's homemade chicken soup, with a few carrots and fish tidbits resembling pieces of knaidlach (matzah balls). It's nice and light, delicately seasoned, and not too fishy.

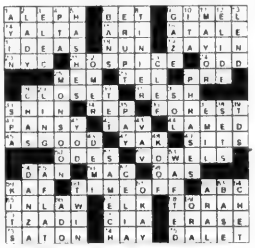
Regal food at regal prices

After the soup is cleared away, the waiter places a silver helmeted dish before me and raises the lid dramatically. Revealed is a juicy veal cutlet on the bone, sitting on a toasted crust and surrounded by an elegant clockface of grilled vegetables. The veal is tender, delectable and hot, although not plentiful: eight ounces, no more. The plate bears the initials KD under a crown, reinforcing the perception that this is a dish worthy of a king.

At the appropriate moment the waiter wheels over a dessert tray laden with chocolate mousse, blueberry fruit tarts, lemon pies, a fruit salad and other temptations. Next comes coffee and tea, and finally the bill. For meals and wine for two people, expect to pay about 300 to 400 NIS ($75 to $100 US) and more. Who said dining like royalty would be cheap?

La Regence, in the King David Hotel. Supervised by the Rabbinic Authority of Israel. 23 King David Street, Jerusalem 94101. Tel: (972) 2 620-8888.

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



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The Orpheus Choir of Toronto
presents a special concert with the Temple Emanu-El Choir
Two lush musical works written in two religious traditions:
Ernest Bloch's Sacred Service
with the Temple Emanu-El Choir
Franz Joseph Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass
8:00pm Saturday, April 17, 1999
St. James' Cathedral (King & Church Streets)
Tickets are $18
$15 for seniors/students
For tickets call
530-4428
Orpheus Choir of Toronto TRAVEL

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Exhibition and Sale of recent paintings
in
Acrylic and Mixed Media
by
LILLI KIRSH
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Show continues until May 12th
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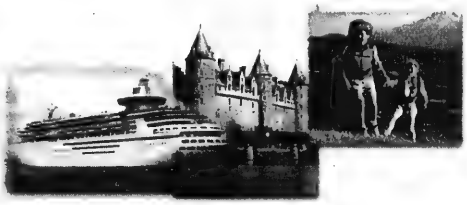
A WORLD OF TRAVEL IDEAS AT
the 13th annual
TRAVEL & LEISURE SHOW
and the Adventure Travel & Ecotourism Pavilion



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April 23, 24, 25, 1999
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CENTRAL PROPERTIES

LOWER FOREST HILL BEING BUILT
Fabulous luxury custom home, 4 bdrms., 5 baths, Richard Wengle design, vaulted fam. rm. Gary Mitchell** 488-2875

LOWER VILLAGE TOWNHOMES NEAR COMPLETION
Fabulous Georgian freeholds, 3,100 luxury sq. ft., elevator, 2 car garage. Gary Mitchell** 488-2875

UPPER VILLAGE - BRIAR HILL AVE!
$629,000. Detached 2 storey, large 5 bdrms., 4 baths, main floor family room, pwdr., 2 large rec. rms. Jay Bleiweis* 226-1987

TOTALLY RENOVATED IN ALLENBY!
$549,000. Detached 2-storey 3+1 bdrms., 3 baths, exquisite mstr. ens., stunning kit. lower level. Jay Bleiweis* 226-1987 SOLD

JUST LISTED! ALLENBY - JUST $249,000
Charming bungalow, 2 bedrooms + sun room, finished basement, 4 baths, fireplace, hardwood floors. Faithe Sversky** 488-2875

BAYVIEW PROPERTIES

GEORGIAN MANSION ON WILKET ROAD!
A stunning residence on secluded ravine grounds, approx. 1 acre, stone terrace o/looks pool/tennis. Sharon Bobkin* 226-1987

BAYVIEW/YORK MILLS - MEAD COURT!
An architectural delight, custom built by present owner, superior finishings, walk-out lower to pool! Sharon Bobkin* 226-1987

MANOR HOME ON QUIET CUL DE SAC
Brand new! 100 ft. frontage! Finest finishes throughout this 4 bdrm. stunner. Don't miss this opp. Linda Reitapple* 488-2875

BAYVIEW/YORK MILLS - MISTY CRESCENT!
Architectural masterpiece on sought after cres., 5 bdrms., 7 baths, indoor heated pool, a rare find. Sharon Bobkin* 226-1987

FABULOUS VALUE IN YONGE/YORK MILLS
Wonderful 5 bedroom executive home. J. Rosenblatt* 488-2875

BAYVIEW & YORK MILLS - EXECUTIVE TOWNHOUSE
Renovated 3 bedrooms, 4 baths, child safe street, steps to best schools, exclusive. Olga Guvenal* 226-1987

NORTH PROPERTIES

RENAISSANCE COURT - $1,295,000
Grand 5 bedrooms, 7 baths, 6,000 sq. ft. & finished basement, 3 car garage & large treed lot. Gary Mitchell** 488-2875

4 BEDROOM DREAM HOUSE
Designer dec. modern white kitchen, loaded, California shutters, cac, cvac, quiet crescent. S. Gruenstein*/ J. Uslaner* 226-1987

CONDOMINIUMS

BATHURST/STEELES - TRIDEL $224,900
2 bdrms.+solarium+balcony, 2 baths, S./E. B. Jacobs* 488-2875

BATHURST/LAWRENCE - SINGLE OR COUPLE
2 bdrms, 2 baths, eat-in kitchen. Call Lil Cooper* 488-2875

** Associate Broker * Sales Representative

HK HARVEY KALLES
REAL ESTATE LIMITED REALTOR

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YONGE/SHEPPARD LUXURY CONDO SOLD
$229,000. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, ensuite laundry, 5 appliances, hardwood floors. Gert Kerbel*

JUST LISTED – 306 WYCHWOOD AVE.
Charming updated 3+1 bdrms., 3 baths, pri. drive & gar. Fin. Bsmnt., heated studio. Beautifully landscaped* Elise Stern*

LAWRENCE/BATHURST – 2 STOREY
$379,000 – Fabulous 3,000 sq. ft., w/out lower level. Perfect for Doctors office etc...4 bdrms., 4 baths, garage. J. Horvath*

BATHURST/CENTRE – FABULOUS 4 BEDROOMS!
Family room & den. Finished basement, spacious rooms. Close to public & private schools. Call Ellie Parker*

ROSEDALE NORTH $449,900
1* Ad. Quiet crescent, 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, main floor library, granite floor, prof. fin. basement +++ Maxine Povering**

WESTMOUNT/WILSHIRE $515,000
"A Knockout" Your own Spa (6 person Jacuzzi), sauna, pool size lot. 3,400 sq. ft. Hardwood floors. $$$ Maxine Povering**

WESTMOUNT/WILSHIRE $529,000
1* Ad! Fabulous designer decor, 5 baths, pool size lot, $100K + in upgrades. Call Maxine Povering**

JUST LISTED – 69 BLUE FOREST DRIVE
$629,000. Over 6,500 sq. ft. of living space, 5 bdrms., 5 baths. Over $120K in renovations in '98. Call Chaim Talpalar*

BAYVIEW/FINCH $649,000
Executive 2 storey, 3,000 sq. ft. of luxury. Shows to perfection! All the bells & whistles. Gert Kerbel* SOLD

* Sales Representative ** Associate Broker

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Spacious 2 storey 4 bdrm. family home on generous lot, move-in condition, self-contained bsmt. apt. w/ private entrance. Serious vendor, asking $469,900.

BATHURST / STEELES
Newly built, 3,850 sq. ft. 4 bdrm. family home on 63 x 298 ft. lot, triple garage, bsmt. apt. Unsurpassed quality and workmanship!

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10 HOUSES FOR SALE PRIVATE

Bath./Centre - 3 bdrm. T.H., 3 bth., CAC/CVAC, 3 yrs. new. Private. $219K. 905-886-5430.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

3000 Bathurst - 2 bdrm., 2 bth., excellent condition, 2 appl., Asking $219,500. Call 364-1063

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Build your dream home or renovate the existing home. Don't Miss!

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CLANTON PARK AREA
4 bdrms., 2 storey, living & dining combo, oak kitchen, finished basement, steps to all. SOLD

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BATHURST SHEPPARD
Split level, 3 bdrms., 4 baths, mod. kitchen, appls., fam. rm., w/out, fin. bsmnt., dble. gar.

• • •

BATHURST CONDO
3 bdrms., 2 baths, mod. kit., appls., 2 balconies, A-1 buy! SOLD

• • •

FINCH WILMINGTON
3 bdrms., 3 baths, liv. & din. comb., large kit., family room, fin. basement, double garage.

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JUST LISTED

Armour Heights - $575,000. 4 bedrooms, 3 bath. SOLD

Bathurst/Glencairn - $569,000. 5 bedrooms + family room, den, finished basement, double garage.

Bathurst/Glencairn - $209,900. 2 bdrms.+den, 2 full baths, 2 park. spaces, Shabat elevator, security.

Glencairn W./Subway- $164,000. 3 bedrooms, parking, balcony, security, pool, sauna.

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30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION

1 bdrm in newly reno'd bsmnt. by Wilson subway. Pref. Non-smkr., single, lau., cable, pkg., $450/mo. 416-314-1745.

Bath/Steeles, 2 bdr furn apt. to share,n/smkr,$420/m. 665-9967

75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

90 Shelborne, (Bathurst & Lawrence) bsmt. apt., brand new, pkg., $700/mo. 416-789-0691.

BATHURST-SHEPPARD
Very lg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms., ample closets, some 1½ baths & 2 balc., roof, laundry, ravine setting, pool, ind. pkg., 6 apts. per flr. From $900.
960-3238 - Bus.
631-9377 or 631-0388 - Super

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

80 ANTIBES DRIVE 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, all appliances, high floor, $185,000, immediately! Call **Sol Goldkind,** Sutton Group Admiral Realty. **416-739-7200**

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$229,000. Gorgeous 2 bedroom condo, huge solarium, 1,500 sq. ft., 2 baths. Quiet secure building, close to all amenities.
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Elegant layout, oversized designer finished rooms, large eat-in windowed kitchen, custom cabinets, granite, ceramics, top appliances, walk to synagogue. Gorgeous. Exclusive, high demand building.
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ENCLAVE OF 10 MAGNIFICENT CUSTOM HOMES! 4 + 1 bedrooms, main floor family room, fireplace, maple kitchen, separate entry to in-law suite, only $499,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

AVENUE ROAD / LAWRENCE – CHARMING 3+1 BEDROOM

2 storey brick home on 42 x 110 ft. lot, new porch, gorgeous deck and garden, finished basement, fabulous location, only $319,000. **ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — REDUCED $20,000 TO SELL NOW!
Spacious ranch bungalow! California-style, 2,700 sq. ft. (approx.), 4 bedrooms, oversize family room, 69 x 120 ft. lot, eat-in kitchen, only $329,000. **ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE / WILSON
Custom-built modern design, open concept, quality craftsmanship, 4 + 2 bdrms., large principal rooms, ideal for entertaining, cathedral ceilings. Call for details. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

UPPER FOREST HILL

Spacious 4 bdrm., huge family room addition, gleaming hardwood floors. Breakfast room overlooks gorgeous garden, 50 x 125 ft. lot, fabulous location! Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / GLENGROVE
Reduced to sell now! Spacious ranch bungalow on 54 x 138 ft. lot, fabulous location near Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, only $459,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

• • •

BATHURST / STEELES – 3 BDRM. EXECUTIVE TOWNHOME
Shows very well, finished basement, w/o to gorgeous rear deck, 2 parking spaces, only $229,900. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

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AVENUE ROAD / WILSON / 401 CONDO — MAKE AN OFFER!
2 bedrooms + solarium, 2 parking spaces, ensuite laundry, priced for immediate sale at $209,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

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75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

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NEWLY DECORATED SPACIOUS 1, 2 & 3 BDRMS.

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Luxury, spacious suites, magnificent view, bachelor, 1,2 and 3 bedrooms (some of the 3 bedrooms are 2-storey), valet parking.

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1,050 sq. ft., 3 bdrms., year round cottage, gas fireplace, open concept, large deck overlooking 83 ft. waterfront and boathouse, large pine trees, beautiful view. **$209,720.36**

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Belle Ewart - Lakefront, shared lot, 3 bdrm., equipped, no agents. 905-881-3317.

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Lake Simcoe, lakefront estate, Beaverton area,lux. 4 bed. Sandy beach. Sunsets. Tennis. Seas/mo. 226-0009, 749-6600.

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

Aventura Bch. Resort, 1 bdrm. studio w/kit., ocean front, sec. & fac., high flr. Wkly & mo. avail. 305-262-3955 or 305-975-7442

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135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT

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Warm, loving, ECE teachers for Sept. '99. P/T. Call Goldie at 905-886-0420 or fax resume to 905-886-0421.

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Frustrated by trying to find a suitable nanny? Let us help you. We have dependable, caring nannies who are thoroughly qualified, personally interviewed & pre-screened. All refs. are checked. Some are CPR trained. Low finders fee.
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HCA to care for elderly, eves & some days. Refs. 905-731-3327

HCA w/lots of TLC seeks live-out weekend position. 516-9651

258 HEALTHCARE WANTED

Live/in caregiver req'd for female bedridden senior. $1200/mo. Refs req'd.593-0545 ext 25

260 BUSINESS PERSONALS

Eliminate blind date disasters in a safe & secure environment. **INTERNET DATING SITE.** Free registration, 416-545-3283. **jewish.qualitysoulmates.com**

Jewish Singles Registry. Over 1730 registered. **416-483-4151.**

270 PERSONALS

Single Jewish Mother of toddler looking for same for shared weekend activities. Call Lisa, 905-738-8733 or 905-738-1232

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Looking for good company with long-term possibilities? Me too! Unpretentious, soft spoken, unatt. male, 55, with integrity, good sense of humour, introspective, good listener, seeks to balance life with spirited, perceptive, petite, very slim, unatt. female, 47-54, who is communicative, good humoured, & with no dependents. I enjoy Jay Leno's monologue, intelligent movies, light jazz & pop music of the 50's, 60's & 70's. Reply to CJN Box # 7172..

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

SJM 32 wishes to meet SJF 25-35 for casual dating and lots of fun. Please respond to CJN Box #7167. All replies will be answered

THIS IS NOT an ad to meet a new wife - my wife IS the perfect woman for me. I hope I'm not too late to say I'm sorry, I now understand & I won't make the same mistakes again.
I.O.U.....
the sunshine in the morning...

Mid - 50's retired Jewish gentleman, Israeli/Romanian background, fun living, 5'7", seeks attractive female companion, non-smkr. Send photo & phone number to Box 529, 250 Eglinton Ave. E, Toronto, M4P 1K0.

Replying to a Companion ad with a CJN Box Number?

Address your mail to:

The Canadian Jewish News
1500 Don Mills Rd.
Suite 205
North York, Ontario
M3B 3K4
Box # _____

*** CJN Boxes for Personal Companions Wanted ads are valid for 30 (thirty) days only (from 1st publication date). Replies must be received within this time frame in order to be forwarded to the correct CJN Box #.**

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Cash for jewellery, diamonds, coins & stamps. **416-605-1640.**

330 OBITUARIES

BIELAWSKY, Paula - Passed away April 4, 1999. Wonderful mother to Rene Cohen & Eddie Bielawsky. Devoted grandmother and great grandmother. She will be missed dearly. Donations will be appreciated by the Leukemia Research Fund of Canada at 416-661-2873. Visitors are welcome on Sunday, April 18 from 2-4p.m. at 371 Church St. S., Richmond Hill.

MERRICK, Marvin - on March 21, 1999, late of 131 Beecroft Rd.
SWAN, Jack - on March 21, 1999, late of 209 Cocksfield Ave.
FURMAN, Eli - on March 22, 1999.
HELLER, Nancy - on March 22, 1999, late of 1131 Steeles Ave. W.
GLADSHTEYN, Polya - on March 23, 1999, late of 16 Elgin St.
GREENBLATT, Sylvia - on March 23, 1999, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
PELSMAKHER, Emil - on March 23, 1999, late of 14 Whalen Crt.
PONTOS, Joseph - on March 24, 1999, late of 306 Finch Ave. E.
WISEBROD, Faye - on March 24, 1999, late of 333 Clark Ave. W.
BROWN, Shirley - on March 25, 1999, late of 205 Cummer Ave

Steeles Memorial Chapel

330 OBITUARIES

PASSOVER GREETINGS from IZENBERG GOLDBERG Monuments

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FAGIN, Shirley - on March 25, 1999, late of 625 Roselawn Ave.
KHAZAK, Michael - on March 26, 1999, late of 601 Clark Ave. W.
ELSHTEYN, Mikhail - on March 27, 1999, late of 1 Canyon Ave.
FUTERMAN, Mollie - on March 27, 1999, late of 550 Cummer Ave.
RADOMSKI, Rachel - on March 27, 1999.
RICH, David - on March 27, 1999, late of 3636 Bathurst St.
COHEN, Harry - on March 28, 1999.
PROPAS, Max - on March 28, 1999, late of 85 Skymark Dr.
GOLDBERG, Rachel (Ray) - on March 29, 1999, late of 4141 Bathurst St.
ROSE, Sylvia - on March 29, 1999, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
HAZAN, David - on March 30, 1999, late of 333 Clark Ave. W.
MILLER, Morris Harold - on March 30, 1999, late of 630 Roselawn Ave.
SULTAN, Rahamim - on March 30, 1999
GAUM, Margaret - on March 31, 1999, late of 111 Ridelle Ave.
GOLDSTEIN, Sidonie - on March 31, 1999, late of 120 Shelborne Ave.
ITZKOVITCH, Morris - on March 31, 1999, late of 10 Tangreen Crt
ROSENBERG, Haim - on March 31, 1999, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
JACOBS, Doris - on Apr. 1, 1999, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
KORMAN, Tamara - on Apr. 1, 1999, late of 46 Sunnycrest Rd.
BADER, Sarah - on Apr. 2, 1999.
OERBACH, Harry - on Apr. 2, 1999.
HISCOTT, Ralph - on Apr. 3, 1999.
MALET, Harvey - on Apr. 3, 1999, late of 8501 Bayview Ave.
SCHWARTZ, Delu - on Apr. 3, 1999, late of 95 Greenbush Dr.
STEINBERG, Ethel - on Apr. 3, 1999.
TAMIR, Haim - on Apr. 3, 1999.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

ZAVILON, David - on March 17, 1999, late of 35 Cedarcroft Blvd., #714.
BENSKY, Annie - on March 18, 1999, late of 1035 Eglinton Ave. W.
WISENBERG, Gus - on March 19, 1999, late of 70 Rosehill Ave., #706.
GOLDFINGER, Max - on March 20, 1999, late of 80 Antibes Dr., #2202.
LEDERMAN, Marlene - on March 20, 1999, late of 301 Conley St.
PERSOFSKY, Irving - on March 20, 1999, late of 253 Maxwell St.
SIMPSON, Yale - on March 20, 1999, late of 175 Cumberland St., #1506.
FISHMAN, Rose - on March 21, 1999, late of 35 Canyon Ave., #1608.
KAY, Helen - on March 21, 1999, late of 3303 Don Mills Rd., #401.
ORDON, Mollie - on March 21, 1999, late of 3303 Don Mills Rd., #701.
KLEINBERG, Jack - on March 22, 1999, late of 138 Burbank Dr.
ROSEN, Moe - on March 22, 1999, late of 258 Searle Ave.
CAPLER, Rose - on March 23, 1999, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
SIMON, Irving - on March 23, 1999, late of 1014 Glencairn Ave.
ROSENBLUTH, Samuel - on March 23, 1999, late of 131 Torresdale Ave., #1906.
BLUMENSCHEIN, Elizabeth - on March 25, 1999, late of 27 Four Oaks Gate
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Greater Toronto Area

Families, friends remembered at AIDS seder

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — Gilda, Lisa and Philip Berger attend the third seder, a Passover celebration for those affected by HIV and AIDS every year.

The three siblings used to go to this seder, which is sponsored by Holy Blossom Temple AIDS committee, with their late cousin, David Steinberg. "He was very ill. We came with pillows so he could rest his head," Gilda and Lisa recalled.

"When people saw how ill David was, they gave him a special reading. He wept his way through. He wept through *Bashanah Haba'ah*. He was so uplifted."

Now the Bergers come back to the seder to remember their cousin, they said. "We find ourselves being drawn here," Gilda said. "People said to us, 'Please don't stop coming because David has died. Please support the living.'"

Like the Bergers, many participants at the seder attend year after to year to memorialize family and friends who have died of AIDS, Jennifer Baldachin, chair of the third seder told *The CJN*. She said, the families and friends say: "Passover isn't complete without coming here."

The annual seder, held at Holy Blossom, draws some 300 people a year, Baldachin said. She noted that a special Haggadah, adapted for people affected or infected by HIV and AIDS, was revised this year. The ceremony also included live music with Baldachin on the flute, Alan Gotlib on guitar, and vocalist Honey Novick.

The seder was led by AIDS activists Louise Binder, chair emeritus of Voices of Positive Women and co-chair of the Canadian Treatment and Advocates Council, and Ron Rosenes, honorary director of the AIDS Committee of Toronto.

Rosenes described the seder as an "incredibly affirming" evening.

"There's no getting away from the fact that the people with HIV are still marginal and stigmatized," he said. "An evening like this goes a long way in creating understanding and awareness."

Binder noted that first seders were smaller gatherings at a downtown community centre. "I've seen it grow into this really incredible gathering."

The seder is the brainchild of Donna Keystone, a physician specializing in the treatment of AIDS, and a member of Holy Blossom.

Looking at the size and success of the event, she said she felt "like a proud parent."

She said she started the AIDS committee at Holy Blossom and the first seder in 1991, because she felt the community "needed a Jewish response to AIDS."

The purpose of the temple committee was "to reach out to the HIV community...to make them feel... they had a place they could come and be part of a family," she explained. "I really think we created that."

Harvey and Ruth Preseman, whose son Jeff died of AIDS in 1995, said they attend the third seder every year to support Holy Blossom because the AIDS committee has given them tremendous support over the years.

"Holy Blossom has a special place in our hearts," Ruth said. "It was very welcoming. It gave us a chance to meet other people [in similar situations]. It was a place for people like us to come to.

"It's very meaningful that we continue on to educate people about HIV and AIDS... This a wonderful venue to raise people's consciousness."

Carolyn Bennett, a physician and the MP for St. Paul, said she "has always been impressed with the Jewish community's ability to understand people who are estranged. Inclusivity is part of the core values."

Tracey Starr, chair of the Holy Blossom Aids committee, noted that the seder is one of several annual events which also includes the annual AIDS walk and joint education programs with several synagogues, among them Adath Israel, Beth Tzedec, and Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Israel.

BBYO WEEKEND HOOPLA

Members of B'nai B'rith Youth Organization's (BBYO) Greater Toronto Area Council hosted fellow BBYOers from Montreal and Ottawa for a recent weekend convention. Highlights included an Oneg Shabbat and the annual 12-hour Dance-a-Thon that enables BBYO to send teens to international summer programs.

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Single female, 35, slim, attractive, a true romantic, enjoy theater, movies, and weekend getaways. Seeking a male, 35-43, who is intelligent, and attractive, inside and out. AD#1902

FRIEND OR LOVER
Single female, 38, dark hair, blue eyes, nice smile, a real people person, Kindergarten teacher, family oriented, down to earth, enjoy movies, live theater. Seeking a male, down to earth, with similar interests for serious relationship. AD#1887

WEEKEND GET AWAYS
Single female, 35, 5'4", brunette, slim, attractive, sensitive, romantic, intelligent, enjoy dining out, movies, reading, theater, weekend getaways. Seeking a sensitive, romantic male, 35-43, intelligent, attractive ,inside and out. AD#1888

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Single male, Jewish, 26, handsome, non smoker, enjoy long conversations, movies, music, animals, camping. Seeking an attractive, single female, non smoker, with similar interests AD#1964

GOING OUT FOR COFFEE
Single Jewish male, 5'8", 180lbs, easy to get along with, healthy, down to earth, old fashioned, kind, man of many talents, enjoy art, sports. Seeking a single Jewish female with similar interests. AD#1937

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Single male, Jewish, professional, late 40's, handsome, intelligent, good sense of humour, caring, sincere, enjoy dining & dancing, movies, good conversation. Seeking a warm hearted female for serious relationship. AD#1945

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single white male, professional, Jewish, computer engineer, good sense of humour, outgoing, gourmet cook, enjoy outdoor activities. Seeking a female for long term, lasting relationship AD#1944

SENSE OF VALUES
Single Jewish male, smart, intelligent, strong, outgoing, with strong sense of values. Seeking a female, who is fun, trustworthy, 25-32 AD#1921

COLLEGE STUDENT
Single Jewish male, 22, 6'2", college student, enjoy sports, golf,baseball, movies, dining out, dancing.Seeking a female, 18-23, similar interests. AD#1922

LOVING
Single male, 5'10", black hair, green eyes, non smoker or drinker, happy going person, enjoy cooking, dancing, dining out, movies, caring, loving. Seeking a very nice and sincere female with similar interests. AD#1923

LATIN MUSIC
Single Jewish male, 5'6", 147lbs, healthy in body and mind, enjoy Latin music, great outdoors, tennis and fine dining. Seeking an attractive, slim female, with similar interests. AD#1906

ATTENTION LADIES!
Single male, professional, mid 50's, Israeli-European background, enjoy walks, movies, dining and dancing. Seeking a female, attractive, petite, down to earth. AD#1470

LONG DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 36, tall, fit, professional, easy going, live in Western Canada, enjoy travelling, movies, weekends at the lake. Seeking a Jewish female, sincere, outgoing, 25-40, willing to relocate or have a long distance relationship. AD#1886

LASTING LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 46, physically fit, easy going, sincere, hard working, enjoy movies, books, art, dining out. Seeking a female, 30-40, for a lasting relationship. AD#1892

CONSIDERATE
Single Jewish male, strong, fit, athletic, great sense of humour. Seeking a female, 30-40, nice and considerate. AD#1895

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single male, 36, slim, blue-green eyes, brown hair, enjoy movies, dining, dancing, travelling, good conversationalist, financially secure. Seeking an attractive, outgoing, female, good conversationalist, for relationship leading to marriage. AD#1898

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 34, 5'7", athletic built, Bachelor of Science, caring, honest, reliable, romantic, enjoy movies, cooking, 60's dancing. Seeking a single Jewish female, intelligent, professional, open, and friendly. AD#1877

SPONTANEOUS
Single Jewish male, outgoing, spontaneous, adventurous, enjoy working out, swimming, scuba diving, skiing, music. Seeking a female, who is passionate, with inner and outer beauty. AD#1878

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Single male, 34, educated, outspoken, enjoy country life, outdoor activities, dining out, animals. Seeking a female with similar interests. AD#1880

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Single male, 47, warm, romantic, intelligent, 5'9", medium built, good sense of humour, enjoy movies, dining out, good conversation. Seeking a female, who is warm hearted and sincere AD#1885

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Sports

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Tough guy bumps and grinds

Stern fills important role with San Jose Sharks

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — For a guy who built his career on in-your-face hockey and dropping his gloves at a moment's notice, Ron Stern sounds pretty thoughtful – almost professorial – when it comes to the question of fighting in the NHL.

"Fighting remains an important part of the game, but we've done a good job of controlling it so it's not embarrassing to the league," the San Jose Sharks resident tough guy said after a recent practice.

Shades of Gary Bettman! Has Ron McLean taken over the league? Next thing you know, Don Cherry will be telling you how much heart and soul those Swedish players bring to the game.

But wait. The world hasn't stopped spinning on its axis. Just to let you know the Ron Stern who waxes philosophical in the dressing room is not the same guy who laces on his Tacks at game time. Stern reverted to form later that same night.

In the middle of a late-season Sharks' encounter with the Leafs in Toronto, Stern had a run-in deep in the Maple Leafs end with the Buds resident enforcer, Tie Domi. After a cross-check (let's not say who was the first to deliver the Koho crunch), the two doe-see-doed around the ice while tugging on each other's jersey, trying to exchange punches. The fight ended abruptly when Stern's jaw stopped a Domi uppercut.

Unfazed and apparently unhurt, the two headed to the penalty box. Later Stern continued his high tempo banging and crashing to help San Jose defeat the Leafs.

To be fair, the rest of Stern's soliloquy on fighting was not so out of character. "Fighting keeps people honest," he said. "If they took fighting away, I'd have a problem with it, though it wouldn't affect me that much."

After 12 years in the league, the former Vancouver Canucks and Calgary Flames tough guy has established his toughness credentials and broadened his c.v. to include hustle, two-way play, grit and hard work. Fighting is only one element in the skill set he brings to the table.

In 72 games with the Sharks, Stern has connected for seven goals and nine assists for 16 points. He is plus-three and has two game-winning goals to his credit. He also hasn't forgotten what kept him in the NHL, as his 152 minutes in the penalty box attest.

Playing on a line with centre Mike Ricci, Stern knows his job isn't to score goals. That he'll leave up to Owen Nolan, Jeff Friesen and Vincent Damphousse, the latter acquired from Montreal at the trade deadline.

"My job is to bump, grind, wear down the opposition and bring energy to the team," he said.

It wasn't always so. Back in his junior days with Longueuil of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League, Stern was a scorer. He used his size (6 feet, 195 pounds) to crash the net and bang in goals. In 1987, he captained Longueuil to the Memorial Cup championship.

Ron Stern

He was drafted by the Canucks, but it wasn't until he was traded to the Flames that his game really improved.

"Coaches Dave King and Mike Murphy worked with me a lot," he said, "as did Paul Baxter, who also combined toughness with NHL abilities during his playing days.

"I had a lot of encouragement to better my game," Stern said.

Like other players eyeing an NHL career, Stern was willing to do practically anything to make it in the big league. "I think I got molded into the style," he said. "When my talent couldn't keep up any more, I had to find a role to compete and to stay in the NHL. Usually, I fought a lot."

He still plays a high-energy, devil-may-care style of hockey. Even his off-ice pursuits are in the same vein. He enjoys bungee jumping and would like to sky dive one day, after his career is over.

A whirling dervish on the ice, Stern is the kind of player coaches love to have going into the playoffs. The Sharks signed him as a free agent in the off-season after he missed all of last year with a knee injury.

With the addition of Damphousse to the Sharks lineup, Stern is optimistic the team has added an important piece to their playoff puzzle. "Adding a skilled player makes the other players that much better," he said.

As the season wound down, San Jose held down a playoff spot – perhaps at the expense of Stern's old team, Calgary. Stern makes the rather surprising suggestion there's more pressure playing in San Jose than playing in a Canadian city like Calgary.

"For the fans and the media, the expectations have gotten greater" in San Jose after the Sharks' improvement this year and good playoff runs in the last few years. Now they want more.

One of a handful of Jewish players in the NHL (Steve Dubinsky of the Flames and Mathieu Schneider of the Rangers are the only other regulars), Stern's penchant for fighting had nothing to do with anti-Semitic remarks. He has experienced little or none of it in the pros. There was a little in junior, but he sloughed it off and attributed it to ignorance.

Last year, Stern and Dubinsky were recruited to play on the Canadian hockey team in the Maccabiah Games in Israel, but Stern declined because his wife was expecting their second child right around the same time.

"I was going if my wife had told me to go. I would've gone," he said.

"Going there would be a special treat, but going there for that reason would be a special bonus."

A resident of Calgary in the off season, Stern has interests in two restaurants there. He is also involved in a health food store and he is an avid mountain-biker in the off-season.

In San Jose, he's known for his work with children's charities.

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The Inside Back

The pitfalls of tax avoidance

By JONATHAN SHIFF

Israel's economy is driven more and more by high-tech, which is the most dynamic sector today.

Every day the papers are filled with stories about Israel's new multi-millionaires, who have cashed in their shares in start-up companies for millions of dollars, thereby enticing more young people to enter the field.

Along with the hiring of experts in all areas of science, an amazing amount of time and thought goes into structuring companies and finding the best ways to avoid paying some of those future fortunes to the government.

With personal tax rates exceeding 50 percent, and corporate taxes at 36 percent, the correct decisions at the beginning regarding legal structure can reap enormous benefits down the road.

Thus entrepreneurs consult with lawyers and accountants, who evaluate the proposed businesses, and suggest structures for the payment of the least amount of taxes.

When such structures include offshore companies and other forms of "treaty shopping," there is a fine line between tax avoidance, which is legal, and tax evasion, which is not. A recent court decision highlighted the pitfalls in this area.

The case involved Israel's largest pharmaceutical company, its CEO, and foreign investors, who are also well-known philanthropists. They invested together in a company which purchased the rights to distribute in Israel pharmaceuticals produced by foreign manufacturers.

The Israeli side handled the actual distribution. The investors funneled their money through a company based in Vaduz. This ostensibly was the body which would handle contacts with the manufacturers.

As a result of loopholes in the system, taxes were not deducted from payments to the Vaduz company, and the investors were able to recoup their investment quickly. In this way, the parties saved $18 million (US) over the years.

What emerged in court was that the Vaduz-based company was simply an empty shell. All the work, in fact, was done by the Israeli company.

Thus, the defendants were found guilty of tax fraud and sentenced to heavy fines and suspended jail sentences. The parties have appealed, and the case will be decided by the Supreme Court.

The lower court judgment, which runs some 330 pages, discusses some important issues which are relevant to entrepreneurs and to foreign investors in Israel.

First of all, there is nothing illegal about tax planning. If the Vaduz company had not been an empty shell, and had fulfilled real functions, the structure which was set up might have been a legitimate use of the various tax treaties and laws.

Secondly, the defendants did not convince the court that they were simply following their lawyer's advice. The judgment suggests that if they had presented all the facts to their lawyer and accountant and received an opinion that the structure was legal, they might have been off the hook.

As the structure was set up by their lawyer, one of Israel's top attorneys, I personally believe they were following his advice. But he testified in court that he is not an expert in tax law, and the judge did not excuse them on this regard.

Furthermore, it was apparent from the evidence that the foreign investors were only interested in participating if they could avoid the taxes. From the testimony it was clear that the tax issue was behind the whole structure, and that the defendants knew what they were doing.

Since the case is up for appeal, it is difficult to know what the final outcome will be. At the same time, there is no doubt that the Israeli legal system is modern and sophisticated enough to distinguish between legitimate tax planning and illegal activities.

While the potential savings are great, the pitfalls are real, therefore any serious investment in Israel should be treated with the same professionalism and thoroughness that would characterize similar activities in Canada or the United States.

Jonathan Shiff practises law in Israel.

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1 large cauliflower
3 tblsp. vegetable oil
1/4 lb. small mushrooms, quartered
1 tblsp. matzo meal
1/3 cup chopped walnuts (optional)
salt and pepper
1 medium onion, chopped
2 large eggs
1/2 tsp. paprika

Preheat oven to 375°F. Cut cauliflower into floret clusters. Boil cauliflower in salted water 10 mins. or until tender. Drain well and cool. Puree in food processor, leaving a few chunks. Transfer to a bowl.

Heat 3 tblsp. oil in medium skillet, add onions and sauté 5 mins. Add mushrooms and sauté 5 minutes or until mixture is light brown. Add eggs and matzo meal to cauliflower. Season well with salt and pepper. Lightly stir in mushroom mixture.

Oil an 8" square baking dish. Add cauliflower mixture. Sprinkle 1 tblsp. oil over top. Sprinkle with paprika, then with walnuts. Bake 30 min., or until set.

About Life

Dear Ella,

In the scheme of life, this may seem like a trivial problem, but it has been causing me nothing but grief.

My dear friend Sandra is getting married and has asked me to be in her wedding party. The affair is not huge and has no set color scheme, as is the custom with many weddings these days.

I have a beautiful, elegant black gown I chose to wear. When Sandra heard I was wearing black to her wedding, she had a fit and told me black was for funerals not weddings. She is causing an awful problem for me.

I feel this gown is more than appropriate and I haven't got the financial means to go out and buy another dress. Do you think my black gown is inappropriate to wear under a chupah?

Black Beauty

Dear Black Beauty

It doesn't matter much what I think; however, it does matter what your friend Sandra thinks. A wedding day can be one of the most stressful days in a woman's life, as she makes sure all the things she arranged come together just so. The last thing she needs is to fight over the dress one member of her wedding party will wear.

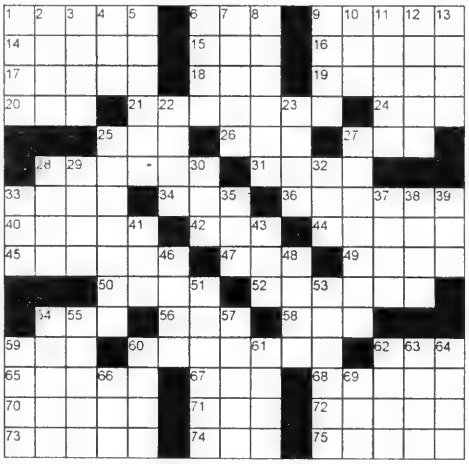
Personally, I have been to many affairs where black and white was the color scheme, and it actually looks very elegant. I myself marched at a wedding wearing black.

Although it is customary to wear dark colors to funerals, black is also considered a color of elegance; hence the term "black tie." But all this is irrelevant if the bride to be is going to be unhappy and uncomfortable.

If you can't afford to buy a new dress, there are places that rent beautiful gowns. You can also keep your eyes open for a sale, or as a last resort, decline to be in the wedding party. However, that would be a real shame considering the relationship between you and Sandra.

You have both lost sight of the purpose of having a close friend under the chupah. It's a time to share one of the most important times in your friend's life. Don't you think what you are wearing should really be a secondary priority?

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN. *But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*



The Canadian Jewish news

Gematria

By Matt Gaffney & David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

Across

1 1
6 2
9 3
14 1945 conference site
15 "Leonine" name
16 Dickens start
17 Marx "products"
18 50
19 7
20 Guggenheim's spot: abbr.
21 Home for the sick
24 Like Simon's couple
25 40
26 ___ Aviv
27 Not post-
28 Suit's place
31 200
33 300
34 Sen. Arlen Specter, e.g.
36 Escapee's cover, often
40 Garden flower
42 400
44 30
45 Just ___ (no worse)
47 Be a yenta
49 Serves, as Justice Frankfurter
50 Praising poems
52 1-Across and 1-Down, sometimes
54 From ___ to Beersheba (everywhere)
56 IBM alternative
58 Intl. grp. founded in 1948
59 20
60 Leave
62 The top row of this puzzle in English
65 Family tree member
67 Finnish entree
68 What Mendelssohn translated into German
70 90
71 Mossad's US counterpart
72 X out
73 Crushed, maybe
74 5
75 4

Down

1 70
2 Loewe's *My Fair* ___
3 The E in GE
4 School grp.
5 Chops into small pieces
6 Outlaws
7 Emulate Mt. St. Helens
8 Less like the Golem
9 Stare (at)
10 "Make ___ double!"
11 Ed Koch book
12 Leave out in pronunciation
13 Emulate Shylock
22 Lag B'___
23 Bass ___
25 Colossal rainstorm
27 Some "Wheel of Fortune" puzzles
28 Grodin or Schulz, for short
29 Noam Chomsky's field: abbr.
30 9
32 The Sun
33 Where to get in shape
35 80
37 First Best Actor ___ Jannings
38 Match parts
39 NFL scores
41 10
43 6
46 Moore of "Disclosure"
48 100
51 60
53 Floated, as an aroma
54 A "Taxi" co-star of Hirsch's
55 Piano note
57 Weston of "Alice"
59 Do-it-yourselfer's purchases
60 Esau, to Jacob
61 Give the go-ahead
62 Sea of Asia
63 First or third, to Koufax
64 8
66 Shakespearean fuss
69 "...man ___ mouse?"

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(This week's solutions are on page 37.)

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This Week

National

Jewish veterans seek archives in Toronto. *Page 5*

Leadership meet unites young Canadians and Israelis. *Page 6*

Haddasah-WIZO supports new program for autistic kids. *Page 18*

On Campus

Free air fare offered for early bird Hebrew U. students. *Page 25*

Health

North York General gets ready to expand its emergency department. *Page 41*

Arts

Jewish Film Festival previews. *Page 45*

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Iyar 7, 5759
Havdalah: 8:57

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FINDING SANCTUARY IN ISRAEL

More than 100 ethnic Albanian Moslem refugees from Kosovo arrived in Israel last week on a flight chartered by the Jewish Agency. The group is being housed at the Ma'agan Michael field school. They will likely stay there for an initial period of six months.

In its efforts to help the people displaced by the crisis in Kosovo, Israel is also sending humanitarian aid. To date it has sent more than 100 tons of medical supplies, basic foods, clothes and bedding to the refugee camps in Albania and Macedonia. *[Israel Sun photo]*

Nazareth dispute turns nasty

By GIL SEDAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Eight months before the start of a new Christian millennium, Israel finds itself squarely in the middle of a Christian-Muslim conflict centered on the town traditionally believed to be the city where Jesus was raised.

The conflict in Nazareth, if left unresolved, could have worldwide repercussions, not the least of which would be the cancellation of Pope John Paul II's planned trip to the Holy Land next year to take part in millennium celebrations.

As Israeli officials attempt to cope with the conflict, Christian and Muslim officials on both sides of the divide are charging that Israel is favoring the other side – which leaves the Jewish state in the unenviable position of satisfying no one.

Indeed, even after a committee of Israeli ministers appeared to side with the Nazareth Muslims, Islamic leaders there rejected the ministerial decision.

At least four million Christian pilgrims are expected to visit Israel next year to mark the new millennium, but recent events in Nazareth may well threaten those celebrations.

Because of biblical tradition, Nazareth – the biggest Arab town in Israel, with a population of 65,000 – has the image of a Christian city. But only 40 percent of its inhabitants are Christian.

The conflict erupted over a city plan to build a large plaza in time for the millennium celebrations near the Church of the Annunciation, where according to Christian tradition, the Archangel Gabriel told Mary that she was to give birth to Jesus.

Analysis

Israel caught in the middle

The town's Muslim leadership objected to the construction plan, saying it would damage the tomb of Shihab a-Din, the nephew of Saladin, the Muslim warrior who ousted the Crusaders from the Holy Land in the 12th century.

The town's Muslim residents, who have set up a protest tent at the planned construction site, want to build a mosque there.

Neither side appears ready to back down.

Islamic political leaders made the controversy their main issue when Nazareth's municipal elections were held last fall.

Islamic candidates won 10 of the 19 seats on the town council. But a Christian candidate, Ramez Jeraisi, was re-elected mayor.

Because of conflicting political agendas, the municipality has been virtually paralyzed since the elections.

Frustrated that they were unable to take control of Israel's largest Arab town, Islamic politicians stepped up their involvement in the controversy surrounding the site near the church.

Continued on page 35

INSIDE

Rethinking support of NATO airstrikes.
Please see page 9.

Israel's population pushes past 6 million — please see page 33

The News in Brief

CANADA

Grafstein Speaks

OTTAWA — Senator Jerry Grafstein rose in the Senate last week to pay tribute to Holocaust victims, recounting the experiences of his own family and pointing to the current tragedy in Yugoslavia to show the need for vigilance.

Israeli Convicted

TORONTO — An Israeli visitor has been convicted of murdering his girlfriend, who refused to marry him to help him get landed immigrant status. A jury found Nazim Bouhsass, 35, guilty of the second-degree murder of 42-year-old single mother Sholeh Taleshi.

ISRAEL

Kosovars Arrive

JERUSALEM — A flight carrying 112 ethnic Albanians from Kosovo landed in Israel last week. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was among the dignitaries who welcomed the flight, organized by the Jewish Agency for Israel. Israeli officials plan to house the refugees at Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael, near Haifa. The Jewish Agency has created a Web site for those wanting to help the refugees: www.savekosovo.com.

WORLD

Serb Blames Jews

SYDNEY — "Talmudic Jews [who] run the White House" are to blame for the NATO airstrikes on Yugoslavia, which are part of an "anti-Christian" campaign, said Jack King, who founded a group that opposes Australian anti-racism legislation, at a pro-Serbian rally of 5,000 Serbian Australians.

Yeltsin Pays Tribute

MOSCOW — Russian President Boris Yeltsin paid tribute last week to the victims of the Holocaust. "The world bows its head before the memory of the six million Jews who were destroyed by the Nazi criminals," he said.

Bias At CIA?

WASHINGTON — Adam Ciralsky, a lawyer who worked for the CIA until he was suspended for failing to disclose his support for Israel is charging that the agency is attempting to force him from his job because of an anti-Semitic bias. CIA officials denied the charges.

Removal Ordered

WASHINGTON — A former Chicago factory worker who served as an armed guard during a two-day massacre of more than 3,700 Jews in Nazi-occupied Lithuania has been ordered removed from the United States. Vincas Valkavickas, 78, a former member of the Lithuanian Auxiliary Police, must leave the country by June 30, a judge ordered.

Message from the Prime Minister of the State of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu to the Jewish communities of the Diaspora on the occasion of Israel's 51st Independence Day

This Independence Day, the last before the millennium year, finds Israel better prepared than ever to meet the challenges of our time.

It is difficult to recall today that less than two decades ago, our economic and political future was hostage to oil politics, and Israel was viewed as a strategic burden, a country in urgent need of help to survive.

We do, of course, still welcome support and friendship, and the bond between Diaspora Jewry and Israel is as vital as ever. But as a state we have come a long way. We are now in the forefront of the world's givers.

In recent weeks, we sent the first field hospital and planeloads of vital supplies to help the Kosovo refugees. And, in previous months and years, our rescue missions helped save many thousands in Rwanda, Ethiopia, Mexico and Armenia. Our medical team was the first to care for the victims of the terrorist bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Kenya. Now we are welcoming Kosovo refugees, the way we welcomed Vietnamese, Cambodian and Bosnian refugees in the past.

All this is but one indication of Israel's transformation. In the economic sphere, our country is poised to become one of the few which can compete with the world's giants. We possess today's most important source of wealth: scientific and technological knowledge and expertise. And through liberalization, deregulation and massive privatization, we are freeing our economy and enabling enterprise to flourish.

Our political position, too, is firmer. Our concept of security and the principle of reciprocity have become integral components of the peace process – which makes me believe more than ever that we can achieve real, lasting peace with our neighbors.

I am also certain that our neighbors, who have also suffered from long years of war and violence, will conclude that an enduring peace can be achieved only through negotiations, compromise, confidence building, education for peace and mutual respect. There is no other way to attain peaceful co-existence, security and prosperity for all of us, and for children and grandchildren.

On this Independence Day, I send you greetings from Jerusalem, Israel's eternal, undivided capital. Let this be a day on which we welcome the future with confidence, faith, fortitude and hope.

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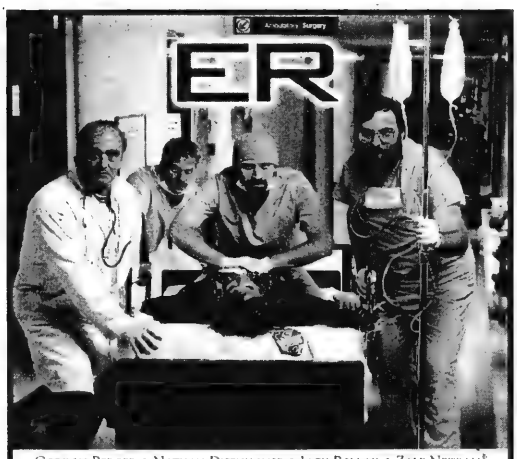

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Skinheads' lawyers seek stay of charges

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Lawyers representing skinheads charged with promoting hatred against Roma (Gypsy) refugees have filed an application to throw the charges out of court.

The lawyers argue the charges should be stayed because the Crown improperly singled out the skinheads for prosecution while ignoring far more egregious comments about the Roma by former Toronto councillor Gordon Chong.

Seven skinheads were charged after they paraded in August 1997 outside the Lido Motel carrying signs such as "Honk if you hate Gypsies," and "Canada is not a trash can." They also shouted, "Gypsies out," while one demonstrator waved a swastika flag.

The defence argues that Chong's statements in council that Gypsies "pimp their wives and daughters" is even more hateful.

By charging the skinheads and ignoring Chong, the Crown is guilty of selective and discriminatory prosecution, contrary to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The skinheads were charged because of their political views, their status and their background, all of which are improper and discriminatory reasons, the defence contends.

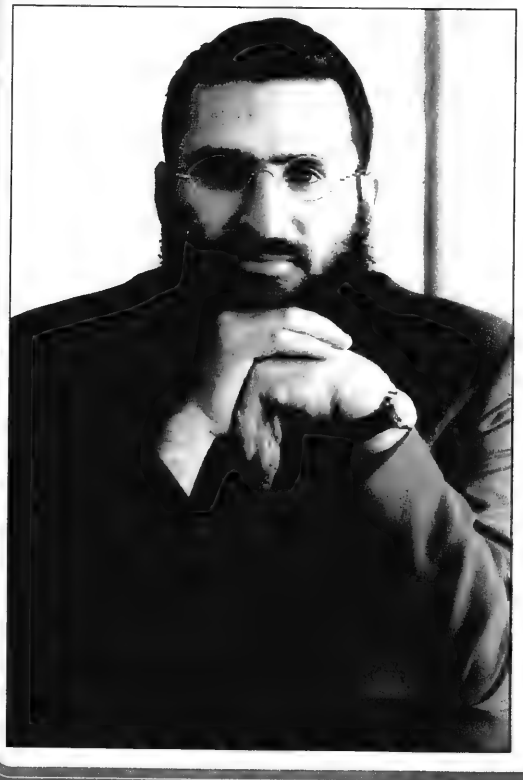
The legal principle of selective prosecution is well established in the United States but has only been referred to briefly by the Ontario Court of Appeal in the Paul Magder case, a defence source stated.

Last week, the defence team of four lawyers subpoenaed Bernie Farber, executive director of the Ontario region of Canadian Jewish Congress, and Toronto *Sun* reporter Scot Magnish as witnesses.

Continued on page 29

THE MIMOUNA

Saloman Sobalan, in traditional Moroccan garb, instructs a group of children in the customs and the music of the Mimouna festival, held last week at the Sephardic Kehila Centre in Thornhill. The Mimouna "closes" the holiday of Pesach. Its customary words of greeting are "terbh'ou outsaad'ou," (happiness and prosperity). [Motty Levy photo]



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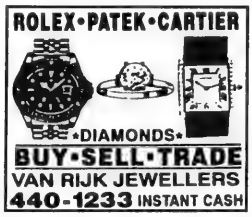

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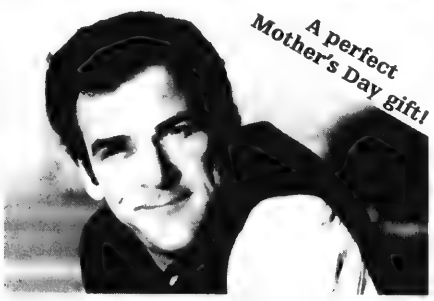

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Yom Hashoah V'Hagvurah

Several events in Toronto marked Yom Hashoah last week. Clockwise, from top:

At Queen's Park, 10 Holocaust survivors were honored by the government, the seventh year the event took place. Citizenship and Culture Minister Isabel Bassett and Attorney General Charles Harnick flank Rose Rubin Ziner, who holds a certificate of appreciation. The others honored were Abe Blankenstein, Freda Blankenstein, Edward Fisch, Bill Glied, Andrew Lengyel, Fanny Pillersdorf, Helen Reich, Nathan Rosenberg and Ted Schwartz.

Representing children of survivors, Eva Silverberg and her daughter Taylor light a memorial candle at Earl Bales Park in the community's annual Holocaust remembrance, attended by some 2,000 people. Reflections on the meaning of the Holocaust were delivered by members of the first, second and third generations, and interspersed with dramatic readings in English, Hebrew and Yiddish.

At Shaarei Tefillah Synagogue, Esther Schwartzbaum lit a memorial candle at the service sponsored by the Canadian Holocaust Remembrance Association.

Jewish war veterans – members of the color guard at Earl Bales Park pause for a moment of reflection.

"Unto Every Person There is a Name" – one of four remembrance services held by B'nai Brith Canada – took place at the cenotaph in front of Old City Hall, where Shura Verona read the names of Holocaust victims.

Photos by Ron Csillag

[photo by Motty Levy]

From the editor's desk will return next week

Greater Toronto Area

Jewish veterans seek archives in Toronto

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The role that Canadian Jewish war veterans played in the victory over Hitler and in the establishment of the State of Israel is in danger of being forgotten, members of General Wingate Branch 256 of the Royal Canadian Legion believe.

To rectify this situation, the branch wants to establish an official archives in the Lipa Green building on Bathurst Street.

On behalf of the branch, Sam Romberg, president, Sol Raibmon, first vice-president, and Al Rueben, publicity chair, have submitted designs for the proposed archives. They are still awaiting word and an appointment with the authorities concerned.

The Jewish war vets believe an archives in the building which houses major Jewish agencies should be a priority.

The thousands of students who visit the Holocaust Memorial Museum on the same floor where the archives would be located should read about the contributions made by Canadian Jews, said Rueben.

"One of the best kept secrets of World War II is that Canadian Jews enlisted in greater numbers proportionately than any other ethnic group, had more members killed, (524), and won more decorations," said Raibmon.

The Jews who served in the forces were the children of the immigrants who founded the strong Jewish community in Canada, he said.

There is an urgent need to set up the archives now, the officers believe, because so many members of the General Wingate Branch have died and the surviving ones are aging.

Volunteers from the branch continue to play an active role in the Harvey Lister Memorial Chapel at Sunnybrook Hospital, where a community seder was recently held for Canadian Jewish war veterans at the hospital.

The officers of the branch were instrumental, with the help of retired Rev. Allan Tipping and Rev. Bob Hunt, in setting up the first chapel at Sunnybrook.

Kashruth Council trying to move Levitt's case to rabbinical court

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The defendants in a lawsuit launched by Levitt's Kosher Foods Inc. of Montreal have filed a motion asking the court to allow the case to be heard by a rabbinical, rather than a civil court.

The motion was filed on behalf of Rabbi Mordechai Levin, executive director of the Kashruth Council of Toronto; Rabbi Yitzchok Kerzner, an officer of the Kashruth Council and chair of the Rabbinical Vaad Hakashruth of Toronto; and Rabbi Avrohom Lowinger, also an officer of the Kashruth Council and its chief kashruth supervisor.

In a previous interview with *The CJN*, Murray Brookman, owner of Levitt's, noted that the suit was brought against the individual rabbis because the Kashruth Council (COR) is not an incorporated entity and thus not subject to legal action.

An amended statement of claim filed with the General Division of the Ontario Court on Feb. 15, called for damages for libel and slander, for inducing breach of contract, for "unlawful interference with economic relations" and for conspiracy, and for a permanent injunction forbidding statements which would discredit Levitt's business or services; conspiring to injure the company's business, or interfering with its "economic relations."

The statement of claim also asks for costs.

The motion to set aside the case alleges that because the issues raised by the suit are intrinsically religious, they are not in the purview of the civil court; and that because Levitt's has accepted supervision by a kashruth certifying body (MK and Star-K), it has implicitly agreed to have "all disputes about certification resolved by Jewish law by a properly constituted Rabbinical Court."

Officials of both Levitt's and COR have said that they feel that it is inappropriate to comment on the case at this time.

The motion will be heard on June 11.

The CJN is following the story.

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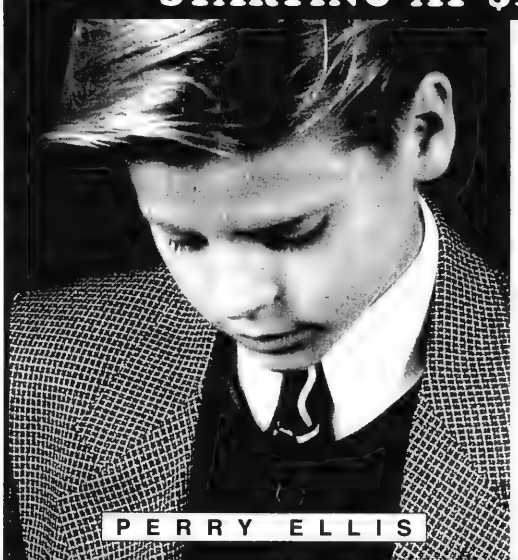

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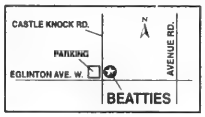

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Leadership meet unites young Canadians, Israelis

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Over 200 young Jewish community leaders forged ties with their counterparts from Israel and across Canada at a recent Canadian Young Leadership conference.

For Peta Karabus of Vancouver, the weekend-long event, sponsored by UIA Federations Canada at the Inn on the Park/Holiday Inn Hotel, was an opportunity to "rejuvenate you and give you fresh new ideas."

The 37-year-old travel agent, originally from Cape Town, South Africa, lived in Toronto for five years until the mid-1990s.

She was involved in starting the young adult division (YAD) of Vancouver's Jewish federation a couple of years ago to bring young Jewish adults together for educational and social programs.

Lori Lerner, a 35-year-old day trader and co-chair of YAD, moved back to her native Vancouver in 1993 after a stint in Toronto.

Vancouver has none of the "Jewish ethnic feel" of Toronto, she said. "There's nothing like Bathurst Street [in Vancouver]."

Bridging wider gaps, Israelis and Canadians worked to understand each other's perspectives.

Dalia Levi of Beersheva said it was "very meaningful" for her to attend liberal Shabbat services the previous day. (Orthodox services were also held.)

Now, she said, she understands "another definition of the word Judaism, that doesn't exist in Israel."

Sivan Benesh, 25, of Gomeh (young leadership of the Galilee), hopes to work again with her Canadian counterparts. "We can't judge them and they can't judge us," the social work student said.

"We realize that to build a common base, we need to learn about each other," said Iris Shuster, 28, chair of Gomeh's Canada team.

Aviva Malka, a native of Montreal who spent five years in Israel before moving to Toronto last year, said she has "a lot of new questions."

The 24-year-old, who works for United Jewish Appeal as missions co-ordinator, found herself considering questions of peoplehood, ethics and spirituality. With a dual Israeli-Canadian perspective, she feels torn, she said.

The theme of the conference was B'Yachad – Come Together from Coast to Coast. Sessions included the Hidden History of the Jews, with Simcha Jacobovici; Israel and the Jewish People at a Crossroad: The Debate over Judaism and Pluralism in Israel and the Diaspora; a discussion on Canadian Jewish communities; author Gil Mann on Five Complaints Jews Have About Judaism; and Harnessing Your Creative Power with staff from MICA, a training and consulting firm. The latter session focused on ways of making meetings more effective.

The Israeli participants are young leaders involved in Partnership 2000, a project of UIA Federations Canada, established in the early 1990s to facilitate connections between Israeli and Canadian leadership.

Young leaders Eugene Schwartz of Vancouver and Beryl Freedman of Montreal dance up a storm at closing session. [Stephen Epstein photo]

The international conference was the first of its kind run by UIA here. Canadian participants represented nine communities across the country including Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal.

Jasper Kujavsky, a 39-year-old lawyer, was the lone participant from Burlington, Ont.

Montreal had a delegation of 30 people, the largest group from out of town. The political situation there has improved greatly, said attorney Patrick Essiminy, 28, who co-chaired the Montreal delegation with Jessica Cooperman. Among Essiminy's circle of friends, most are staying, he noted.

The Montreal Jewish community is unique, he noted, because of the francophone/anglophone mix. "My goal from the outset [has been] to work together."

Cooperman, 27, a PhD student originally from Ottawa, will leave Montreal to do an internship, but she plans to return.

The conference inspired her to collaborate and share ideas with people across the country. The speakers had a "huge impact," she said.

Yakov Feig of the Atlantic Jewish Council found it exciting to see what is being done in young adult divisions across Canada."

"I thought it was very meaningful to spend this time with my peers," said Loraine Tobia, the Halifax nurse who co-ordinated Red Cross personnel after last year's Swissair crash off the coast of Nova Scotia.

Tobia, 37, who is involved in a myriad of Jewish activities, is chair of the Association of Young Jewish Adults of Atlantic Canada."My goal is Jewish continuity and to prevent assimilation," she said, echoing some of her counterparts from Vancouver. "We do indeed [feel isolated]. Our numbers are so small."

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This excellent new facility has been made possible by the generosity of our community. It's a wonderful achievement. If you have made a gift, please accept our thanks. If you haven't, please consider making a contribution to the ongoing work of one of the finest seniors' facilities anywhere.

For more information on how you can be part of completing the Apotex Centre, Jewish Home for the Aged, and the Centre for Cognitive Disorders, call Shirley Worth in the Baycrest Centre Foundation at (416) 785-2500, Ext. 2013.

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Photos by Orah Buck, from the permanent installation; "Time in Faces".

Editorials and Letters

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The example of Wayne Gretzky

At first it seemed slightly incongruous. Canada is participating in an unprecedented military coalition against the government of Slobodan Milosevic. News updates from the war and the stark images of the human devastation wrought by the bombings and by the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of refugees fill the airwaves, TV screens and newspapers each hour, every day.

Then, in the midst of the "war-footing" coverage of the crisis in Kosovo, came the news of Wayne Gretzky's retirement after 20 years in the NHL. From the very first moment of the rumored retirement last Thursday, the story dominated the mainstream media in Canada.

His last NHL game was officially played Sunday afternoon. And as of this writing, some hours after he unlaced his skates, the retirement remains the lead story on all the networks.

An entire country, it seems, was gripped by an outpouring of deep affection and heartfelt emotion for the 38-year-old hockey player from Brantford, Ont. But something more was at play here than "merely" a cathartic, national expression of thanks to a superb professional athlete walking away from his game.

It is a phenomenon worth examining.

First, of course, was the game itself: hockey. It is Canada's game, played by the "boys of winter," for the most part under winter conditions, the conquering of which demand characteristics and traits that have helped Canadians define themselves over a century and a half: hardiness, strength, agility, endurance and perseverance. Thus, to the extent that Gretzky excelled at "the game," he also excelled at being quintessentially Canadian, at embodying Canadianism.

Next, were the qualities he brought to the game: unmatched skill and talent, dedication to standards of excellence, constant hard work, unstinting effort, cool-under-pressure elegance and grace on the ice, a genuine humility and an obvious sense of gratitude for the 20-year opportunity to excel in the game he loved, all of them qualities that observers of life, let alone observers of the game, admired greatly.

Finally, there was the way he played the game. Gretzky always played for the team, for the collective aspirations represented by the colors and the symbols of the uniform. His superior skills were evident and shone so brightly on account of, not despite, his thoughtfulness towards his teammates. His leadership was enduring, effective and inspiring because it was the leadership of example.

Indeed, there are a number of lessons that we can learn from the leadership and the example of Wayne Gretzky.

- Set collective interest above self-interest.
- Abjure self-promotion for promotion of the "higher," common good.
- Avoid pettiness; foster magnanimity.
- Be loyal to the over-arching values and principles of the larger group, of the larger society.
- Be uncompromising in establishing and then trying to maintain standards of excellence.
- Demonstrate humility not imperiousness in the custodianship of the public's affection or trust; embrace with gratitude the opportunity and the privilege of carrying that trust.
- Meld form to substance, esthetics to function; superior skill never warrants a bullying, my-way-or-the-highway attitude towards others.
- Always work hard.
- Seek out neither ethical, procedural nor substantive short cuts.
- Extend a helping hand; do not point an accusing finger.

These "lessons" were considered by many to be the enduring hallmarks of Wayne Gretzky's leadership on the ice. In truth, we should all try to make them the measure of our comportment off the ice as well. Politicians and public figures, take notice.

Dry Bones

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Holocaust victims wanted to be remembered

On behalf of the government of Ontario, I want to take this opportunity to send greetings to you and the readers of *The Canadian Jewish News* as we observe Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Memorial Day.

Last fall, the government passed an Act to proclaim Holocaust Memorial Day in Ontario – a day for us all to reflect on what must be enduring lessons and memories of the Holocaust and all genocides. In the words of Elie Wiesel: "Let it be an act of remembrance, for that is what the victims wanted: to be remembered, at least to be remembered."

Yom Hashoah reminds us that we must continue to fight all forms of genocide. We must work together to ensure that one of the worst periods in world history is never repeated.

Isabel Bassett
Minister of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation

WOW group does not focus on loss

Re the article on the need for a group of senior singles. (*CJN*, Apr. 9)

As co-president of the WOW, group I am representing the members who were disturbed by the misinformation presented in the above article. For example, your article indicated that the WOW group "focused too much on coping with loss." Our group was formed six years ago as a social group. We never ever discuss loss. We are strictly a social group which has approximately 60 members who are all Jewish, widowed or widowers, aged 50-65.

We have monthly social functions such as pot-luck dinners, theatre nights, boat trips (in summer), miniature golfing, dinner theatre nights, Casino Rama and Niagara trips, and Sunday brunches at various restaurants, etc.

Sharon Brooker
Toronto

Homes are the real answer to homelessness

Re: The Scandal of Homelessness (*CJN*, March 31).

My mother, Lillian Freedman, was responsible for running a pilot program in Toronto to find homeless Jews. Despite the overwhelming feeling within the community that there simply could not be homeless Jews, she found them, and helped them to find shelter and in some cases permanent housing.

Ve'Ahavta's Jewish Mobile Response to the homeless is quite admirable. However, the only real cure for homelessness is not blankets, sandwiches, hot soup or bedding. As I have learned from my mother, it is finding these people homes.

Perhaps these same people could volunteer once a week – during the day – to find these people homes, so that they do not have to wait for coffee and sandwiches on the street at night.

Laura Rosen Cohen
Toronto

Armenian genocide was a real event

I have read your front page story (*CJN*, April 9) about the possible derailment of the proposed Holocaust museum to be built in Ottawa. I am concerned by the statement that…"Armenians accuse the Turks of responsibility for the century's first genocide…" Are you suggesting by the use of the word "accuse" that there is an issue as to the occurrence of this genocide? I always thought the genocide was an undisputed fact.

Alan Glass
Toronto

Editor's note: The writer is correct. See From the editor's desk (CJN, Apr. 15).

Holocaust works of art deserve to live

Morton Weinfeld declares a self-imposed moratorium on all artistic works relating to the Holocaust. (*CJN*, Mar. 11)

It is my firm conviction that this nefarious event should be kept alive in perpetuity; for to diminish its historical importance is to allow it to fade into obscurity. It is not a coincidence that the words of Rudyard Kipling "Lest we forget" reverberate throughout the decades as a remembrance to the first and second World Wars!

If a Jewish academic will not foster the memory of the Holocaust of his people in the education of future generations, who then? In the words of Rabbi Hillel "If I will not be for me, who then? If not now, when?"

The film *Life is Beautiful* elucidates the point that life (not death or dying) is worth any means to maintain. It bespeaks a spirit so uplifting; for what parent would not shield their child from Hell!

Eleanor Grief Pomerantz
Montreal

WISDOM OF THE AGES
"Be holy because, I, your Lord God am holy."
(Parshat Kedoshim)

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Rethinking support of NATO air strikes

By HENRY SREBRNIK

We Jews abhor violence, especially when it is directed against a group targeted because of its culture, ethnicity or religion. The events of the past few months in the Kosovo region of Yugoslavia have been horrific. Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic has sent his army into the province to bring the recalcitrant ethnic Albanian Kosovar majority to heel and reassert Serbian dominance. Very understandably, the initial reflexive response for many of us, as we watch refugees streaming out of Kosovo amid cries of genocide, has been to uncritically support our participation in the NATO air strikes launched against him in retaliation.

But I think it might be wise to step back and analyze the situation from a wider historical and political perspective, in order to determine what this conflict means for us as Jews, and in particular, how it might affect the future of, not just Serbia, but all small states, including Israel.

Let me first deal with the past. I am myself the child of Holocaust survivors from Poland. We Jews pride ourselves on our sense of memory, and are grateful to those Righteous Gentiles, who helped save Jews during those terrible times. During the Nazi occupation of Yugoslavia, the Serb partisans bore the overwhelming brunt of the fighting against Hitler, and pinned down more than 30 Nazi divisions with close to one million soldiers. The Serbs were murdered by the hundreds of thousands. This was at a time when most Croats, Bosnian Muslims and Albanians were indifferent to the fate of Jews, and often themselves participated in the mass murders.

Croatia during the war was a Nazi puppet state, and engaged in mass murder of Jews, Serbs and others; the Bosnian Muslims raised SS divisions that fought on the Russian front; and the Albanians created a Greater Albania, under Italian auspices, which included Kosovo. Indeed, the Albanians "cleansed" Kosovo of Serbs. This is part of the reason they are now a majority in the province.

Readers of *The CJN* might want to compare a map of the Balkans in 1943, when Hitler and Mussolini ruled over Europe, to the map that may emerge after this war. They might be surprised by the similarity.

I am not suggesting that our appreciation of Serbian assistance more than half a century ago requires that we turn a blind eye to the crimes being committed today. But if we are serious about recognizing those who aided us in our hour of need – and certainly the Serbs saved more Jews than Oscar Schindler did! – we might temper our condemnation with just a tiny bit of compassion.

As for the present, many writers who have examined the growth of an aggressive fundamentalist form of Islam in the past few decades, speak of a "global intifidah" along a wide arc of the Eurasian continent, from Bosnia, Albania and Cyprus in Europe; through Chechnya, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq and Iran in the Middle East; the Nagorno-Karabakh region between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Afghanistan and Kashmir in central Asia; all the way to Indonesia and Malaysia in southeast Asia.

Throughout this vast geopolitical region, politicized Islamic groups are battling for control of territory or imposing very strict forms of religious conformity on Muslim populations. Needless to say, the never-ending pressure on the Jewish state by the Palestinians is part of this process.

The Albanians are Muslims, and the Kosovo Liberation Army harbors in its ranks Islamic fundamentalists. (Let us recall that, in Afghanistan, the *mujahadin* freedom fighters of the 1980s were transformed into the Taliban of the 1990s.) Detaching Kosovo from Yugoslavia and creating a Greater Albania may not necessarily affect Israel negatively, but it certainly will not help the Jewish state.

Israel's humanitarian response to the Kosovo crisis has included setting up field hospitals for refugees in Macedonia, sending tons of medical and food aid and receiving refugees. Here we see Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife Sarah at Ben-Gurion airport greeting refugees who arrived last week. [Isranet photo]

Given their cultural and religious affinities, Albanians are, understandably, more likely to support the Arab countries in any Mideast conflict.

But the outcome of the war in Kosovo may at some point adversely affect Israel in another, more serious, way. Throughout the world, there are regions and territories which are claimed by more than one ethnic group, or which are inhabited by minorities, territorially concentrated, who wish to secede, even if by force, from a sovereign state controlled by people differing from them by ethnicity, language, religion or other cultural markers: the Basque country, the Crimea, Hungarian-speaking regions of Slovakia and Romania, the Kurdish areas of the Middle East, Northern Ireland, Sri Lanka, Rwanda, Sudan, Western Sahara and numerous other regions of Africa – the list goes on and on. Even Canada is not free of secessionist feeling, as we well know.

Now that NATO has set the precedent that states may unilaterally attack a country on behalf of a group seeking to secede, what is to prevent the Russians, the Chinese, the Pakistanis, even the Iraqis, among many others, from attacking and dismembering other sovereign states on behalf of oppressed minorities, however they might be defined? Sheer military power will again become the order of the day in international affairs.

Let me suggest a potential case which would closely parallel the Kosovo situation. There is every likelihood that in the near future, a Palestinian state will emerge in the West Bank and Gaza. Adjoining the West Bank is the Galilee, a territorially compact and distinct region (like Kosovo), which now has a slight Israeli Arab majority. What would happen if these people, kith and kin to the Palestinians across the border, decided to seek autonomy, or even union with the new state, and were prepared to back their demands by violence? This would lead to an Israeli response which would very likely involve civilian deaths. CNN would show us pictures of refugees fleeing their homes. How would North Americans respond? Would some suggest bombing Tel Aviv?

Israel is a democracy, and its Arab citizens are not subject to the type of repression ethnic Albanians have suffered at the hands of Milosevic. But we must remember that ethnic groups are not inspired solely by the desire to secure greater civil and political rights; after all, in the case both of the Kosovars and the Israeli Arabs, the states they might aspire to be part of – present-day Albania and a Palestine-to-be – do not even remotely resemble liberal pluralistic states. The motivation is irredentist nationalism, the desire to free themselves of "foreign" rule and join their ethnic compatriots in an adjoining state.

I wish to be perfectly clear: Every people has the right to self-determination, and this includes the Albanians in Kosovo and the Arabs in Israel. But from the vantage point of those defending the territorial integrity of a state, they would have to be considered, as some political scientists have stated, "fifth column minorities," if they wish to secede and join compatriots in neighboring states.

And there is no sense fooling ourselves: If the Serbs lose Kosovo, the Serbian minority in that province will be "cleansed" by the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) just as surely as Milosevic is attempting to destroy them. A KLA victory there will result in a Greater Albania. This is the only plausible outcome. The same holds true in the Israeli case; an Arab Galilee would be absorbed by an expanding Palestinian state. These are not going to become multicultural states.

Should demography trump all other considerations? Should the fact that one group outnumbers another in one part of a country – in a "zero-sum" situation where no one is willing to compromise (such as agreeing to a partition of territory) – mean that those with the fewer numbers have no claim to a historic homeland in which they used to be a majority? A place which may include the cultural and religious sites so important to their collective sense of nationhood?

After all, had such been the reaction of the world community in 1947-48, when Jews were a minority in the Palestine Mandate, no Jewish state could have emerged. And let's be honest: Although provoked by the aggression launched by neighboring Arab countries, the enlarged Israel that emerged contained as large a Jewish majority as it did because some "ethnic cleansing" was carried out by Jews as well as Arabs.

And let us not forget that in the latest round of Balkan wars, Serbs too have also been the victims of ethnic cleansing, most recently when they were driven out of the Krajina region of Croatia, an area they had inhabited for centuries. No one in the former Yugoslavia is free of guilt. (And, for that matter, following World War II, the Soviets, Poles and Czechs "cleansed" their territories of Germans.)

Western commentators have accused the Serbs of genocide. Let us be very precise when we use that word. It refers to the planned, systematic attempt to exterminate an entire people because of an ideologically motivated desire to eliminate them from the face of the earth. War atrocities, massacres and ethnic cleansing are brutal and horrible, and may result in the loss of even millions of lives, but they are not necessarily genocidal. Millions, after all, died in World War I, but other than the Turkish treatment of the Armenians, no genocide was involved.

Millions of German civilians were killed in World War II, and Hiroshima and Nagasaki were destroyed by atomic weapons. Were these war crimes? Many people have argued in the affirmative. Still, neither amounted to genocide. And neither, so far, do the brutalities in Kosovo, nor, despite what some propagandists have claimed, the Israeli treatment of Palestinians.

Serbia, a country of some 10 million people, is now being bombed by the most powerful alliance in history, representing some 780 million people. They, in turn, are wreaking havoc in Kosovo. Hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians are caught up in the war. We should do all we can to provide humanitarian aid to all of these people, both Albanians and Serbs. But we need to use our heads as well as our hearts in determining our position when it comes to a political settlement of this conflict.

Henry Srebrnik, an associate professor of political studies at the University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, P.E.I. specializes in comparative and ethnic politics.

Opinions

After the (matzah) ball

Every year Passover catches us unprepared – unprepared for the clean-up, unprepared for the enormous shopping spree that ensues, unprepared for the numbers of people – and did I mention, unprepared for the seder?

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

How can we prepare for a meaningful seder experience?

This year I went on a quest for a new Haggadah and found the Rabbinical Assembly Haggadah a good combination of text and commentary.

We also had recourse to the Haggadot of the Bratslaver Rebbe, Rabbi Shlomo Riskin and Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, as well as the sensitive introduction to the Haggadah written many years ago by Rabbi Louis Finkelstein of blessed memory.

But the one which caught my imagination was A Different Night: the Family Participation Haggadah, published by the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. This Haggadah is not an easy one to follow linearly, but each section has commentaries, activities, and illustrations which can be selected according to the audience. Great for beginners as well as *vatikim* ("old seder hands").

The most striking feature of this Haggadah is the collection of illustrations representing the four children. Each illustration is in itself a revelation of how artists have viewed the characters of each child, and what, in various historical periods, our assumptions are about what is good and bad, who is simple, and what kind of person does not know how to ask.

Arthur Syzk, (Poland, 1939) pictures the wise son as a mild scholar and the wicked as a booted country squire holding a riding crop; the one who does not know how to ask is a peasant.

In contrast, Tzvi Livni (Israel, 1955) depicts the wise son as a young Zionist wearing a knitted kippah, while the wicked son stands across from the symbols of the kibbutz settlement, a tower and a fence among others, unwilling to engage in *avodah* – a play on the word for work and prayer.

In the Rabbinical Assembly Haggadah, one cannot detect the gender of the children nor distinguish the different characteristics of each child. Each figure is the outline of a human body in the same four colors in various configurations.

In his powerful woodcut, Jacob Steinhardt (Germany, 1923) depicts the wise son as a rabbi, his finger raised to make a point. The simple son wears a dunce cap, and the one who does not know looks vacantly out of the picture. The wicked son, the most prominent figure, wears the kaiser's helmet and a sword.

Lola (United States, 1920) pictures the wicked son as a boxer. Nota Koslowsky (United States, 1944) portrays him as a cigarette-smoking lout, with a bottle peeking out of his coat pocket.

The immigrant family of the Chicago Haggadah (1879) portrays the wicked son at the table, smoking a cigarette and leaning back in his chair as he points to his parents as if to say: "This is for you, greeners, but not for me."

And the charming depiction of the four children in the Claymation Haggadah (Israel, 1985) has the wicked son backing away from the whole thing – a safety pin piercing his ear!

David Moss (1996) portrays the children as cards, and uses books to reflect each child's attitude. The wise son (the king) wears the crown of Torah and reads a book. The wicked son is a knight and uses the book as a saddle. The simple son (the page) carries a Torah and a wine cup. He does not even carry a book; the Torah is enough for him. The one who does not know how to ask is represented as a clown (the joker) juggling three balls and using the books as a footrest.

So in the Hartman Haggadah's many illustrations, we see the undesirables of each era: the soldier, the athlete, the emancipated Jew, the hippy/punk, the secular Jew, the assimilated Jew.

Only in the Rabbinical Assembly Haggadah are we challenged to find each aspect within ourselves, so that at each time and in every place we confront our own simpleness, refusal to ask, refusal to be included.

The seder ends with the hope that the messianic era will soon begin. The Hartman Haggadah ends with Moses Maimonides' eloquent and prayerful vision of that day:

"In that era there will be neither famine nor war, neither jealousy nor strife. Blessings will be abundant, comforts within the reach of all. The one preoccupation of the whole world will be to know the Lord. Hence Jews will be very wise, they will know the things that are now concealed and will attain an understanding of their Creator to the utmost capacity of the human mind, 'For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.'" Amen.

Serious Jews wanted

A friend of mine recently spent Pesach with his family in the United States. My friend is a member of a Conservative synagogue but his family is generally Orthodox – some belonging to modern Orthodox synagogues and others being more ultra – Orthodox in their beliefs. (I do not like these labels. I use them here for the sake of brevity only.)

Bruce Elman in Edmonton

My friend described with great delight how wonderful the seders were. Everyone took turns reading passages from the Haggadah. (He proudly pointed out that all of the children read Hebrew fluently, although some read with Ashkenazi pronunciation.) There was lots of singing. With everyone sharing their own particular tunes, parts of the Haggadah were chanted multiple times. And the children all had commentaries that they wanted to share with rest of the people at the seder.

There were many commentaries on the Four Sons section of the Haggadah. One young girl, who attended a Bais Yaakov (an Orthodox school for girls), read a d'var Torah from a binder that was a compilation of commentaries contributed by her classmates. This particular commentary on the Four Sons had been written by the classmate with the help of her father, a rabbi.

The commentary described the four sons. Speaking of the rashah (the rebellious son), the commentary read: "The rashah is the wicked son: He is like Reform rabbis who lead other Jews astray."

Apparently, a number of the people at the seder took issue with this statement and it created quite an uncomfortable moment at the seder. The girl's parents also expressed concern about the statement. My friend was extremely upset by it. And rightly so!

First of all, the statement is a gratuitous slap in the face of all Reform Jews. Surely, if one wants to characterize the rashah as one who leads other Jews astray, then any rabbi – regardless of whether they are Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, or ultra-Orthodox – who leads other Jews astray should be likened to the rashah. Here, Reform as a modifier for rabbi, is completely unwarranted and could only be designed to degrade and demonize all Reform Jews. It is out-and-out anti-Semitism.

Who is responsible for this? Well, certainly not this lovely young child. Certainly, the classmate's father – the rabbi – who wrote it or encouraged his daughter to do so, merits serious condemnation for what he is teaching his children. We cannot deal with what he teaches his family in the confines of his home. But here, he tried to infuse his ideas into the minds of other people's children, and that is wrong.

Perhaps, he should re-read Pirkei Avot (Chapters of Our Ancestors): "Scholars (and rabbis), be cautious with your words..." because of the potential negative consequences of your statements.

The teacher and the school, however, are at fault as well. The teacher supervised the compilation of the commentaries. She should have read them. If she did not, it was negligence. If she did read them, she should have rejected this one or, if she did not feel she could reject it, she should have conducted a lesson in class on why the commentary was objectionable. Of course, there is another all too likely possibility: She might have agreed with it. This is where the school come in: It should not allow the promotion of ideas such as those expressed in the commentary. Incidentally, there is no issue of academic freedom here. This is lashon hara and is forbidden by Halachah.

Furthermore, to permit the promotion of such ideas is a violation of another important principle of Halachah: respect for Klal Yisrael. In Pirkei Avot, we are told, "All Israel has a portion in the world to come." This means ALL Jews, regardless of synagogue membership or movement affiliation. Attacking other Jews – degrading and demonizing them – is a breach of the principle that all members of Klal Yisrael are required to treat others with respect, care and compassion.

Furthermore, we should do nothing to harm Klal Yisrael. Creating divisions within the Jewish community is detrimental to the welfare of the Jewish community and all its members. Our history is replete with instances where a crack in the Jewish unity brought about the demise of the community.

Finally, we should shed these artificial and inaccurate designations – Orthodox, Reform, Conservative – before they cause our downfall. It is not important the synagogue to which one belongs or the movement with which one affiliates. What matter most, is whether one is serious about Judaism and one's Jewishness.

As Rabbi Israel Kenner, of blessed memory, former Chief rabbi of Sydney, taught: "Our problem is not different Jews; our problem is indifferent Jews." What we need are more serious Jews regardless of their synagogue affiliation!

The Kosovo/Shoah comparison

I am writing this column a few days before Yom Hashoah. What you are about to read is not based on any special expertise of mine. The only judgment I can bring to the ongoing catastrophe in Kosovo is my personal experience with the brutalities of war, having lived for 2½ years under the Hitler dictatorship, and having access to books and articles about the region.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Recently on public television, I heard a fascinating discussion about the war that teachers of various American schools had with their pupils. They ranged from age 10 upwards into the highest grades of high school. All the teachers compared the Kosovo disaster with the Holocaust, and therefore, justified American and NATO participation in the widening conflict. The pupils showed an evident familiarity with the major facts of the Shoah and grasped one basic idea: innocent people were being slaughtered merely because of their identity, and not because of any crimes or inimical acts they had committed.

There was, of course, one other parallel on which the TV did not comment: the selection process that evidently had been taking place in that unhappy country; young men separated from their families, taken aside and shot. A look at the refugee camps shows, alas, a lamentable absence of young male faces.

A quick look at the catastrophe does indeed suggest the comparison with the Shoah, but a closer look belies it. Jews were killed simply because they were Jews – which involved even babies and the oldest old, their killing had no relationship to place or time. In Nazi eyes, being Jewish was the ultimate offence.

The situation in Kosovo is, in this regard, fundamentally different. Religious and cultural elements played some role (the Serbs being primarily Greek Orthodox, and most Kosovars primarily Muslim). But in the end, it is the question of territory and not Kosovar identity as such that is at stake, and this distinguishes the Shoah from the present crisis.

In this respect, it looks as if Slobodan Milosevic's policies are bearing fruit: Kosovo's being emptied of its occupants and the prospect of everyone returning to his or her former abode, is probably next to nil. Displacements are usually uni-directional and cannot be fully reversed; and this sad truth will probably apply to the present crisis as well. Kosovo is not likely to return to its former state.

While I am writing on this subject, another question is often asked of me: What was the record of the Serbs during the Nazi period? Is it true that they treated the Jews better than their neighbors? The Encyclopedia Judaica says no. Its government and people appeared to have fully co-operated with the Nazis and surrendered a large part of the Jewish population to the death camps. It is true, however, that a surprisingly large number of Jews were able to hide during the war – obviously with members of the Serb population – and were able to re-emerge into freedom when the war came to an end.

But Albania, overwhelmingly Muslim, did protect its Jews, and that is a memory to cherish.

The Kirshner File

Arafat will not declare statehood on May 4

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

For the past few months, Yasser Arafat has been preoccupied by the allure of Palestinian statehood.

Despite his repeated pledge to proclaim a state on May 4, the day the five-year transitional period of limited Palestinian autonomy under the Oslo accords runs out, Arafat will not likely do so.

Arafat and his associates from the Palestinian Authority (PA), notably Planning Minister Nabil Shaath and Palestinian Council Speaker Ahmed Queri, have referred to May 4 as a "sacred date," and have said that they have no alternative but to proceed on schedule with the declaration.

Yet all rhetoric aside, no one seriously expects Arafat to carry out his threat. He realizes that a unilateral declaration of statehood would hardly advance the Palestinian cause and might indeed retard it.

A postponement, however, would ultimately serve Palestinian interests. This, essentially, is the unequivocal message he has received during his travels in the past several months. World leaders, ranging from U.S. President Bill Clinton to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, have advised Arafat to negotiate statehood with Israel.

Objectively, there are several reasons why Arafat will exercise self-restraint.

An Israeli election looms on May 17, and if Arafat makes good on his promise to the Palestinian masses to declare statehood on May 4, he will most probably push crucial swing voters to cast their ballots for his nemesis, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is hostile to the idea of Palestinian sovereignty.

No one, least of all Arafat, has forgotten that Netanyahu owes his extremely slim victory in the 1996 election to these fickle Israelis. And they will surely back Netanyahu once again if Arafat plays his statehood card prematurely.

Furthermore, in order not to needlessly antagonize even dovish Israelis, Arafat will do everything in his power to suppress terrorism. There have been no such incidents during the election campaign, and according to Defence Minister Moshe Arens, the PA has of late thwarted a number of planned attacks by Hamas against Israeli civilians.

No one disputes the fact that Shimon Peres, the Labor party candidate, lost the last election because of a spate of Hamas and Islamic Jihad suicide bombings which claimed the lives of more than 59 persons. Arafat, simply, cannot afford a new round of terrorism.

In weighing his options, Arafat is also keenly aware of another factor in the equation, namely Israel's threat to annex parts of the West Bank it still occupies should he opt for statehood without its consent.

Both Netanyahu and Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon have strongly suggested that Israel would resort to annexation in the event of a unilateral declaration of independence (which Israel itself proclaimed in May 1948, touching off an Arab invasion).

If Israel annexes the remaining chunks of the West Bank still under its jurisdiction – the dream of Jewish settlers and their allies on the far right – the wobbly Oslo peace process will expire and the prospect of a viable Palestinian state will irretrievably vanish from sight.

At present, the PA holds approximately one-quarter of the West Bank. Under the terms of the October 1998 Wye memorandum, which Netanyahu froze when he dissolved his government and called for new elections, the Palestinians were supposed to gain control of 40 percent of the West Bank, with the vast majority of the Palestinian population, within 12 weeks.

But if Israel seizes 60 percent or less of the West Bank, the PA will be left with a non-contiguous rump of a state, a "toy state," in Palestinian parlance.

Yasser Arafat

Since the PA is seeking, at a minimum, 90 percent of the West Bank, Arafat knows full well that a unilateral declaration of statehood will be an empty, futile gesture, one that will win him friends neither in Israel nor in the West.

In 1988, when the PLO was still in a technical state of war with Israel, the Palestine National Council in Algiers officially declared statehood. In a strictly utilitarian sense, the declaration remained a dead letter. Arafat, obviously, has no intention of revisiting this formula.

In the meantime, Arafat – one of the shrewdest political operators in the region – is using the leverage of statehood to wring support from the United States, Canada and western Europe.

In February and again last month, Arafat met with Clinton in Washington. On both occasions, Clinton urged him to refrain from endangering the peace process by declaring a state unilaterally.

At their last meeting, which took place in the White House on March 23, Arafat reportedly agreed to accede to Clinton's wishes. In exchange, Clinton is said to have assured Arafat that he would use his influence to prod Israel into fulfilling its pledge to relinquish a further 11 percent of the West Bank.

Shortly after the Wye accord was signed and sealed, Israel transferred two percent of West Bank lands to the Palestinians and permitted the PA to open an airport in the Gaza Strip. Israel made these concessions after the PA promised to crack down on terrorism.

Instead of inspiring mutual trust, the Wye agreement unravelled in a welter of accusations and counter-accusations. Netanyahu, fighting to keep his government intact and trying to appease far-right cabinet ministers opposed to Wye, accused the PA of shirking on its commitment to combat terrorism.The PA , mistrustful of Netanyahu's motives, charged Israel with breaking the letter and spirit of Wye by releasing Palestinian common criminals rather than political prisoners.

Much to Arafat's satisfaction, the Clinton administration has all but sided with the PA in the acrimonious dispute over compliance with Wye.

Last February, in a testy public debate with the Israeli embassy's deputy chief of mission, Lenny Ben-David, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs, Martin Indyk, disputed his claim that the PA was not complying with Wye.

Since then, Dennis Ross, a senior American official who helped broker the 1997 Hebron accord, has said that Israeli settlement expansion in the West Bank is "very destructive" to the pursuit of peace.

Eager to widen the disagreement between Israel and the United States, and anxious to ingratiate himself with the Clinton administration, Arafat will do nothing drastic to upset his budding relationship with Washington (which has already committed great sums of financial aid to the PA). Arafat, therefore, will not declare unilateral independence come May.

His strategy with respect to Canada and the European Union is similar. Working on the assumption that "we will have an independent state sooner or later," Arafat was assured last month that a delay in proclaiming statehood would eventually yield beneficial results for the Palestinians.

In Ottawa, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien bolstered the Palestinian case when he implied that the outcome of talks between Israel and the PA should be a Palestinian state.

In Berlin, the European Union passed a resolution affirming the Palestinians' "unqualified" right to self-determination, "including the option of a state."

Circumstances have forced Arafat to defer a May 4 declaration of statehood. But clearly, the Palestinians are moving inexorably closer to achieving their historic objective.

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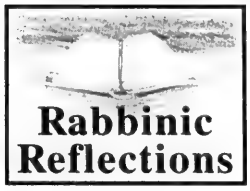

A daily mitzvah

By RABBI REUVEN TRADBURKS

The mitzvah of loving your neighbor as yourself, a mitzvah in this week's parshah, also applies to one's spouse.

In an interesting section of the Talmud, it states that one cannot marry a woman without first meeting her. Why? Because the Torah says, "Love your neighbor as yourself," and if you don't meet your wife first, you may find her objectionable, and hence violate this mitzvah.

I don't want to go into all the interesting side issues of the section of the Talmud – the issues of prearranged marriages, and the societal changes that have entirely altered our views of marriage.

However, the notion that loving your neighbor as yourself also applies to your spouse, is a great lesson. I know it's obvious, but the obvious is often neglected.

The Torah's mitzvot are concerned as much with the minute to minute behavior – language, honesty and time management – of husbands and wives, parents and children, as it is with the great moments of religious expression such as Yom Kippur and seder night.

Imagine the effort we make to fulfil the one mitzvah of telling the story of the Exodus from Egypt. We cook, we clean, we prepare, we set the table, think about how to involve the children and the guests, then spend a whole evening until late at night.

Love your neighbor as yourself

We have encountered hundreds of moments when we have the opportunity to perform interpersonal mitzvot of loving your neighbor as yourself, such as standing in line waiting for the cashier and being patient, and avoiding sarcastic and hurtful comments to wives, husbands and children. You can't fulfil the mitzvah of the seder at the expense of loving your neighbor as yourself.

Loving your neighbor as yourself is a mitzvah that we encounter literally hundreds of times a day: how we greet our husband as he walks in, how we speak to our children, how we compliment our wives for their hard work, how we smile, how we scowl, how we help out, how we use pleasant language, and how we express respect for accomplishments both professionally and in the home.

It is precisely the common and routine that present the greatest challenges when it comes to loving your neighbor. It is often easier to be pleasant, warm and friendly with business associates than with our wives, husbands or children.

While it is important to treat everyone with love, it is very easy to neglect the family, and especially one's wife, the person to whom one should show the most love.

Loving your neighbor as yourself is the great mitzvah of the Torah, because the benefits of doing it are so great, and the challenges of doing it right are so great.

Rabbi Tradburks is spiritual leader of Kehillat Shaarei Torah in Toronto.

A primer on Israeli elections

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

As Israelis prepare to vote on May 17, they'll be:

- sizing up hundreds of candidates for Knesset...
- choosing between 33 official political parties,
- scrutinizing five candidates for prime minister,
- and clicking through dozens of Web sites designed to steer voters through this complicated maze.

Even if you don't have a vote, you can benefit from the massive information available on the World Wide Web, and follow developments in this crucial election. Before next month's election, we'll check out the political parties' Web site and take a look at the candidates running for prime minister. But first, an introduction to politics, Israel style.

Understanding Israel's electoral system can be a bit daunting to a foreigner. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has put together an impressive site which explains the country's system of government and the events which led to the election call **[http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/go.asp?MFAH0d1c0]**.

A similar site (with a great name) is The Israeli Elections – Guide for the Perplexed **[http://israeliculture.miningco.com/library/weekly/aa022299.htm]**.

There are several online services that do an excellent job of following the latest news. In Hebrew, the popular Yedioth Aharonot **[http://www.elections-yedioth.co.il/]** has a gigantic site that even includes a daily online poll. The daily *Ha'aretz* doesn't have a separate election section, but the authoritative newspaper does translate many articles into its English edition **[http:// www3.haaretz.co.il/eng/]**.

Another good place to keep track of late news is at Yahoo **[http://headlines.yahoo.com/Full_Coverage/World/Israel_Elections/]** where you will also find links to articles in papers from around the world including the Arab press. Political junkies who need more, will appreciate the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's site **[http://www.jta.org/elect.htm]** as well as Israel Wire **[http://www.israelwire.com/elections.html]**.

But if I had to recommend one site that has just about everything, it would be the *Jerusalem Post's* Israel Elections 99 Primer **[http://www.jpost.co.il/Info/Elections99/index.shtml]**. This is a marvelous site with extensive background about the history, the issues and the people making news. Some recent articles focussed on a wide range of topics: how demographic changes in Israel could determine election results; a look at what Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinians are saying about the campaign; and whether political polling could affect election results. It's no wonder that the *Jerusalem Post* Web site is considered one of the best newspaper sites anywhere.

Every candidate has one goal in mind – to get to the Knesset. But you don't have to get elected to get there. All you need is a keyboard to enter the Knesset **[http://www.knesset.gov.il/knesset/englhome.htm]**. At this bilingual site, you can learn how Israel's parliament functions, and watch debates online (when in session). If you get tired, take a seat in the Chagall State Hall and watch a movie about those incredible mosaics and tapestries **[http://www.knesset.gov.il/knesset/tour/etour7.htm]**. You probably won't bump into any members of Knesset wondering down these virtual corridors but there are e-mail addresses for all MK's if you want to pass along some advice **[http://www.knesset.gov.il/knesset/mk/14/mkindex_eng.htm]**.

Next time, parties and personalities running for the 15th Knesset.

***

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at mdm@inforamp.net.

Jewish Life

Facts and imagination

***The River Midnight*, by Lilian Nattel (Random House of Canada, $32).**

The four major characters of this engrossing first novel are women who are referred to as *vilda hayas*, wild animals. They are exuberant, filled with life – each determined to find happiness in her own way.

Books
Bernard Baskin

This quest for joy in life isn't easy in Blaszka, a Polish shtetl in late 19th-century Poland. The most colorful and free-spirited of the quartet is the divorced Misha. She is the village mid-wife, dispenser of herbs, and keeper of all the town secrets – including the identity of the father of her child whom she delivers publicly on the very eve of Yom Kippur.

Hannah-Leah, wife of Hershel the butcher, manages to find a measure of happiness, even though she is constantly troubled by her childlessness.

Instead of becoming a teacher, her childhood dream, Faygele, who has the soul of a writer, ends up as the mother of five with a daughter who is arrested for subversive political activities.

Zisa Sarah emigrates to America where she dies. Her orphaned children return home where they are raised by Alta Fruma, one of the shtetl's most resilient and complex characters.

The story of these women and their families is deftly and skillfully interwoven, against the background of a community – still living in the shadow of pogroms – rife with beliefs in spirit, demons and the fearful realm of the supernatural.

The menfolk, less central to the novel's action, nonetheless present vivid figures – from Rabbi Berekh, influenced more than he knows by Misha, to Hayim the feckless water-carrier.

All of Blaszka must eventually confront and come to terms with the violent changes of the new century, when all beliefs and ideas are challenged by the irreverent rush of modernity.

The River Midnight, researched and written over a three-year period, brings to mind such writers as Isaac Bashevis Singer, I.L. Peretz and Shalom Aleichem, but the author has her own distinctive literary style and a singular approach to the mysteries and intricacies of shtetl life.

Nattel, 42, the daughter of Polish-born Holocaust survivors, was born in Montreal and now lives in Toronto.

This novel, already widely praised, is a splendid achievement. It is a combination of fact and imagination that conjures up a rich, multi-layered half-forgotten world.

* * *

***Prisoner 88, the Man in Stripes*, by Roy D. Tanenbaum (University of Calgary Press – paperbound).**

Sigmund Sobolewski is an angry elderly man who is feisty, outspoken and courageous. He denounces racists, excoriates Holocaust deniers and demands that the Catholic Church – his church – ceases sanitizing or interpreting the Holocaust as less than the horror it was.

He remains irrepressible in his self-appointed mission, despite the disapproval of family and community members.

Sobolewski spent 55 months in Auschwitz and suffered the depredations of the Nazis. As a member of the camp fire brigade, he saw the valiant attempt of the participants in the failed Sonderkommando revolt at crematorium IV at Auschwitz.

Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum of Toronto's Beth Tzedec Synagogue, met and worked with the subject of his biography in Calgary, where Sobolewski created the Auschwitz Awareness Society of Canada.

In his striped camp uniform, No. 88 is an unsung hero, unceasing in his denunciation of those who would downscale or deny the Jewish tragedy.

The author recounts this story in a manner that is unflaggingly absorbing. This inspiring life story of an indomitable personality is available at Toronto Jewish book stores.

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2. To receive the financial report of the Corporation.
3. To appoint auditors.
4. To transact such further and other business as may properly come before the meeting, or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

DATED AT TORONTO,
THIS 14TH DAY OF APRIL, 1999
David Posluns, Secretary

Fackenheim says Holocaust museum should be devoted to Jews only

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

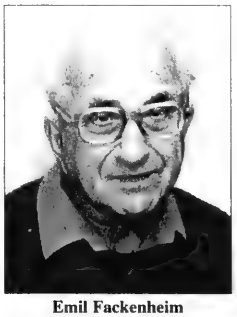
TORONTO — A Holocaust museum in Ottawa should be devoted only to the memory of the six million Jews killed by the Nazis, said Emil Fackenheim, professor emeritus of philosophy, University of Toronto.

The 83-year-old internationally famous academic gave this answer to a question posed by Gerda Freiberg, former chair of the Ontario region, Canadian Jewish Congress.

Freiberg, an activist for the museum, said the Canadian government has promised land in Ottawa for a Holocaust museum, but recent events indicate there is a desire by some groups to memorialize the tragedies in Rwanda, Somalia and Serbia.

"Should we insist that it be for the Holocaust?" she asked

"As a German Jew, I say there is a sharp difference between the Holocaust and what is going on in other places," said Fackenheim. "They murdered six million Jews. Why did they resort to murder?



Emil Fackenheim

Because they said our race was inferior to the Aryans. This is a fundamental difference. It can't be sidestepped or ignored. It ought to be stated that such a thing can never happen again."

In his reply, Fackenheim, a Fellow at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, who now lives in Israel, said the late Leo Baeck and Primo Levi, who both survived the Holocaust, were the "ultimate witnesses" to its tragedy.

Earlier, in his lecture at York University, on Why is the Holocaust Unique? Fackenheim said that Baeck, his former teacher, took his secrets to the grave because he did not want to alarm the British liberal Jewish community, and that Levi committed suicide because of the Holocaust.

The senate chamber at York University had a standing room only audience for his address. It was hosted by Prof. Anne Bayefsky, director, Centre for Refugee Studies.

He recounted how his one-legged uncle, Adoph, in his native town of Halle, had been insulted by the Nazis. Fackenheim had learned on a visit in 1993, that his uncle had been transported to Buchenwald and eventually murdered on orders of Heinrich Himmler.

"Himmler believed it was cowardly just to murder adult Jews, so he killed babies too."

On his planned trip to Halle next year to get an honorary degree, Fackenheim said he would teach the Germans about the English word "recovery".

He said Germany has to "recover" its golden age of the past and that the Jewish people need a "recovery" to ancient values.

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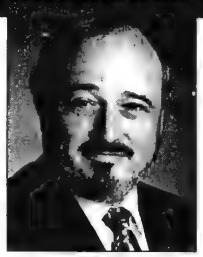

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Shock, sadness in Croatia

By JILL CRACOWER
Special to The CJN

Every morning for the past few weeks, I have awakened to find the front page of the newspaper devoted to the Kosovo crisis. Every evening, pictures of war flash before me on the television news. Never before has a news issue both touched and angered me as much as this one.

Guest Voices

I spent one month last summer in Croatia. Three classmates and I volunteered at an orphanage just outside Zagreb, which houses children whose parents either were killed or are unable to care for them as a result of the recent war. Many of my family and friends were surprised to hear where I was going, seeing Croatia as an unlikely summer destination for a "nice Jewish girl."

I was not quite sure what Croatia would be like, and like my family and friends, I was a bit nervous to be venturing off to a country so recently touched by war. But to my surprise, Croatia is a country filled with natural beauty and friendly people. The clear blue water of the Adriatic is a great source of pride to Croatians, and is just one of the many natural wonders that used to attract many European tourists to the country.

While Zagreb, with its beautiful opera house and European charm was virtually untouched by the war, signs of battle are evident in other parts of the country.

One sweltering day in May, the four of us, as well as some children and workers from the orphanage, took a four-hour drive to the city of Vukovar, a Serbian stronghold during the war. Before entering the city, we were told that it had been destroyed in its entirety.

Despite this, when we arrived, I could not believe what I saw before my eyes. Almost every home, school and building had been utterly ruined; the luckiest of them just had bullet holes in its walls.

Driving through the town, however, was a mere preface for what I was about to see at the Red Cross station. There, tents were set up, where workers performed tasks such as sorting through dead bodies and their possessions and building crosses for the fallen soldiers' graves.

Behind all the tents was a huge pit, a mass grave. My stomach was in knots, my body numb. I did not know that it was possible to experience such utter shock and sadness at the same time. And as our visit proceeded, visions and thoughts of the Holocaust plagued my mind.

Ever since elementary school, I have been exposed to movies, pictures and the complete history of the Holocaust. I always felt a certain sadness in knowing that six million of my fellow Jews were murdered for no rational or comprehensible reason. I also know how lucky I am that my grandparents were able to leave Europe during the war. But I was never truly able to fathom what the Holocaust was all about.

The fact that the Holocaust was covered in such great depth in high school is proof of how strong our community is, especially here in Montreal. From what I have observed, Jews are not only bonded by religion, but also by history and to some extent, by culture. Not only do Jews have the intent of preserving our distinct history and learning from it, but we also seem to have an intrinsic capacity and desire to help other Jews, to come to their aid in good times and in times of trouble. It is this commitment to our common history and to our fellow Jews which has kept the Jewish nation alive for thousands of years.

But do we not also have a responsibility as human beings to help our neighbors regardless of their religion? Can we, as a people, not relate to the tremendous suffering incurred by the people of Croatia, and can we not relate to the people of Kosovo and commit ourselves to bettering their situation?

Of course, there are Jews who support worldwide crises such as the one occurring in the former Yugoslavia. However, it seems like these "non-Jewish" catastrophes have never truly been our focus. And I am left asking why.

We constantly reiterate the words, never again; we cannot let such an atrocity as the Holocaust happen again. However, Vukovar's destruction is proof that holocausts are presently happening all over the world.

So while people, especially family and Jewish acquaintances may have been shocked to hear that I was going to Croatia last summer, I learned a lot about myself as a Jew. Some of the kids at the orphanage didn't know what being Jewish meant, Croatia being a predominantly Catholic country.

However, I learned there that Croatians and Jews are more connected than we think. Both Jews and Croatians are infinitely proud of their culture and homelands and devoted to their religion. What is unfortunate, however, is that one of our most blatant connections is a history of genocide.

Jill Cracower is a first year medical student at McGill University.

MINYANIM IN THE GTA
WEEK OF APRIL 23-29/'99

Synagogue	Address & Tel.	Fri. Night	Shabbat	Sun. A.M.	Daily A.M.	Daily P.M.
Adath Sholom (C)	864 Sheppard Ave. W. (416) 635-0131	----------	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	8:00 AM	----------
Aish HaTorah (O)	949 Clark Ave. W. (905) 764-1818	7:52 PM	8:45 AM	8:00 AM	6:30 AM	8:00 PM
Beth HaMinyan (C)	70 Ridge Hill Dr. (416) 785-3655	----------	9:30 AM	----------	----------	----------
Beth Sholom (C)	1445 Eglinton Ave. W. (416) 783-6103	7:00 PM	8:45 AM	8:30 AM	7:30 & 9:00 AM	7:00 PM
Beth Torah (C)	47 Glenbrook Ave. (416) 782-4495	----------	9:00 AM	----------	----------	----------
Chabad of Markham (O)	83 Green Lane (905) 886-0420	7:52 PM	9:30 AM	8:30 AM	6:45 AM	8:00 PM
Emunah Shleima (O)	4120 Bathurst St. (416) 638-6115	8:00 PM	8:45 AM	8:00 AM	7:00 AM	8:00 PM
Shaarei Tefillah (O)	3600 Bathurst St. (416) 787-1631	8:02 PM	8:45 AM	8:30 AM	6:30 & 7:30 AM	8:00 PM
Temple Har Zion (R)	7360 Bayview Ave. (905) 889-2252	8:30 PM	10:30 AM	9:00 AM	7:15 AM	----------
Tifereth Yisrael (O)	756 Sheppard Ave. W. (416) 487-4161	7:47 PM	8:30 AM	8:00 AM	Mon. Thurs. 6:30 AM Tues. Wed. Fri. 6:45 AM	8:00 PM

This is not a comprehensive listing of the synagogues in the Greater Toronto area. The information is provided by the Vaad Harabonim of Toronto and the Toronto Board of Rabbis. The Vaad and the Board will periodically revise the listings. For statutory holidays, please call the Synagogue for any changes in times.

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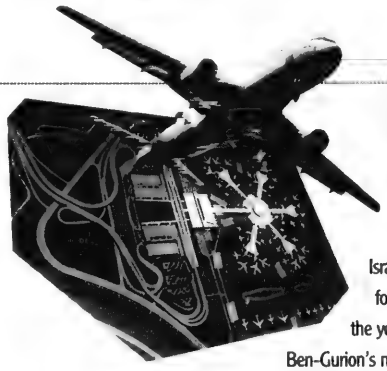


Bonds are There!

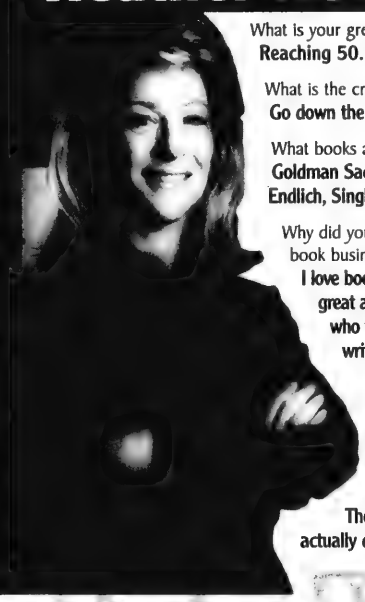
Ben-Gurion Airport Israel's gateway to the future

The Government of Israel has approved plans for a massive upgrading of Ben-Gurion Airport and declared the initiative a "National Project." B.G. 2000 has been born.

Israel Bonds investments will be used, in part, to realize this $1 billion initiative. The new Ben-Gurion Airport will be a portal for hundreds of thousands of new Olim and tourists to partake of the richness and splendor of EretzYisrael. By the middle of the year 2000, the Israel Airport Authority is forecasting days when 53,000 – 67,000 passengers per day will pass through Ben-Gurion's new terminals.

A short interview with Heather Reisman

President and CEO, Indigo Books, Music & Cafe and Proud supporter of Israel Bonds



What is your greatest achievement in life?
Reaching 50. Feeling wonderful about life.

What is the craziest thing you ever did?
Go down the Olympic bobsled run in Calgary.

What books are you currently reading?
Goldman Sachs – The Culture of Success by Lisa Endlich, Single & Single by John Le Carré

Why did you get involved in the book business?
I love books and I love the idea of building a great and lasting company in service of those who value books, ideas, and the people who write them.

What personality traits do you most admire in other people?
Generosity of spirit, positive open attitude, the drive to create.

What is your most prized possession?
Though I enjoy wonderful things, I actually don't "prize" possessions.

If you only had three items in your refrigerator, what would they be?
Fresh orange juice, great cheeses, grilled eggplant salad.

Who are your idols? Why?
Again, I don't have "idols". The person I most respect in the world is my husband, Gerald Schwartz.

What is the most important legacy we can leave for our children?
A valued and respected family name; a feeling within them of self-worth and the ability to thrive; a country celebrated for its tolerance and spirit of can-do.

What is your favorite vacation?
Turkish coast.

What is the toughest business obstacle you ever faced?
Choosing to compete against an entrenched monopoly.

How do you account for success?
A willingness to work hard and a strong desire to create something meaningful.

What factors contributed to your own success?
My husband whose support has been totally invaluable throughout my work life.

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jewish toronto

Israel Funwalk 99 Filled With Surprises!

Some things old...some things new...and some things nobody will even talk about. That's what in store for participants in the UJA Federation Israel Funwalk 99, Sunday, May 30th.

"After last year's tremendous turnout, we're pulling out all the stops to make sure this year's Walk is even better," says Fran Grundman, who is co-chairing Funwalk 99 with Harvey Cooperberg and Corey Mandel. "People will just have to come out and see for themselves what we've got planned."

Last year, over 15,000 community members stepped out for the largest Walk for Israel in UJA Federation history, raising a record $250,000 for Jews in need. The historic event ended at Ontario Place with a community-wide celebration of Israel's 50th anniversary.

This year's Walk, which also begins at Nathan Phillips Square and ends at Ontario Place, includes a modified route through old downtown Jewish Toronto, an additional checkpoint and a clothing drive run by Jewish Family and Child Service's Just A Second Shop. A brand new Walk web site *www.feduja.org/funwalk99* features up-to-date information on everything from Walk trivia to incentive programs. Visitors can even click on to the various checkpoints to learn about their geographical significance to the Jewish community. For example, did you know that Nathan Phillips Square was named after Toronto's first Jewish Mayor?

But participants can also expect the unexpected such as never-seen-before entertainment at Nathan Phillips Square, presented by Corey Mandel Entertainment, surprise celebrity guests at various checkpoints and tons of goodies and prizes along the way.

One secret too good to keep is a special appearance by Steven Page of the Bare Naked Ladies, who will be performing at Nathan Phillps Square along with Liberty Silver and The Satrs Band. The Festival at Ontario Place will feature a gigantic kosher BBQ, live entertainment and representatives of UJA Federation beneficiary agencies.

Fran Grundman

Harvey Cooperberg

Corey Mandel

"This a great opportunity to educate thousands of UJA Federation supporters about where their contributions go locally," says Cooperberg.

Special recruitment programs, such as the Bub-n-Zaid-a-thon, offer participants of all ages chances to win great prizes. Walkers over age 18 who trek in groups of 10 or more are also eligible to win prizes by registering at Nathan Phillips Square.

For every $25 raised before Friday May 14th, participants will receive a free pass to Ontario Place valid on the day of the Walk, as well as a free Roots Funwalk t-shirt while supplies last. Walkers who raise $50 by Friday, May 14th will have their names entered in a draw to win a free ticket to Israel courtesy of El Al Israel Airlines, Raptors, Maple Leaf and Blue Jay tickets, movie passes, sports equipment and much more. For every $500 raised, walkers will win a Nintendo Gameboy.

Recruitment volunteers have already begun distributing Israel Funwalk 99 sponsorship kits at dozens of Jewish day and supplementary schools around the GTA. All others can pick up their kits at UJA Federation offices, 5th floor, 4600 Bathurst Street, the Bathurst Jewish Centre or the Bloor JCC.

For more information or to volunteer call (416) 631-5700.

Thousands converged on the streets of downtown Toronto at last year's Israel 50 Funwalk.

Around jewish toronto

uja federation women's installation

Congratulations to Carole Sterling, the 1999/2000 UJA Federation Women's Campaign Chair. Sterling, who takes over from outgoing Chair Judy Engel, served as Vice-Chair of the 1998 Women's Campaign and Co-chair of the 1997 Walk for Israel. UJA Federation's Women's Campaign raises $4 million annually.

b'yachad

Close to 200 young Jewish adults from across Canada, including 100 Torontonians, recently participated in the Canadian Young Leadership Conference held at Toronto's Inn on The Park Hotel. In addition to educational speakers and interactive workshops, participants enjoyed a traditional Shabbat dinner and Saturday dance party in the city's downtown core. Pictured below: B'yachad participants Eugene Schwartz and Barbara Teboul.

Photo: Stephen Epstein.

award winner

Congratulation's to Julia Koschitzky, who recently received the prestigious Volunteer Service Award at Queen's Park. Koschitzky, one of 20 award recipients, was nominated by UJA Federation for her many years of service, especially her accomplishments as Chair of Toronto's Israel at 50 celebrations last year.

community remembers

To commemorate Yom Hashhah, more than two thousand community members turned out on April 13th for a solemn service under a tent at Earl Bales Park. Remembered were the victims of the Holocaust, survivors, righteous gentiles, Jewish resistance fighters and the allied forces who fought in World War II.

AGENCY RELIEF

The Jewish Agency for Israel
FROM THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL
TO THE PEOPLE OF KOSOVO
U.J.A. K.H. The Israel Spirit
FLIGHT OPERATED BY
ISRAEL

Israeli cargo plane being loaded with Jewish Agency supplies bound for Albania.
Photo: Courtesy of The Canadian Jewish News.

By Adi Neuberger

After delivering over 100 Moslem Kosovar refugees from Macedonia to Israel last week, the Jewish Agency, supported by the worldwide UJA Federation Network, is intensifying its humanitarian relief to Kosovar refugees.

"We will continue to send planes filled with supplies to Albania as long as there is a need," said Salai Meridor, Chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency, in an interview with *jewish toronto*. "It's just the right thing to do."

As the refugee crisis in Albania grew, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called Meridor directly to ask the Jewish Agency to intervene. "It took only minutes for our board to approve our mission and in a matter of hours we were ready to act," explained Meridor, who became the head of the Agency just a few weeks ago.

The Jewish Agency, has sent five flights carrying food, blankets, tents and medical supplies to refugee camps throughout Albania and Macedonia. Over $750,000 was raised at a refugee relief rock concert, co-sponsored by the Agency in Tel Aviv. Israelis have also donated $1 million through the UJA Federation affiliated Spirit of Israel Campaign toward the purchase of supplies and transportation costs for the relief effort.

"The response from Israelis, as well Jews around the world, has been overwhelming," noted Meridor. "Without the Agency's strategic partnership with Jewish communities in every country, we could not have mounted such an effective collective response. The difference between now and 50 years ago when Jews were being slaughtered is that now we can rescue ourselves and help others," he added.

The Agency is also working closely with other humanitarian relief agencies, such as the Joint Distribution Committee, which is caring for 250 Belgrade Jews who fled to Budapest, Hungary last month.

Over the past three weeks, the Jewish Agency has sponsored pilot trips for nearly 200 Yugoslavian Jews considering aliyah. The mercy mission, which brought Moslem Kosovar refugees to Israel for a six-month stay, arrived on Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day. "The atmosphere at Ben Gurion Airport was filled with emotion," recalled Jewish Agency spokesman Michael Jankelowitz, one of dozens of Agency and government officials who greeted the new arrivals.

Immediately following the mission of mercy, which took place as Jews around the world marked Holocaust Remembrance Day, an additional 80 Jewish refugees from Belgrade arrived in Israel as temporary guests of the Jewish Agency's Department of Immigration. The group of young adults and mothers with children,, is participating in a pilot project to examine options for making aliyah in the future. Two additional flights of Jews from Belgrade are arriving this week.

"Not only do we refuse to remain silent," Meridor emphasized, "we are opening our hearts and our doors to those who are suffering."

jewish toronto

UJA Fund Grows

Members of Toronto's Jewish community have heard the calls for help from Kosovar refugees thousands of miles away. Now they're calling by the hundreds to donate money to UJA Federation's Kosovo Relief Fund.

Money raised locally and by UJA Federation campaigns across Canada is being channeled to the Jewish Agency in support of a major humanitarian relief effort underway in Albania. Donations in Toronto can be made by calling (416) 631-5705 or by mailing a cheque to UJA Kosovo Relief Fund, 4600 Bathurst Street, Toronto, M2R 3V2. To date, over $25,000 has been raised.

For many, the decision to reach out has as much to do with images from the past as the harsh reality of the present.

"I couldn't stand by and do nothing while watching history repeat itself," explains Robin Kachuck, who made a contribution shortly after receiving a fax from UJA Federation. "As Jews we have a responsibility to all humanity," notes Richard Sacks. "Our support is the best way to teach our children valuable lessons from the past."

"I feel an obligation to react strongly whenever people are threatened because of their race, religion or ethnicity, adds Howard Tanenbaum, who along with Jillian Pivnick and several other donors, responded to Beth Tzedec's Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl plea for community action during a recent sermon.

Frydman-Kohl urged his congregants to make contributions to the fund equivalent to the cost of having two more guests at the Seder table. "I thought it was a very effective way to motivate people to give," adds Pivnik. "I'm very confident UJA Federation will make sure the money goes where it's needed."

An elderly Kosovar woman in an Albanian refugee camp drinks coffee sweetened with milk from Israel.
Photo: Courtesy of The Canadian Jewish News.

An Eyewitness Account

For 32-year-old Zeljko Mrcarica and his family, life in Nis, 240 km south of Belgrade, has become a surreal juxtaposition of incessant aerial bombing attacks and routine daily life. In an e-mail interview with jewish toronto, *Mrcarica shared some of his most recent experiences.*

"I go to work everyday," explains Mrcarica, an associate professor of electrical engineering at the University of Nis. "My office is one of the only ones left intact after bombs destroyed a nearby tobacco company but it's hard for me to concentrate on my research," he confesses. "I spend most of my time reading e-mails about the war."

"We still receive salaries and one can buy necessities and groceries in the stores except for fruits and I have enough petrol for my car."

But that's where normalcy ends for Mrcarica, his wife Jasna and son Markov, who celebrated his 2nd birthday on April 6th with less pomp than befits a youngster's birthday party. "All the guests came separately because it is very dangerous and complicated to travel while air raids are going on," explains Mrcarica. "The risk is too big if many people gather in buildings and something terrible happens.

"Spending more time with my son is the best thing to come out of this war – the only time I feel good is when I take him to the playground – that is, until the sirens go and Markov gets frightened. We tell him that the train is passing by.

"For me, I just want to go to sleep and wake up from this nightmare – a nightmare that takes place in the middle of the day."

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Hadassah-WIZO supports new program for autistic kids

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Hadassah-WIZO is supporting a new assessment, treatment and research program for autistic children in Israel.

The program, which began last September, is run by renowned cognitive psychologist Reuven Feuerstein at the Hadassah-WIZO of Canada Research Institute in Jerusalem for children with autism, a lifelong neurological disorder that affects speech, communication, social interaction and behavior.

The institute has been involved in educational work with Feuerstein since 1957, particularly in the area of Down syndrome.

"He's a magician. His sense of understanding of human beings and human behavior is far, far beyond what any of us understand. His success rate is absolutely phenomenal," said Pat Alpert, national Hadassah-WIZO president.

She has met with Feuerstein on many occasions and is particularly impressed by the fact that some of his former students with Down syndrome progressed to the point of being able to serve in the IDF.

In Canada, she noted, some of Feuerstein's methods have been used in the penal system and with the aboriginal population. Feuerstein will speak at Hadassah-WIZO's national convention in Ottawa this November.

Last November, along with a busload of executive members of Hadassah-WIZO from across Canada, Alpert visited the research institute to meet with its staff and observe the new program's severely autistic children, who range in age from eight to 12. There are currently about three dozen children in the program. Eventually, it is anticipated it will serve 100.

"I feel very blessed that I have healthy children," said Alpert. "But I also feel it's really a privilege that one is able to help children, to heal children, and to enable them to progress...I feel proud that we're part of it."

Pat Alpert, left, national Hadassah-WIZO president, has spoken with Dr. Reuven Feuerstein many times about his work with children.

Ontario honors older persons

TORONTO — Three well-known Toronto Jews were among 48 Ontarians honored at a special ceremony at Hart House marking the International Year of Older Persons.

Citations were presented to Robert Engel, Sadie Rose and Dr Ricky Kanee Schachter by Hilary M. Weston, lieutenant-governor of Ontario, and Cam Jackson, minister of long-term care.

Engel was honored for his contributions to the scouting movement, Rose for her volunteer work at the Bernard Betel Centre, and Schachter for her service to teaching and medical education.

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Theresa Tova

Thursday, May 6th, 1999

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Judy Csillag, (416) 785-2500 ext. 2009

This community event is part of a conference, "Caring for the Aging Holocaust Survivor" presented by Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care and sponsored by Allan & Patricia Friedland and Family

Adath Israel Congregation
In Memorium

Mr. Alex Koenigsberg ז"ל

Thursday, April 29, 1999
at 8:00 p.m.

A Memorial Service will be conducted by Rabbi Erwin Schild, Rabbi Steven Saltzman and Cantor A. Eliezer Kirshblum with participation of the Koenigsberg family.

THE COMMUNITY IS INVITED

37 Southbourne Avenue, North York, Ontario

UJA announces nominees for board of directors

TORONTO – Sandra Brown, Nominations Committee chair for UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, has announced the nominees for the Board of Directors, Board of Governors and Individual Representatives to Council.

Elections will be held during UJA Federation's annual meeting on Wednesday, June 2 at the Associated Hebrew Schools, 300 Atkinson Avenue, Thornhill, 7:30 pm.

In accordance with the bylaws, the governance consists of a Council, the President, a Board of Governors, and a Board of Directors. An Executive Committee will be elected by the Board of Directors from among the Directors. No nominations can be made from the floor during the annual meeting. However, any member of the Jewish community may be placed in nomination by complying with the following bylaws:

"Only members of the Federation who have made a financial commitment to the United Jewish Appeal in respect of the previous year, and are in good standing with the United Jewish Appeal, shall be eligible to serve as an Individual or Group Representative on the Council.

"Any 20 Representatives may nominate any individual member of the Federation for election to the Board of Directors and the position of President, provided that: (a) any one Individual Representative may nominate not more than three nominees for election to the Board of Directors; (b) such nominations shall be in writing and accompanied by the written consent of the nominee; and (c) such nominations shall be delivered to the Federation at least 21 days before the annual meeting of Council.

"Any seven Individual or Group Representatives may nominate any Individual or Group Representative of the Federation for election to the Board of Governors, provided that: (a) any one Representative may nominate not more than three nominees for election to the Board of Governors; (b) such nominations shall be in writing and accompanied by the written consent of the nominee; and (c) such nominations shall be delivered to the Federation at least 21 days before the annual meeting of Council.

"Any seven members may nominate any individual member of the Federation for election to the Council provided that: (a) any one member may nominate not more than three nominees for election to the Council; (b) such nominations shall be in writing and accompanied by the written consent of the nominee; and (c) such nominations shall be delivered to the Federation at least 21 days before the annual meeting of Council."

Nominated for President is Alan Sandler. Nominees for Board of Directors include: Rosanne Ain, Dov Altman, Tammy Anklewicz, Barbara Bank, David Barkin, Donald Bennett, Messod Boussidan, Sandra Brown, Karen Chisvin, Dr. Richard Cummings, Michael Daren, Peter Ekstein, Helen Finder-Guttman, Garry Foster, Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, Robert Furman, Leslie Gales, Norman Godfrey, Marty Goldberg, Louis Greenbaum, Michael Herman, Alison Himel, Marshall Kesten, Igor Korenzvit, David Koschitzky, Dr. Harry Krakowsky, Janice Langer, Elaine Lightstone, Glennie Lindenberg, Dr. Jack Mintz, Stephen Morrison, Barry Naiberg, Elliott Peranson, Naomi Rose, Dr. Ralph Shedletsky, Randy Shiff, Cyrel Troster, George Weinberger, Terri Weintraub and Shirley Worth.

Nominees for Individual Representatives for the Board of Governors include the above named Directors, as well as the following Individual Representatives:

Dr. Irving Abella, Mark Berenblut, Stuart Berkowitz, David Berman, Austin Beutel, Eric Bornstein, Robert Cherniak, Gloria Clamen, Helen Daniels, Roz Davidson, Jeff Dermer, Wendy Eisen, Judy Engel, Stephen Freedhoff, Henry Goldbach, Jeffrey Goldfarb, David C. Green, David Y. Green, Michael Halbert, Cheryl Jackson, Debbie Kimel, Ruth Ladovsky, Harold Lederman, Thomas Lobel, Susan Maldoff, Agi Mandel, Michael Miller, Neil Nisker, Murray Perelman,

Dr. Miriam Rosenberg, Ellen Rosenbluth, Kurt Rothschild, Honey Sherman, Eileen Silver, Marsha Slavens, Dr. Howard Stevens, Francie Storm, Barry Tissenbaum, Dodi Weill and Charles Winograd.

Nominees for Group Representatives for the Board of Governors include: David Barkin, Philip Ber, Ralph Berger, Elliott Berman, Harvey Bernstein, David Wm. Brown, Vicki Campbell, Chuck English, Toby Feldberg, Elaine Fink, Gerald Goldberg, Sheldon Goodman, Dr. Irving Gottesman, Norman Grill, Ronald Hoffman, Jeffrey Kaufman, Warren Kimel, James Klein, Stanley Kugelmass, Dr. Howard Langer, Bruce Leboff, Lorraine Levene, Eleanor Levine, Dr. David Lewis, Susan Maldoff, Guidy Mamann, Dr. Morris (Mickey) Milner, Rochelle Rosenblum, Lawrence Rosenfield, Marvin Sadowski, David Sefton, Sue Shillow, Sheila Smolkin, Joan Stevens, Jeff Toledano, Jeffrey Wagman, Esta Wall, Beth Werger, Jack Zarek and Sol Zigler.

Life members of the Board of Governors are the following Past Presidents: Ronald Appleby, Sandra Brown, Donald Carr, Jack Chisvin, Charles Diamond, Dr. Arnold A. Epstein, Irving Feldman, Arthur Gelber (deceased), Bernard Ghert, Phil Granovsky (deceased), Milton Harris, Wilfred Posluns, Jack Rose, Herb Rosenfeld, Samuel J. Sable, Joseph Steiner and Rose Wolfe.

The following Individual Representatives are to be elected for a two-year term 1999-2001 to the Federation Council: Dr. Irving Abella, Stephen Altbaum, Sandra Atlin, Calvin Avertick, Brent Belzberg, Mark Berenblut, Eric Bornstein, Michael Bowman, Michael Buckstein, Gloria Clamen, Robert Cohen, Samuel Cohen, Stephen Cole, Helen Daniels, Jeff Dermer, William Draimin, Elliott Eisen, Wendy Eisen, Judy Engel, Sheila Engel, Michael Florence, Stephen Freedhoff, Gerda Frieberg, Henry Goldbach, David C. Green, David Y. Green, Aaron Grubner, Michael Harris, Dr. Saul Kendal, Jules Kronis, Harold Lederman, Beverly Lyons, Susan Maldoff, Agi Mandel, Leslie Miller, Michael Miller, Karen Morton, Alan Mostyn, Harvey Naglie, Paul Nightingale, Allan Offman, Clifford Orwin, Elisa Palter, Murray Perelman, Joel Reitman, Dr. Miriam Rosenberg, Ellen Rosenbluth, Riva Rosenfeld, Benjamin Rubin, Lorraine Sandler, Honey Sherman, Eileen Silver, Brian Simon, Marsha Slavens, Ralph Snow, Dr. Howard Stevens, Francie Storm, Barry Tissenbaum, Dodi Weill and Judy Wolfe.

In addition to the Individual Representatives listed, each Group Member of the Federation shall be entitled to two representatives on the Council (Group Representatives). Any Group Member which has membership in good standing in excess of 100 persons residing in the Greater Toronto Area shall be entitled to one additional Group Representative on the Council. "Group" means any charitable, educational, social, cultural, religious or recreational agency, organization or congregation, unincorporated or incorporated (without share capital) whose activities are carried out primarily in the Greater Toronto Area (including the main Greater Toronto Area branch or division of national organizations), having a Jewish membership of at least 25 persons, or such other agency or organization which may be accepted by the Directors.

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, April 26 is deadline for May 6 issue and Monday, May 3, is deadline for May 13. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Friday, April 23

ONEG SHABBAT

Beach Hebrew Institute, 109 Kenilworth Ave., Oneg Shabbat in celebration of Israel's Independence Day, service 7:30 p.m. led by **David Edwards**.

Saturday, April 24

YOM HA'ATZMAUT

Dance and sing the night away with **Mickey Lewin, Limor Twena** and **Yossi Strauch** – music, song, dance, food at Beit Rayim Synagogue, 9711 Bayview Ave. $20 in advance, $25 at door. **Marlene Rosen**, 905-770-7639, ext. 31.

Sunday, April 25

JEWISH FEMINISM

Downtown Jewish Learning Centre presents Jewish Feminism – The Next Stage dealing with leading figures in the Jewish feminist revival of the last number of years, with **Elliott Malamet** 11:30 a.m., at Bloor Jewish Community Centre. 924-6211.

GRAND ORDER OF ISRAEL

Toronto Grand Order of Israel Mutual Benefit Society important general meeting, 9 a.m., Ramada Hotel, Wilson Ave.

ISRAEL ECONOMY

At Beth Tzedec Men's Club breakfast, **Rafi Ben-Ami,** Bank Hapoalim chief representative to Canada, discusses Israel: 50 Years of Economic Accomplishments. Service 9 a.m., breakfast (nominal charge) 9:30, program at 10. Men and women welcome.

MONTESSORI DAY SCHOOL

There's a meeting of the organizing committee of the Montessori Jewish Day School being established in Toronto, integrating Montessori principles with a liberal Jewish curriculum. 929-4830.

SPORTS BREAKFAST

Dan Shulman,voice of the Toronto Blue Jays for TSN, speaks at the Lodzer Centre, 12 Heaton St. at 10 a.m.

JEWISH SINGLES

Social evening for Jewish men and women, age groups 21-39 and 40-69, Beth Torah Synagogue, 47 Glenbrook Ave., 7:30 p.m. Games and fun $5. **Mollie** 733-3634.

WINGATE BRANCH

General Wingate branch, Royal Canadian Legion, general meeting, 788 Marlee Ave. Nosh at 9:15 a.m., meeting 9:45 a.m.

Monday, April 26

AUTHOR! AUTHOR!

Medina Theatre Ensemble features prominent writers **Howard Engel, Jack Kuper** and **Judith Thompson** 7:30 p.m, B'nai Brith Building, 15 Hove St. Members $5, non-members $7. 785-1074.

GIANT RUMMAGE SALE

Good used clothing and household items, tremendous bargains 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Pride of Israel Synagogue, 59 Lissom Cres.

CASINO RAMA

Adath Sholom Sisterhood fun-filled trip to Casino Rama, leaves Adath Sholom, 864 Sheppard Ave. W., 8:45 a.m. $7 includes buffet lunch. Reserve. 635-0131.

Tuesday, April 27

OUT OF THE COLD

Congregation Darchei Noam honors volunteers of Darchei Noam/St. Peter's Out of the Cold program, 7 p.m., 15 Hove St. Evening includes talk by **Anne Golden,** chair of the Mayor's Homeless Action Task Force, on Responding to Homelessness: Treating the Symptoms or Fixing the System.

WOMEN IN THE BIBLE

Beth Tikvah Sisterhood series, Princesses, Prostitutes and Pariahs, focusing on women in the Bible, concludes with Naomi, with **Rabbi Adina Lewittes** of the Jewish Theological Seminary. 8 p.m. at the synagogue. $5 non-members.

TRADITION & AUTHORITY

Beth Tzedec Congregation's four-part dialogue, featuring rabbis from different religious viewpoints united in the idea of The Study of Torah Before All Else, begins with Tradition and Authority: Can the Rabbis Tell Me How to Behave?, **Rabbi Michal Shekel** of Temple Har Zion and **Rabbi Michael Skobac**, Jews for Judaism. 7:30 p.m.

Continued on page 21

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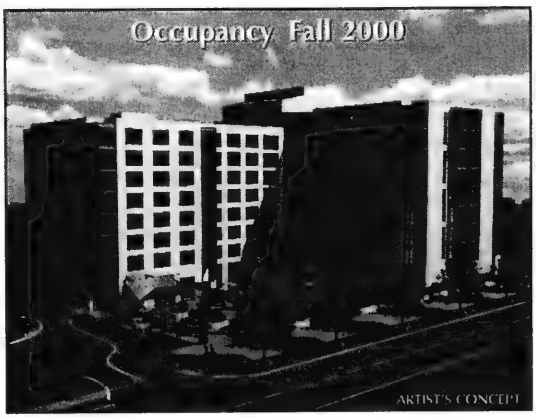

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What's New

Continued from page 20

ABC'S OF FRAUD
National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section, in co-operation with Scotiabank Fraud Awareness, presents ABCs of Fraud, 1-2:15 p.m., Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. 633-5100.

A CHAZZAN'S WIFE
The Life of a Chazzan's Wife is the topic of the talk by **Nechama Motzin** at Shaarei Shomayim Sisterhood luncheon meeting, 12:30 p.m. **Kay Berger** 787-8463.

Wednesday, April 28

FAMOUS TRIALS
Famous Trials in Jewish History with **Prof. Aaron Nussbaum** continues with The New York Trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, 1951, at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, 8 p.m. 633-3838.

CULINARY HAPPENING
A Culinary Extravaganza, fundraising event launching Leo Baeck Day School Parents' Association 25th anniversary cookbook, *Back By Popular Demand…Your Family Cookbook*, features **Marc Thuet** of Centro Grill and Wine Bar, 7 p.m., Holy Blossom Temple. $15 in advance, $18 at door. Proceeds from cookbook go to school's computers.

NEIGHBORS TOGETHER
Baycrest Centre's Wellness Education Group presents Bringing Neighbors Together with **Ruth Tamari** and **Laurie Lottman**, community recreationists. $2 at door. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Wagman Centre. **Judy Chu** 785-2500, ext. 2340.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) meeting 8 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. **Paula Draper** speaks on Immigration and Resettlement Patterns of Holocaust Survivors in Canada. Non-members $3.

SINGLES DROP-IN-LOUNGE
Beth Tikvah Progressive Singles (35-55) Drop-in-Lounge, conversation, games, coffee, 8 p.m. at the synagogue. Admission, donation to Kosovo Refugee Relief Fund.

Thursday, April 29

PILLAR OF FIRE
Documentary series concludes with We Hereby Proclaim the Establishment of the State of Israel, 1948, 7:30 p.m., Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue. Introduction and commentary by **David Goldberg.** 633-3988 or 633-5500.

EMPLOYMENT IN ISRAEL
High-Tech Employment Opportunities in Israel interviews. Contact **Shula Ofir** at Israel Aliyah Centre, 633-4766.

And What Else Is New

SHABBATON
Shabbaton at Ohr Somayach Thornhill May 1 features **Rabbi Akiva Tatz,** senior lecturer Jerusalem, South African writer and medical doctor, who teaches the mystical view of spirituality. Home hospitality available. For details, Ohr Somayach 905-886-5730.

BODY IMAGE
Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: Body Image and Eating Disorders: The Orthodox Perspective, Sunday, May 2, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Lipa Green Building. Keynote speaker **Carla Rice**, specialist in women's health issues; panelists **Dr. Leora Pinhas, Sherri Wise, Lisa Goodman**, moderator **Dr. Esther Libman.** $18 includes lunch. Reserve. **Honey Elmaleh** 905-764-0533 or **Joyce Riskind** 484-1246. Sponsored by Emunah, Jewish Family & Child Service, Netivot Hatorah Parents Association and Ulpanat Orot Parents Association.

LAG B'OMER BASH
Lag b'Omer Bash at Sephardic Kehila Centre, 7026 Bathurst St. (parking lot), Monday, May 3, 9 p.m. to midnight. Live band, hot dogs and more. $4. 905-669-7654.

HEART AND STROKE
Mount Sinai Hospital, Jewish Women's Federation and Bathurst Jewish Centre free public seminar Monday, May 3, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Leah Posluns Theatre. Mount Sinai experts discuss Heart Disease and Stroke. Moderator **Micki Moore**. Part of Mount Sinai's Health Living Series. Reserve. 586-8338.

KABBALAH CENTRE
Beginners Shabbat, Friday, April 30, 8 p.m., Saturday, May 1, 9:30 a.m., Kabbalah Centre, 678 Sheppard Ave. W., connects to Shabbat Emor, prayer services, meditations, lectures, kosher cuisine. Meal reservations by April 28. 631-9395.

THEATRE OUTING
Beth Sholom Sisterhood trip to Stratford for *West Side Story* June 8 matinee. $65 includes ticket and transportation. 782-5013

MUSICAL AFTERNOON
An afternoon of classical music for the benefit of Shalom Food Project; pianists **Dinah Gruber** and **Shaya Petroff**, and violinist **Shane Kim**, Sunday, May 16, 2-4 p.m., 70 Bronte St., Thornhill. Suggested donation $18 (tax receipt for donations over $10) RSVP by April 30 to **Miriam Kalushner** 488-9515 or **Phyllis Disenhouse** 654-3518.

ESTATE PLANNING
Kollel Avreichim of Toronto presents Estate Planning with a Halachah Perspective, speaker **Rabbi Chaim Kulik Shlita**, Kollel Avreichim Institute for Advanced Studies, Sunday, May 2, 10:30 a.m., Clanton Park Synagogue, 14 Lovemore Ave. RSVP 398-4250. Sponsored by Bank Hapoalim.

OKLAHOMA!
Westmount Music presents **Rodgers** and **Hammerstein's** *Oklahoma!* at City Playhouse, Tuesday, April 27 and Wednesday, April 28, at 7:30 p.m. $8 adults, $6 students/seniors. Tickets Westmount Collegiate, 905-882-0277, ext. 580.

NEEDLEWORK WORKSHOP
Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles all-day needlework workshop Sunday, May 2, Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. Topics: beginner's quilting, Yemenite embroidery, box construction, beading. $40 plus materials. Pre-register. **Elaine** 905-764-5372 or **Sarita** 789-1145.

SPRING CONFERENCE
Canadian Seaway branch of Women's League for Conservative Judaism Spring Conference, May 2 and May 3 at Adath Israel Synagogue. Theme is Ask and Learn – A Woman's Place is in the World! Consultant is **Jessica Waxman**, national treasurer for Women's League Guest speakers include **Rena Schochet, Sara Chana Radcliffe, Dr. Mel Borins**. Canadian Seaway branch president is **Laraine Hurwitz**. Conference chairs are **Rivy Blass** and **Bertha Gold**.

Jessica Waxman

FOR SENIORS

Association of Jewish Seniors meets Thursday, April 22, 9:30 a.m., Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. Topic Use Your Vote Wisely in the Next General Election, speaker **Amani Oakley**. **Goldie** 635-2860.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club: May 10, to celebrate Mother's Day, variety show, dancing, singing, Yiddish, Hebrew, Russian, English, **Tanya Granonski**, 12:30 p.m., light lunch; Aug. 25, morning cruise, matinee *Move Over Mrs. Markham* at Gryphon Theatre; Oct. 12, *West Side Story* at Stratford. **Lena** 785-5773. Golden Book donations go to Laniado Hospital in Israel, **Dorothy Bloomfield** 787-1526.

LZA Seniors Club in the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave., is open for socializing Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ladies Folkdancing Thursdays 1:30 p.m., Cultural Discussion group Tuesdays 10 a.m. Register now for *My Fair Lady* at Stage West June 16. **Libby** 782-2059 or office 630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). April 22, video; April 29, members meeting; May 8, Yom Ha'atzmaut dance, for tickets call **Malka Colla** 630-5771; May 13, bingo. All activities in Hebrew, English and Yiddish. **Jerry Bengall**, president, 905-707-7334.

Earl Bales Seniors' Centre: May 4, Bata Shoe Museum, Manning Cookie Factory; May 12, Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the Lake; May 13, 27, Casino Rama; May 16, Spring Fair, Bake Sale; May 23-25, Ottawa; June 5-11, Catskills; dance every Wednesday, 7-9 p.m. free for members; lessons for cutting special glass two times a week with instructor. 395-7881.

Young at Heart Seniors trip to kosher Raleigh Hotel in the Catskills for 10 days starting July 23. Good package deal. **Helen** 635-6343.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE
Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

Seniors Health, Wealth, Happiness and the Law, lawyer **Boris Freesman**, 10 a.m., Tuesday, April 27. Co-sponsored by the social action committee and Bathurst Jewish Centre. **Bookie Kwart**.

Osteoporosis Support Group, Tuesday, April 27, 1:15-2:15 p.m. **Macrina Donovan**, fitness instructor, presents Walk and Roll, about the benefits of walking.

Israeli Club Etrog: Do you speak Hebrew? Join club members Tuesdays at 7 p.m. for movies, lectures, dances, sing-alongs, bingo, picnics. Programs based on topics of interest to Israelis, conducted in Hebrew. April 27, lecture. **Anna** ext. 110.

Movie *Yentl* Sunday. April 25, 2:30 p.m.

BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

Seniors Club: Monday, April 26, excursion to Niagara-on-the-Lake region, reserve by April 22. Tuesday, April 27, 2:15-3:45 p.m., Ethical Issues Regarding Organ Donation and Transplants. Thursday, April 29, 2 p.m., ABCs of Fraud. **Judy.**

BATHURST JC

Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 636-1880.

BJC and Mount Sinai pre-natal class at BJC begins May 3. Register, ext. 229.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

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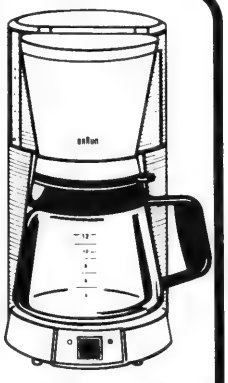

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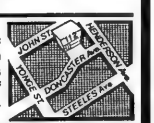

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פון אַלעק סילווער

איך האָב דאָס לעצטנס געטאָן: זיך פאַרשאַפט אַ ביסל גייסטיקן פאַרגעניגן. עס האָט מיך גאָרנישט געקאָסט, נאָר בלויז אַ ביסל צייט פון מיינע פרייע שעהץ, אָבער דער פאַרגעניגן איז געווען אַ גרויסער. און געשען איז עס אַזוי:

ווען איך האָב געלייענט אין דער יידישער פּרעסע, אַז סיווערט אָפּגעמערקט די 50־סטע יאָרצייט נאָך פּרץ הירשביין, איז מיר געקומען אויפן געדאַנק, אַז ס'איז שוין 60 יאָר, ווי איך האָב גע-לייענט זיינס אַ בוך. אַ חרטה־געפיל האָט מיך באַהערשט. עס איז נישט ריכטיק. עס דאַרף אַזוי נישט זיין . . . פאַרוואָס האָט עס אַזוי לאַנג געדויערט? . . .

פאַרן אויסברוך פון דער צווייטער וועלט־מלחמה האָבן מיר געלייענט די שאַפונגען פון די יידישע שרייבערס, אַריינגערעכנט אויך פּרץ הירשביין. אין צייט פון דער מלחמה האָבן מיר מורא געהאַט אַפילו צו האַלטן אַ יידיש בוך אין הויז. אגב, באַלד נאָכן אַריינמאַרש פון די נאַציס אין אונדזער שטעטל, האָבן מיר באַגראָבן אין מיין פעטער'ס גאָרטן אַ קאַסטן מיט יידישע ביכער, וואָס מיר האָבן פאַרמאָגט. אין די קאָנצענטראַציע־לאַגערן האָבן מיר נישט געלייענט קיין יידישע ביכער. מיר האָבן דעמאָלט בכלל ווייניק געלייענט. אויב ס'איז אַריינגעפאַלן אין אונדזערע הענט אַן אַלט שטיקל צייטונג, אין פּוילישׁ אָדער דייטש, איז עס ביי אונדז געווען די גרעסטע מציאה. די שטיקלעך צייטונגען האָבן מיר געפונען אין מיסט, וואָס די פּוילישע אָדער דייטשע „באַלעבאַטים" האָבן דאָרט אַריינגעוואָרפן, נאָכן אָפּעסן זייער מאָלצייט. און לאָמיר זיך מודה זיין: מיר זיינען געווען מער פאַראינטערעסירט אין די קרישקעס, וואָס זיינען דאָרט פאַרבליבן, ווי אין דעם געדרוקטן וואָרט.

נאָך דער באַפרייאונג זיינען מיר געווען פאַרנומען מיט זוכן קרובים, מיט אימיגראַציע און מיט איינשטעלן נייע לעבנס. נאָכן איינבירגערן זיך אין קאַנאַדע, האָבן מיר געמוזט לערנען די ענגלישע שפּראַך. פאַר דעם איז געווען נויטיק צו לייענען די ענגלי-שע פּרעסע און ביכער. למען האמת איז ווערט צוצוגעבן, אַז מיר האָבן נישט אויפגעהערט צו לייענען די יידישע פּרעסע און די נייע ביכער, וואָס זיינען אַרויסגעגעבן געוואָרן פון די מאָדערנע יידישע שרייבערס. מיר האָבן זיך אָבער זעלטן צוריקגעקערט צו די יידישע שאַפונגען פון אַמאָל. פּשוט נישט געווען קיין צייט.

פון צייט צו צייט זיינען מיר געגאַנגען אויף רעפעראַטן, לעקציעס און ליטעראַטור־אָוונטן, וואו מען האָט דערמאָנט, אַרומ-גערעדט, שטודירט און ציטירט די שאַפונגען פון אונדזערע באַ-רימטע קלאַסיקערס און שרייבערס. מיר האָבן אָבער זייער ווייניק צייט אַוועקגעגעבן אויף צו לייענען די אָריגינעלע ווערק, וואָס מיר האָבן געלייענט אין אונדזער יוגנט.

* * *

אין דעם פּרט האָב איך באַוואונדערט מיין פאָטער ע"ז. מיט אַרום דרייסיק יאָר צוריק, ווען ער האָט „ריטייערט", האָט ער אַוועקגעגעבן אַ סך צייט אויף לייענען ביכער. ער האָט שטאַרק ליב געהאַט צו לייענען, אָבער אין די יאָרן, ווען ער איז געווען פאַר-נומען מיט פּרנסה, האָט ער נישט געהאַט צופיל צייט פאַר אַזאַ „לוקסוס". ער האָט געלייענט די יידישע פּרעסע פון לאַנד און פון אויסלאַנד. ער האָט נישט ליב געהאַט צו לייענען די ביכער וועגן די חורבן־יאָרן. זיי האָבן אים פאַרשאַפן צופיל צער און עגמת־נפש, זייענדיק אַליין אַ שאַריית־הפּליטה'ציק. האָט ער באַשלאָסן אָנצו-הייבן, אַזוי צו זאָגן, פון „בראשית", צוריקגיין און ווידער אַמאָל אָנהייבן מיט די יידישע קלאַסיקערס. איך פלעג אים פירן יעדע צוויי וואָכן אין דער יידישער ביבליאָטעק, וואו ער האָט זיך געפרייט, ווי אַ קינד אין אַ שפּילצייג־געשעפט. ער האָט אָנגעהויבן מיט אַלע ווערק פון מענדעלע מוכר ספרים, נאָכגעפאָלגט מיט שלום־עליכם, י. ל. פּרץ, יוסף אָפּאַטאָשו, פּרץ הירשביין, שלום אַש און נאָך און נאָך. ער פלעגט מיר שטענדיק זאָגן וועגן דעם פאַרגעניגן, וואָס די ביכער פאַרשאַפן אים.

האָב איך באַשלאָסן אויסצובעסערן מיין גרויסן חטא. ווי נאָר איך האָב געקענט אָפּשפּאָרן אַ פּרייען טאָג, בין איך אַוועק אין דער טאָראָנטער יידישער ביבליאָטעק. יאָ, חשובער לייענער, מיר האָבן אַ גרויסע, שיינע, יידישע ביבליאָטעק מיט טויזנטער ביכער, וואָס בעטן זיך געלייענט צו ווערן. דאָרטן האָב איך געפונען אַ ביכל געזאַמלטע שריפטן פון פּרץ הירשביין, אַרויסגעגעבן אין 1916. דאָס ביכל נעמט אַריין פיר דראַמעס, צווישן וועלכע עס געפינט זיך די פּיעסע „גרינע פעלדער".

(פאָרזעצונג אין קומענדיקן נומער)

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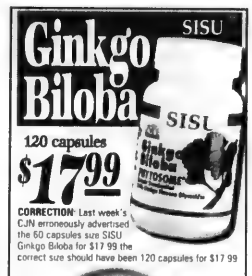
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Haifa mayor visits to promote 'awakening beauty'

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Nestled on the slopes of Mount Carmel, abutting the Mediterranean Sea, Haifa has always been known for its serene beauty.

While Tel Aviv to the south conjures images of bustling night life and frantic pace, Haifa has been saddled with the unfortunate monicker of sleeping beauty. Haifa's current mayor, Amram Mitzna, prefers to describe his city as the awakening beauty.

In the past, he acknowledged, Haifa fell behind when it came to municipal development, but in his six-year administration, things have changed. "Now, we're trying to promote the city."

Mitzna, 54, was recently in Toronto for a brief visit as part of a six-day trip that included stops in New York and Philadelphia. "The purpose of the trip was to promote the city of Haifa and to let people know about it," Mitzna said.

Included in the mayor's Toronto itinerary was a reception for Saul and Toby Feldberg, two patrons who support educational projects in Haifa. The Feldbergs, he pointed out, have established the Centre for Advanced Learning to help integrate children with learning disabilities into the city's mainstream education system. Financed also by the city of Haifa and other private donors, the centre helps educate 6,200 children in four branches. One of its centres, supported by the city's Arab population of 35,000-40,000, serves Arabic speaking children, Mitzna said.

A career soldier who rose to the rank of major general before retiring, Mitzna took the opportunity of last week's reception to promote a pet project that aids "children at risk," those who come from broken families, who suffer abuse or who are too poor to afford to eat well. The children are taken to one of 10 city facilities where they receive hot meals, get assistance with their homework, and are given a stress-free time to play, Mitzna said.

Promoting childhood education and improving quality of life have been among the mayor's top priorities since being elected six years ago. Re-elected in November with 65 percent of the vote, Mitzna's agenda has focused on attracting business, beautifying the city and fostering good relations between Arabs and Jews.

The recent naming of a young Arab woman from Haifa as Miss Israel was a symbolic indication of the improving status of Arabs in the city, but more significantly, an Arab councillor was recently appointed deputy to the mayor. In addition, "a lot of resources are being allocated to the Arab community," Mitzna said. "I'm pushing it more than before."

Even before he was elected in 1993, Haifa was known "as a very liberal, tolerant city...What we did is make it a real unique [part of] the city so people would come [from across Israel] to see it and to learn about it."

In recent years, Haifa has "rolled out the red carpet and cut through the bureaucracy to help attract industry," Mitzna, a Labor party member, said. The city has also invested heavily in infrastructure improvement. The result has been an influx of business, particularly in research and development. Three blue chip U.S. firms – Intel, IBM and Microsoft – have located R & D facilities in the city, he noted.

As a result, unemployment in Haifa has dropped to six percent, well below the national average of nine percent and down from 12 percent when he took office, Mitzna said.

Haifa also has ambitious plans to clean up the heavily polluted Kishon River and to monitor smog in the area. With its Carmel National Park, the Baha'i Gardens and neighborhood parks, Haifa has the highest proportion of green space of any other Israeli city, Mitzna said.

The Baha'i community is planning to invest $300 million (US) to renovate its gardens, which will make it a "wonder of the world," he predicted.

Borrowing a page from his career as a general, Mitzna has mobilized the citizenry in civic improvement plans. Every year before Passover, individuals, organizations and companies pitch in to clean Haifa's streets and parks.

"I really think after six years of being mayor that there are many similarities between military leadership and running a city," Mitzna said. "You administer a city, not just as a manager, but as a leader.

"It's important to talk with the people, motivate people and make them feel that they belong...If you have motivated citizens, the sky's the limit with what you can do with them."

Mitzna's 30-year military career culminated with a posting as head of operations of the general staff, the number three position behind Chief of Staff Ehud Barak, now leader of the Labor party, and Barak's deputy, Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, who is the number two man in Israel's Centre party.

Would Mitzna ever consider joining the ex-generals in the national political ring? "I prefer to be head of the foxes, than to be the tail of the lions," he said.

Amram Mitzna

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Toronto's Tau Omega joins largest Jewish fraternity

By DAVID SILVER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO —The dreams of 33 University of Toronto (U of T) students came true last month, when their organization, Tau Omega, was officially inaugurated as a chapter of Alpha Epsilon Pi, the largest Jewish fraternity in North America.

As a result of Tau Omega's volunteer work in the Jewish community, Alpha Epsilon Pi's executive speeded up the U of T chapter's status as a chartered member.

The installation banquet, held at the King Edward Hotel, brought 150 Jewish men and women together, among them Alpha Epsilon Pi's international executive.

The festivities, which included singing and dancing, were capped off with the presentation of Alpha Epsilon Pi's charter designation to Tau Omega president Harley Gold.

"This was a night to remember," Gold said. "This evening...the University of Toronto and the Jewish community together welcomed a truly remarkable organization to their ranks.

There are more than 100 chapters in Alpha Epsilon Pi, established at New York University in 1913. The fraternity's mission is to develop Jewish community leaders for the future.

Its alumnae include Jerry Reinsdorf, owner of the Chicago Bulls; former Illinois governor Samuel Shapiro; and NHL commissioner Gary Bettman.

Seven male students established the U of T's Tau Omega chapter in January of 1998. In just over a year, the membership has grown to 33, making Tau Omega the largest fraternity on campus.

During this time Tau Omega brothers teamed up with Jewish Campus Services, organizing one of the largest clothing drives in the history of U of T.

The fraternity also worked with the National Council of Jewish Women, packaging and delivering more than 120 boxes of food for the needy before Passover .

Other chartered Alpha Epsilon Pi chapters in Canada are at York and McGill universities and the University of Western Ontario. Member chapters without charters can be found at Dalhousie and McMaster universities and the University of British Columbia.

For Information, check Tau Omega's Web site at i.am/aepi and Alpha Epsilon Pi at aepi.org.

(See photo page 25)

Kudos for Kosher's Korner

LONDON, Ont. — The University of Western Ontario's only Jewish radio show was recently named the Outstanding Multicultural Show on CHRW, the campus radio station.

Graduating students Daniel Greenstein and Jonathan Mandel, creators and hosts of *Kosher's Korner*, received a Golden CD trophy from CHRW. Arye Berk, director of Western University's Jewish Students' Union, will take over hosting duties for the summer.

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On Campus

Free air fare offered for early bird Hebrew U students

TORONTO — The Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (CFHU) is offering free air fare for some students registering for full-year programs at the Rothberg International School at the Hebrew University.

The offer was made possible as a result of a grant from the Rothberg school, where fees and expenses are calculated in U.S. dollars. Air fare will be awarded to the first 75 students who apply to the national office of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University with valid acceptance for the 1999/2000 academic year.

Students will qualify based on the date of application receipt at the national office of CFHU, not on the date of acceptance granted by the Hebrew University.

The one-year program is open to qualified undergraduates who have completed at least one year of university, graduate students interested in Hebrew U program options, and high school students who fulfil the requirements of the freshman program. They have the option of pursuing course work related to their degree program at their home university where applicable, or enrolling in courses offered in Judaic, Israel or Middle East studies. Credits can be transferred, depending on the regulations of the home university.

Jonathan Farber, a Toronto student currently attending the Rothberg school, says, "My major at home is business/economics, but I have put it on hold so that I can take some of the Israel and Middle East studies courses offered at the Rothberg International School. I'm currently registered in The Defence of Israel, Contemporary Israeli Politics and The History of the Middle East. Living in Israel while learning about its history and its evolution is a remarkable exprience."

According to Mark Gryfe, executive vice-president of CFHU, "We are focusing on offering as many opportunities as possible for students to study at the Hebrew University. We want to ensure that the maximum number of eligible Canadian students have that experience. The free air fare offer will [help] more students turn their dream into a reality."

The free air fare offer coincides with the completion of the Matching Funds Scholarship Program, which has expanded financial support for Ontario students to study at the Hebrew University. The Matching Funds Campaign was a partnership between the government of Ontario, eight Ontario universities and the community.

The CFHU sends approximately 50 to 60 students annually to the Rothberg International School. Its goal is to double the number of students attending Rothberg each year.

For more information about the free air fare offer and the Rothberg International School, call Merie Goldman at 1-888-HEBREWU.

TAU OMEGA RECEIVES CHARTER

Past supreme master David Bacarach of Alpha Epsilon Pi presents Tau Omega's new charter to founding master Ilan Barda and present master Harley Gold. **(See story page 24)**

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Coast to Coast

Rabbi gets $130,000 in wrongful dismissal suit

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — An Ontario court has awarded a rabbi $130,000 in damages in a wrongful dismissal suit he brought against the St. Catharines synagogue where he had served for 25 years.

The court blasted Congregation B'nai Israel for having acted in a "cruel, abusive, insolent and hurtful" manner toward Rabbi Joseph Ben-David, whose contract was not renewed in 1994.

Justice William Festeryga of the Ontario Court's general division, found that the rabbi was employed through a series of short-term contracts, some of which had been shoddily executed.

The judge also found that the synagogue had acted "in a most cruel and insolent manner" when Rabbi Ben-David and his son were not recognized as part of a minyan during Sukkot services at the synagogue.

In another instance, the rabbi was told he was no longer welcome at the synagogue he once led. Such conduct is "malicious," the judge said in his 25-page ruling handed down earlier this month.

The court awarded $110,000 in damages for wrongful dismissal, and $20,000 in punitive damages against the synagogue.

Court heard that Rabbi Ben-David, now 62, began his employment at the synagogue in 1969 as a teacher and cantor. Through the years, he progressed to assistant rabbi, and finally, encouraged by the synagogue to obtain his *smichah* (rabbinic ordination), to rabbi.

In November 1994, he was informed the congregation would not renew his contract, and he was given nine months' notice. He argued he was entitled to 30 months' notice because of his length of employment and record of service.

The judge agreed, saying the synagogue, over the years, encouraged and supported the rabbi and "owed him the decency of explaining why his contract would not be renewed. They did not. I find such action detrimentally affected the sense of identity, self-worth and emotional well-being of [Rabbi Ben-David]."

The case serves as a cautionary tale for synagogues that use short-term contracts to employ their spiritual leaders.

Even though the rabbi was "looking for a long-term commitment," the synagogue used short-term agreements, and the rabbi was "unaware" that they did not contain renewal clauses.

"It never occurred" to the rabbi "that any of the documents that he signed, set out fixed terms and provisions for notice of renewal or non-renewal of his employment," the judgment states. "He signed the contracts as they were presented to him. His prime concern was the amount of the remuneration. He never expected that the [synagogue] would do anything to compromise his position."

It was never the rabbi's intention to be employed for a limited term, the court ruled. He "relied completely on the [synagogue] to treat him fairly," and he was "never told" of fixed terms.

On the balance of probabilities, "both parties considered [the rabbi] to be a long-term employee [who] could stay as long as wished, subject to reasonable notice."

The synagogue countered that the rabbi was fired for cause, "which came as a complete surprise to [Rabbi Ben-David] because he alleges that none of these complaints were ever brought to his attention." In fact, the synagogue even provided him with "a glowing letter of recommendation."

Arguing the rabbi was dismissed for cause was "a personal attack on [him] and his family to hurt them," the court stated.

The congregation withdrew the reason of cause for dismissal shortly before the trial began.

The court took special notice of the nature of the rabbi's employment, noting that he prepared children for important times in their lives, taught classes and acted as principal of the Hebrew school. He served as cantor and rabbi. "All of these duties are significant," the judge wrote.

The court found that the contractual arrangements between the shul and the rabbi over the years had been lax.

Some contracts were signed, others were not. There were periods when the rabbi worked without a contract. The agreements "were presented in a manner that leads me to the conclusion that these were not important documents to be relied upon," the judge found.

The judge also found that a 1996 letter sent to congregants "was calculated to put [the rabbi] in a bad light for trying to enforce his rights in the civil courts."

In 1997, the synagogue lost an application to bring the dispute with Rabbi Ben-David to a beit din.

Rabbi Ben-David told *The CJN* last week that he did his best to avoid a civil lawsuit.

"It was not a question of money, but of justice," he said.

Campus launched

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Community leaders and politicians speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony for the $30-million Jewish Community Campus, said the project is a tangible expression of the Jewish community's confidence in its future in Quebec.

Quebec cabinet ministers Robert Perreault and André Boisclair, Montreal Mayor Pierre Bourque and three members of his executive committee, and Martin Cauchon, federal secretary of state for economic development were on hand for the ceremony, which was attended by 200 people.

All three levels of government have contributed $1.3 million each to the project.

"This campus is much more than a series of buildings," said Robert Vineberg, the project's chair. "The Montreal Jewish Community Campus is a powerful symbol of one of the great goals of this community: to build a pluralist Jewish community within the context of pluralistic Quebec and Canadian societies."

The campus, he said, symbolizes "a future of renewal and hopefulness, of purpose, of vigor and of new opportunity."

The ceremony took place on the site where the Gelber Conference Centre will be erected. It is located between the main FEDERATION CJA Cummings House and the Golden Age Association, a major component of the expansion.

The centre was donated by Nahum and Sheila Gelber, former Montrealers now living in Israel.

About $12 million is to be spent on the north side of the campus, which will include the construction of a fifth floor on top of Cummings House. An estimated $18 million is to be allocated to the south side of the campus, which encompasses the YM-YWHA and Saidye Bronfman Centre.

About 80 percent of the total amount of money raised, comes from the community, according to FEDERATION CJA executive director Maxyne Finkelstein.

At the groundbreaking ceremony it was announced that Charles and Andrea Bronfman, who now live in New York City, have made a significant donation. They have endowed the Jewish Education Council and Montreal Israel Experience Centre that will occupy the new floor of Cummings House.

Top benefactors, the Cummings family, will have the north campus named for them as Cummings Square.

Out of the Cold

On Tuesday April 27th

Congregation Darchei Noam

will be honouring the volunteers of the Darchei Noam/St. Peter's Out of the Cold programme.
The public is invited.

The evening will include a talk by

Dr. Anne Golden

Chair of the Mayor's Homelessness Action Task Force, and President of The United Way of Greater Toronto.

The topic of the evening will be

"Responding to Homelessness: Treating the Symptoms, or Fixing the System"

There will be an opportunity for discussion.

Dessert and Coffee will follow

Time: Tuesday, April 27th 1999, 7:00p.m.

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Coast to Coast

Survivor's story grips audience at Yom Hashoah service

By JOEL JACOBSON
Atlantic Correspondent

HALIFAX — Silence enveloped the packed auditorium at a recent Yom Hashoah service at Shaar Shalom Synagogue, when Steven Markus, a Holocaust survivor from Hungary, told his story.

A resident of Halifax since 1959, Markus recalled the day his parents were taken away to concentration camp by train. "They gave me a letter through the slats of the car, asking God to save us (him and his brother Frank) and telling me to take care of my brother.

"I was saved, and taken to a forced labor camp in 1944 at age 14. My brother and I later escaped to live with an uncle and aunt and eventually to be hidden by neighbors."

He was able to join the Hungarian Army – army officials didn't know he was a Jew – and so he was able to help prevent hundreds of Jewish children from going to concentration camps.

In 1945, Russia captured Budapest and forced the Markus brothers into a prisoner of war camp. When the war ended, the boys couldn't find their parents. They eventually went to Israel where Steven fought in the Israeli War of Independence.

Markus was the final speaker at the memorial service, which was attended by 250 people, among them, Nova Scotia representatives from the 1998 March of the Living, and members of all three parties in the Nova Scotia legislature.

There were also representatives from the Halifax Regional Municipality Council, the Armed Forces and the U.S. Consul General's office and several provincial judges, the Archbishop of Nova Scotia, and the acting executive director of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission.

Ronen stresses education

Memorial services were also held in Fredericton, Moncton, and Saint John, N.B., and St. John's, Nfld.

In Halifax, guest speaker Moshe Ronen, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), stressed that education was the key to preventing another Holocaust.

"(Canada) lags behind the rest of the world by not having a national Holocaust Museum," Ronen said. "It is essential one be built in Ottawa, for through its presence we would educate future generations of Canadians on anti-Semitism and racism."

Ronen said a $25,000 (US) grant given to the Atlantic Jewish Council by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany will go to Holocaust education in the region.

He praised Canada's efforts in Kosovo, specifically the offer to take in refugees, "something the country did not do for European Jews during World War II.

"There was no safe haven then, only because the victims were Jews. Now the world has learned not to stand by in the face of annihilation."

He said Canadian Jewish Congress is urging every provincial government to include Holocaust education on its curriculum; New Brunswick is the only province currently doing so.

Ronen, accompanied by CJC executive vice president Jack Silverstone, met with Nova Scotia deputy premier Don Downe to discuss education and other matters.

During his whirlwind visit to Halifax, Ronen also addressed the Halifax Rotary club, the second oldest Rotary club in Canada, and he met with the editorial board of the *Chronicle-Herald* and *Mail-Star*, Nova Scotia's major, and independent, daily newspapers.

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B.C. government honors Holocaust survivors

By SUZANNE KORT
Special to The CJN

VICTORIA — Mariette Doduck of Vancouver was one of 15 Holocaust survivors recognized by Attorney General Ujjal Dosanjh from the floor of the B.C. Legislative Assembly on Yom Hashoah.

"We made history after all these years," Doduck said.

Dosanjh's office worked with the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), Pacific region, to organize the event. On April 13, he read to the assembly an official government proclamation recognizing Holocaust Memorial Day in British Columbia. The day will be recognized annually, according to the Hebrew calendar.

Attorney General Ujjal Dosanjh presents a copy of the proclamation to Dr. Robert Krell while Zena Simces and Richard Kool look on. [David Simon photo]

British Columbia is the only government besides those in Israel and Ontario to give such official recognition.

The proclamation defined the Holocaust in terms of its cost to the Jewish community, as well as to other communities targeted by Nazis during World War II, and acknowledged the continued existence of genocide worldwide. The document confirmed the provincial government's commitment to protect "British Columbians from hate, racism and violence through legislation, education and example."

Holocaust Memorial Day recognized

A minute of silence in memory of those who died in the Holocaust followed a supportive response to the proclamation from Opposition leader, Gordon Campbell. It was a brief moment of thoughtful peace before the contentious legislative session that followed.

Representatives of several Jewish agencies joined the survivors in the western gallery overlooking the red carpeted assembly. Congregations Emanu-El, Har El, Schara Tzedeck, and the Okanagan Jewish Community were represented, as well as Vancouver and Victoria Jewish federations, CJC, Pacific region, the Louis Brier Home and Hospital, Na'amat Canada's Vancouver Council, State of Israel Bonds, Vancouver Peretz Institute, Vancouver Genealogical Society, and Holocaust education societies from Vancouver and Victoria.

A brief reception in the legislature's rotunda preceded the proclamation. There, Richard Kool of the Victoria Holocaust Education and Remembrance Society received a framed copy of the proclamation from Dosanjh to display in the island's only synagogue, Emanu-El. CJC, Pacific region chair, Zena Simces, accepted a copy on behalf of her agency, as did Dr. Robert Krell, founding president of the Vancouver Holocaust Centre Society for Education and Remembrance.

Survivor and distinguished musicologist, Dr. Peter Gary, thanked the MLAs and guests. Gary has shared his experiences and insights with thousands of Vancouver Island students.

Jessica Zimbler, a Victoria secondary student, read three poems written by local middle school students in response to programs such as Gary's Kids and Hate – Choice or Chance, organized by the Holocaust Education Society of Victoria.

Victoria's new rabbi, Rabbi David Seidenberg, managed to inject humor into the solemn occasion by quoting Rabbi Shammai from Pirkei Avot: "Love work, hate authority, and don't get friendly with the government."

While there may have been good reasons for this view in Rabbi Shammai's time as well as in our own, Rabbi Seidenberg reminded us that "it is easy to give words, but it is harder to give action. A declaration is both words and a deed. I trust and pray that these words and deeds will be followed by more deeds."

Rabbi Seidenberg ended the ceremony with a prayer for our country written by his predecessor in Victoria, Rabbi Victor Reinstein. The prayer encouraged Canadian leaders to practise compassion, to be a source of peace in the world and to ensure that "none will ever be too many for any people seeking refuge in our land of plenty."

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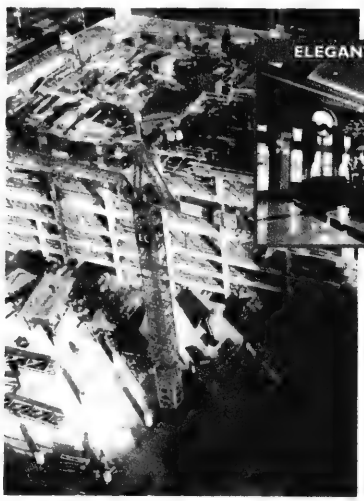

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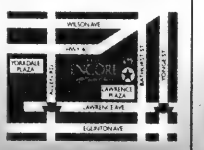

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Coast to Coast

Lawyers for skinheads seek stay of charges

Continued from page 3

Farber was questioned about his reaction to the anti-Roma demonstration while Magnish was asked about articles that quoted police sources about criminality in the Roma community.

Earlier, the defence source told *The CJN* that "Farber as head of an advocacy group should have jumped on [Chong's statement]."

He suggested that Congress is a politically influential group and said that "if police want to know if they can safely get away with prosecuting skinheads and not Chong, law enforcement need only pick up a newspaper."

During the course of questioning from three defence lawyers representing different accused, Farber was asked by all three whether Congress met with members of the Metro Toronto Police Hate Crimes Unit to discuss the case before charges were laid.

One lawyer's questions focused on Congress' ties to Attorney General Charles Harnick and to Michael Bernstein, the chief counsel of the Crown law office; another defence lawyer suggested Congress "collaborates" and has "influence" over the hate crimes unit.

Asked to comment on newspaper accounts of Chong's "pimping" statement, Farber agreed the councillor's remarks were "completely inappropriate." He also called them "cavalier," "insensitive," "intemperate" and "unhelpful," but in his view, they did not cross the line into promotion of hate.

Farber said Chong's apology was a key factor in his view that the remarks were not intended to promote hate.

Farber was asked by defence lawyer David Gomes whether he had been in contact with the Metro Police Hate Crimes Unit in advance of charges being laid. He responded that he had not, but that Congress made its views known through a news release.

He was also asked whether Congress had applied pressure and had acted forcefully to get charges laid.

Farber said Congress advocated charges in a public way and that "we're forceful when we feel the laws have been broken. Sometimes the police agree, sometimes they don't."

Responding to other questions from Gomes, Farber said he had "absolutely not" discussed the case with Ontario Attorney General Charles Harnick or Michael Bernstein, chief counsel of the Crown law office. (Bernstein had been subpoenaed to appear in court last week, but Crown attorneys were planning to ask the court to quash the subpoena.)

Hate Crimes Unit

Gomes also suggested that Farber had greater access to Harnick and Premier Mike Harris than other members of the public. Farber acknowledged he'd spoken to the two politicians and met them on occasions when they addressed the Jewish community.

Lawyer Harry Doan suggested in questioning that Farber "collaborates" with the Hate Crimes Unit. Farber said he keeps in touch with the unit and has participated in conferences attended by members of the unit. He rejected Doan's suggestion that he has "influence" over the unit, saying "influence is not a word I would use. We are an advocacy organization with known, acknowledged expertise on hate crimes."

Farber also rejected Doan's suggestion that Congress assists police in identifying breaches of the hate law. "We work independently," Farber said. "We don't call the police and say, 'Lay hate charges.' It's always done in public [news] releases."

Responding to questions from defence lawyer Peter Lindsay, Farber said he did not recall speaking to Dino Doria of the Hate Crimes Unit between August 1997 (when the demonstration occurred) and December 1997 (when the charges were laid), though they may have spoken about security issues concerning the High Holy Days. He said he was later contacted by Doria, who asked him to serve as an expert witness in the case.

Responding later to questions from Crown attorney Maggie Lazaridis, Farber said Harnick has addressed Congress meetings in the past, but made it very clear "he would not entertain any discussions on any cases, period."

Farber also testified that "more often than not, charges are not laid" in cases in which Congress believes a violation of the hate laws have occurred.

Contacted after court adjourned, Gomes said, "If any political pressure from any source played a part in the laying of charges, it's an avenue worth exploring."

He acknowledged such an exploration may "sting," but "it's relevant to see if Congress brought pressure on law enforcement for charges."

Keith Landy, chair of Congress' Ontario region, called that line of questioning "inappropriate and distasteful." He said some of the questions Farber faced suggested that "Harnick would do our bidding.

"I don't think they [Harnick and Bernstein] would use their religion to favor Congress, nor would Congress ask them to do so," he said.

The family of the late

Elaine Goodman ז"ל

wish to thank their relatives and friends for their support to Elaine during her illness, and to us after her passing.

Mel, Tammy, Jodi, Marc and Marnin

Shabbatons for the Month of May

Rabbi Akiva Tatz, M.D.,
lecturer and writer ("Anatomy of A Search") from South Africa, will be scholar-in-residence on Shabbat of May 1.

Rabbi Dovid Gottlieb, PhD.,
professor of philosophy and writer, ("The Informed Soul"), will be scholar-in-residence on Shabbat and Sunday, May 8-9.

For information on times for lectures and services, call Ohr Somayach (905) 886-5730.

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Coast to Coast

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More than ever, Na'amat focuses not only on the needs of Israeli women and children, but also on Jewish women and children in Toronto, across Canada and around the world. In nine cities across Canada, it provides social, educational and cultural programs for its membership and helps support Na'amat's work in Israel.

In Toronto, Na'amat takes a leading role in advancing the status of women and their families. The local office offers Jewish women a Legal Advisory Clinic and a special Seniors Program for members and supporters.

Throughout the year, members organize a variety of fundraising activities to support Na'amat's mission, including an Annual Pleasures of the Palate Celebration, with the participation of 22 local restaurants, and the Annual Bazaar and Auction.

Starting in 1999, Na'amat Toronto will be organizing a School Supplies for Children project, which will canvas for school supplies to be donated to children at local domestic violence shelters.

With 1,500 facilities in Israel, Na'amat offers child care to 25,000 children daily, providing 60% of the country's day care; free legal services at over 30 legal aid offices to women facing financial or child custody problems, abusive husbands and those seeking a get; training for upper management positions to help close the 30% wage gap between men and women; health clinics; and helping over 5,000 women through counselling, support groups and rehabilitation programs for abusive husbands at Na'amat's five Domestic Violence Prevention Centres.

Na'amat Canada will be holding its triennial convention for the first time in Vancouver, with the theme "Na'amat meets the 21st century."

In Toronto, contact Na'amat at 636-5425; Na'amat Canada at 1 888- 278-0792; e-mail na'amat@total.net; or visit Na'amat Canada's Web site at www.naamat.com

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Scene in Ottawa

By G.K. SIMCOE

Last week, we began a series on the five political parties in the House of Commons. We will continue this series over the next couple of months.

This week, however, the focus is on Holocaust Remembrance.

An increasingly nasty dispute is brewing in the nation's capital and in the Prime Minister's Office, and a growing number of MPs are being drawn into the fray. The issue is the establishment of a Holocaust museum.

Two years ago, the issue pitted the Jewish community against Canadian war veterans who felt that dedicating space in the National War Museum for a Holocaust memorial was inappropriate.

Former defence minister Barney Danson was called in to defuse the situation, and it appeared that he had secured a solution satisfactory to all parties. However, the prime minister's recent trip to Poland sparked new tension, this time between Canadian Jewish Congress and other ethnic groups.

Jesse Flis, a Polish émigré to Canada and respected former member of parliament, led a campaign to have Polish representation in the Chrétien delegation. Some people perceive that the idea was vetoed by the Jewish delegation.

The "fight" then shifted to the idea of a Holocaust museum. An expanded ethnic coalition began to complain that the Holocaust does not represent the only example of 20th-century genocide and that other groups should have equal access to federal support. Although the idea does not sit well with the Jewish community, there is growing support for a genocide museum that would highlight other atrocities alongside the Holocaust.

This places the Jewish community in a precarious position. On the one hand, Canadian Jewish Congress maintains that the uniqueness of the Holocaust requires a dedicated memorial. On the other hand, the Jewish community once again finds itself isolated and defensive.

With neither side willing to back down, this situation has the potential to turn very ugly, very quickly unless a more creative alternative is developed that can allow everyone to save face. Word on the Hill is that the prime minister has no intention of arbitrating the dispute. Instead, he may well turn to the parties involved and insist that they resolve the issue themselves.

Given the history of inter-ethnic organizational relations over the last 20 years, no one should anticipate an early resolution.

G.K. Simcoe is a pseudonym.

CANADIAN FLAGS

As part of their study of Canada, grade four students at Bialik Hebrew Day School created Canadian flags using different, and sometimes, unusual materils. Seen here, displaying their creations, are the students of class 4D along with their teacher, Rita Slapack.

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Phony lawyer claims rabbinical law background

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — A Winnipeg man who is facing charges, including impersonating a lawyer, claimed that he received his legal training in a rabbinical school studying Jewish law.

Dean McDonald, also known as Simon Rothschild, is currently in police custody facing charges of practising law without a licence – as well as unrelated outstanding charges of impersonating an RCMP officer, and possession of cannabis for the purpose of trafficking.

According to Alan Fineblit, executive director of the Law Society of Manitoba, a man aroused the suspicions of Crown attorneys while he was acting as defence counsel in mid-March for two men charged in a sex-for-drugs case. The Crown attorneys approached Fineblit with their concerns.

"When they described the fellow, I realized that we had dealt with him before under a different name," says Fineblit. "I immediately went to court and raised the matter with the judge. Our major concern was that he had received particulars of the charges in a condition of trust. A couple of police officers were assigned to accompany him home to reclaim the materials. One of the officers recognized him as someone wanted on other charges."

According to Fineblit, a man first came to the attention of the Law Society about a year ago when a lawyer informed the society by letter that he had hired the man. Under a provision of the Law Society Act, Fineblit explains, a practising lawyer is allowed to hire students who are attending a law school.

'He said that he had read a lot of law books'

A routine society audit near the end of last year revealed that the man was not a law student, and he was told that he was no longer authorized to practise law.

"He protested, and insisted on a hearing before our admissions and education committee," Fineblit says. "He admitted that he had never attended law school, but insisted that he had been to rabbinical school in Toronto and New York, and had studied rabbinic law. He also said that he had read a lot of law books. The act is clear though. He was told that he couldn't practise. That was the last I heard of him until this."

Rabbi Avraham Altein, Winnipeg's Lubavitch rabbi, knows McDonald/Rothschild. He reports that McDonald/Rothschild has attended Chabad study classes.

"He used to live in Toronto," Rabbi Altein says. "He had a Jewish girlfriend there and used to attend synagogue. He wanted to become Jewish at one time. He is a nice guy and a very bright fellow."

Fineblit reports that the McDonald/Rothschild investigation is ongoing.

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CORRECTION

In the photo entitled "CJC Workshop," about the Canadian Jewish Congress' Ontario region conference for the federal War Crimes Unit (*CJN* March 31), one person was incorrectly identified. Louis Rivietz (far right) is CJC regional program adviser, immigration, Ontario region.

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Agencies disagree over Egypt's military buildup

By DOUGLAS DAVIS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LONDON — Alarm bells are ringing in some quarters in Jerusalem over the buildup of the Egyptian army, which has more than doubled in size since the 1973 Yom Kippur War, according to sources in London.

The massive accumulation of weapons has also sparked an intense debate between two Israeli intelligence agencies about the threat posed by Egypt's bulging arsenals, say the sources.

Indeed, U.S. officials were reported to have been astonished when their Israeli counterparts placed Egypt ahead of Iran on the agenda of the recent U.S.- Israeli semi-annual strategic talks.

On one side of the debate in Jerusalem is Aman, Israel's military intelligence branch. Aman has reportedly warned of a possible deterioration in Israeli-Egyptian relations and the consequent significance of Cairo's arsenal for Israel's security.

Efficient fighting force

Military intelligence analysts are concerned that Egypt has not only become America's second-largest arms customer, after Saudi Arabia, but also that its army is now a modern, efficient fighting force, equipped with top-of-the-line American weaponry.

On the other side is the Mossad, Israel's foreign intelligence agency, which is reportedly trying to calm Aman's anxieties and portray Egyptian-Israeli relations as stable and secure.

The London sources say Egypt has more than doubled the size of the its armored corps, replacing outdated Soviet T-62s with modern American tanks, including the M1-A1. At the same time, the Egyptian Air Force now boasts more than 200 modern U.S.-made F-16 jet fighters.

Of even greater concern to Israel, which has only a small navy, is the fact that Egypt is now in the process of completely revamping its significantly larger naval fleet.

Aman and the Mossad disagree on the extent to which Egypt poses a real short-term threat to Israel.

Despite the two countries' 20-year-old peace treaty, Aman contends that the peace is fragile and that almost any crisis, including a confrontation between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, could trigger a resumption of hostilities between the two countries.

As a result of this perception, the Israeli army routinely includes the possibility of Egyptian "intervention" in most of its war games.

The Mossad reportedly takes a more sanguine view, contending that Cairo's peace with Israel, however cool, forms the strategic underpinning of Egypt's Middle East vision.

Nothing short of a direct Israeli attack on Cairo, or an outright massacre of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, they say, could cause Egypt to change course and engage Israel in a new war.

Mossad officers also say that Israeli lobbying on Capitol Hill against the arming of Egypt is regarded in Cairo as a hostile move.

The Mossad is also said to be concerned that Aman's position could cause the Israeli leadership to miscalculate during a moment of crisis and overreact to Egyptian tactical moves.

Indeed, Mossad officials are said to be concerned that Aman's projections may turn out to be a self-fulfilling prophecy, especially since Aman is currently considered the "national assessor" of strategic threats to Israel and has the ear of Israeli leaders.

קרן קיימת לישראל
JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF CANADA

NOTICE

Re: 1999 Annual Meeting

The **1999 Annual Meeting of The Jewish National Fund of Canada** will be held in Toronto, Ontario, at the Sheraton Centre Hotel, 123 Queen Street, Toronto, Ont., M5H 2M9, **June 5, 1999 in the evening and June 6, 1999.**

Israel's population passes 6M

By MOTI BASSOK
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israel's population rose 2.3 percent last year, reaching an all-time high of 6.038 million, according to the 1998 data published last Sunday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Jerusalem retained its status as the nation's most populous city, having grown by1.7 percent to 632,000 residents.

Tel Aviv had 350,000 residents in 1998, a 0.4-percent gain. The population of Haifa, the nation's third largest city, stands at 265,000, an increase of just 0.2 percent over the year.

The overall rate of population growth slowed last year, as the influx of new immigrants waned somewhat.

The Central District – the nation's largest – grew by 3.6 percent last year, reaching 1.355 million residents. The cities of Lod, Modi'in, Shoham and Rishon Letzion accounted for much of the growth.

The population of the Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip grew by seven percent last year, after increasing nine percent in 1997 and 9.4 percent in 1996. The settlements added about 11,000 residents last year, bringing the total to 172,000.

The proportion of the population living in the nation's large cities – those with at least 100,000 residents – is continuing to drop at the rate of half a percentage point a year, falling to 43.5 percent at the end of last year.

Of the cities with predominantly Jewish populations, only three showed greater growth last year than the national average: Ashdod and Rishon Letzion, which gained about five percent each, and Petach Tikvah, which gained 2.5 percent.

Rishon Letzion is now the fourth largest city in Israel, with 187,000 residents. Number five is Beersheva, with 164,000.

Cities with primarily non-Jewish populations grew faster than the national average, with the largest – Nazareth – gaining 2.8 percent to end the year at 57,000.

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Abdullah puts priority on ties with Arab countries

By DOUGLAS DAVIS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LONDON — Jordan's King Abdullah pledged that he would never pursue relations with Israel "at the expense" of relations with fellow Arab countries, including Iraq, Syria and Egypt; nor with the Palestinian self-rule government.

"With the new reign, we are opening a clean sheet with everyone, based on mutual respect," Abdullah told the London-based Arab language newspaper *Al-Quds al-Arabi*, in a recent interview.

"Jordan is Arab first and last and cannot shed its skin," said the new king.

He also said Jordan would throw its full support behind the Palestinians during final-status negotiations with Israel.

In an apparent reference to Israel, he told the paper that he had promised Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat "not to allow any third party to come between us or try to play on any contradictions that may arise."

Abdullah also said he and Arafat had pledged "to remain in direct contact, in order to consult on all matters, big or small, and clear up any misunderstandings that may arise."

He insisted that Jordan would not be "dragged" into taking a direct role in the Israeli-Palestinian final-status negotiations and would "resist all pressure that may be exerted on it in that regard."

Jordanian officials are reportedly concerned that Israel would insist the Hashemite kingdom become directly involved in the final-status talks, and that the Jewish state would make a permanent settlement with the Palestinians contingent on security guarantees from Jordan.

But Abdullah stressed that Israel must negotiate "with the party concerned, namely the Palestinian party."

He was more guarded when asked about claims made by Arafat shortly after the February death of King Hussein, that an agreement had been struck to establish a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation.

"Our doors are open to any possible formula for cooperation with the Palestinians," Abdullah said, "but only after the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and the conclusion of the final-status negotiations."

Abdullah, who is thought to have embarked on a campaign to burnish his Arab credentials, said that following his visit to Saudi Arabia this month, he is planning official visits to other countries in the Arab world, including Syria, Libya and the Persian Gulf states.

He told the paper that Jordan's relations with Egypt were developing well and that he had established a good personal relationship with President Hosni Mubarak when they met last month.

According to the paper, Abdullah made no secret of his admiration for Bashar Assad, son and heir-apparent of Syrian President Hafez al-Assad, praising his vision of Syria's future as "forward-looking, modern and aware of the political and strategic changes currently sweeping the world."

Abdullah also said he is adopting a more moderate approach to Iraq than his late father, who had sought to atone for his perceived support of Iraq during the 1991 Gulf War by embracing a robustly pro-western antipathy toward Iraq.

"What concerns us in Jordan is to have a united and stable Iraq whose people are not suffering," he said, noting that Jordan "will not be a launch pad for any hostile action against Iraq."

Referring to Jordan's own economic problems, Abdullah said the "coming six months will be extremely decisive." During this period, he said, "priority will be given to the economy and to providing job opportunities and meeting the needs of citizens."

He played down suggestions that his rapprochement with Saudi Arabia was designed to restore aid from the Gulf states, severed over Hussein's ambiguous role in the Gulf War.

Acknowledging that the Arab oil-producing states are having financial difficulties of their own, Abdullah said he had not asked the Gulf states for "aid or financial grants.

Abdullah said he was also hoping for "improved economic cooperation" with the West, particularly over the question of debt relief, which he said would help Jordan overcome its current economic crisis.

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No anti-Semitism in charges, Russian Jewish leaders say

By LEV KRICHEVSKY
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

MOSCOW — A decision by Russian prosecutors to order the arrest of two business tycoons with Jewish roots does not signify a return to state-sponsored anti-Semitism, say Russian Jewish leaders.

But the leaders are nonetheless concerned that the arrest warrants are reminiscent of Soviet-era political persecutions.

The concerns were voiced after the Russian Prosecutor General's Office issued separate warrants for the arrest of businessman-turned-politician Boris Berezovsky and banker Alexander Smolensky, neither of whom consider themselves Jewish or involved in Jewish life.

Prosecutors said Berezovsky is wanted on charges of "illegal entrepreneurship" and money laundering. Berezovsky, considered one of the wealthiest men in the world, began his business empire by setting up Russia's first capitalist car dealerships some 10 years ago.

Indeed, the arrest order was cancelled after Berezovsky agreed to return to Russia to face money-laundering charges.

He later built up a vast network of holdings that reportedly included large stakes in the oil and media industries and in airlines.

Smolensky, the head of SBS-Agro, one of Russia's largest banks, is wanted on suspicion of misappropriation of funds.

Smolensky is currently in Austria – he holds an Austrian passport in addition to his Russian one.

Few people in Russia are shedding tears for the two men.

Politicians across the political spectrum have been unanimous in their dislike for Berezovsky, Smolensky and some of the other so-called oligarchs, a group of businessmen who helped to bankroll President Boris Yeltsin's come-from-behind re-election in 1996 in exchange for political influence and large chunks of privatized state property.

After Yeltsin's re-election, Berezovsky briefly held a post in the Kremlin as deputy secretary of Russia's advisory Security Council.

Both men, as well as the other oligarchs, have seen their influence wane since the collapse of the Russian economy last August and the subsequent appointment of Yevgeny Primakov as the country's prime minister.

Still, even some of the oligarchs' political foes criticized the move.

Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, a longtime foe of Berezovsky, condemned the arrest orders as political persecution. Luzhkov also warned against a possible return to Stalinist-era repression.

Berezovsky's lawyer, Henry Reznik, agreed.

"We are talking about persecuting political opponents," Reznik said. "Berezovsky is dangerous to the Communists and those dreaming about the restoration of a bureaucratic Communist regime."

In the eyes of many Russians, the oligarchs are a symbol of Jewish prominence in contemporary Russia and as a result, are the target of anti-Semitic attacks.

Smolensky who was raised as a Jew, considers himself a member of Russia's Orthodox Church. Berezovsky also reportedly converted to Christianity, but he has never hid his Jewish origins and has often spoken out on the problem of anti-Semitism. He even became an Israeli citizen in 1994, but later gave it up.

At a recent news conference in Paris, Berezovsky said he was not a victim of anti-Semites or Communists. He insisted his persecution was part of the fight for control over the mass media in which he is a major player.

Jewish leaders say they do not think the arrest orders are connected to the ongoing surge in anti-Semitism that began last summer, when Russia's financial crisis started.

But Moscow Chief Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt said he regretted that anti-Semites generally link people such as Berezovsky or Smolensky to the Jewish community.

Another Jewish official, Mikhail Chlenov, president of the Va'ad, the Russian Jewish Federation, said he is concerned over the effects of the orders on the already chaotic Russian political scene.

"Such campaigns are a natural cause for Jewish concern," he said.

The Week in Israel

April 12

• Sgt. Noam Barnea, 21, was killed by a Hezbollah roadside bomb.

April 13

• Israelis stood in silence as sirens sounded in memory of the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust.

• The spiritual leader of the Shas party was hospitalized after suffering a mild heart attack. Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, 78, was listed in stable condition at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.

April 14

• Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised to continue settlement activities during a campaign address. The vow came two days after visiting U.S. envoy Martin Indyk criticized Israeli settlement construction as possibly hampering the peace process.

• Police said they arrested four Palestinians in connection with the May 1997 kidnapping and killing of an Arab man who sold land in Jerusalem to Jews. Police said the four told interrogators that senior Palestinian officials had ordered the shooting death of Ali Mohammed Jumhour.

April 15

• The Jewish National Fund dedicated a memorial for Holocaust survivors killed in Israel's War of Independence near Latrun, where many of them died soon after disembarking from the boats that brought them to Israel.

• Aryeh Deri, leader of the Shas party was sentenced to four years in prison and fined NIS 250,000 for taking $155,000 (US) in bribes. Deri said he would appeal the sentence.

• According to the Bank of Israel, foreign investment in Israel in 1998 reached an all-time high of some $74.5 billion (US).

April 16

• Media reported that the IDF and SLA forces entered the village of Arnoun in south Lebanon. Tension has increased in the area since the death, earlier in the week, of IDF officer, Sgt. Noam Barnea.

With files from JTA.

Dispute in Nazareth

Continued from page 1

Earlier in the month, the dispute turned violent. At least seven people were injured during confrontations between Christians and Muslims that coincided with the Easter holiday.

Israeli riot police were called in as youths from each side threatened to escalate the violence.

"It was shocking," said one Israeli police official. "Muslim youths attacked every vehicle whose driver they believed to be Christian.

"It was a real intifadah," he added, referring to the 1987-1993 Palestinian uprising against Israel. The violence immediately sparked warnings about the millennium festivities.

Officials in Nazareth and in the Israeli government have already invested millions of dollars in development projects – including the renewal of the ancient market, paving new roads and rehabilitating old buildings – in preparation for the influx of tourists expected to arrive from all over the world to mark the millennium.

But as things stand now, even the regular stream of tourists, mostly Israelis who visit the town on weekends, has dwindled.

Ami Ayalon, head of the Shin Bet domestic security service, has warned that the controversy could spill over to other Arab population centres in Israel.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat sent emissaries who tried, unsuccessfully, to mediate the dispute.

Unable to reach an agreement among themselves, Christians and Muslims in Nazareth tossed the ball into the hands of the Israeli government.

Jeraisi said it was only fitting that Israel intervene because the land in dispute is state land, and it is up to Israel to decide how it should be used.

Islamic politicians countered that the land is under the control of the Wakf, the Muslim body responsible for overseeing Islamic holy sites.

At first, Israeli Interior Minister Eli Suissa threw his support behind the Islamic cause – a move that drew a sharp reaction from the Christian world.

Senior church delegates, among them the Latin Patriarch, Michel Sabah, and the custodian of holy sites on behalf of the Vatican, Giovanni Batistelli, wrote a sharply worded letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warning that "whoever gives in to extortionists today will give in to terrorism tomorrow."

The church leaders also warned that the Pope would cancel his trip to the Holy Land if Israel sided with the Islamic side.

Last week, the director general of Israel's Religious Affairs Ministry, Avi Blustein, was fired after he claimed that Christian representatives threatened to shut down their churches for the millennium year if the mosque was built near the Church of the Annunciation.

A church representative said Blustein's claim was an attempt by Israel to dodge its own responsibility for the conflict.

On Sunday, an Israeli ministerial committee reached a decision in the controversy, allowing Nazareth's Muslim community to build the mosque – provided they removed the protest tent they had erected at the site.

Salman Abu-Ahmad, an Islamic leader in Nazareth, rejected the decision.

"The decision is not serious," he told JTA. "It does not meet our minimum demands."

Iranian Jews arrested

By JULIA GOLDMAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — Twelve Iranian Jews were arrested in Iran last month, but the specific charges remain unclear, according to sources familiar with the situation.

The arrests stem from an internal dispute between the Jewish communities of Tehran and Shiraz, in southwest Iran, according to the sources, with the Iranian authorities stepping in on the side of the Tehran community.

Malcolm Hoenlein, the executive vice-chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said he was in regular contact with people directly involved with the Iranian Jewish community, and that efforts are underway to resolve the situation as soon as possible. Another source said he hoped the dispute could be resolved internally.

The Conference of Presidents is an umbrella organization of 55 Jewish groups, which represents communal concerns with the U.S. administration.

A widely distributed alert circulating on the Internet said that 23 Jews, including three rabbis, had been arrested for "teaching and learning Torah."

Hoenlein and other sources said the report was "exaggerated."

Contrary to the cyber-rumors, Hoenlein said none of the Jews arrested were facing execution.

The United States government is aware of the situation, he said, but not involved in any negotiations.

Some 8,000 Jews lived in Shiraz on the eve of the 1979 Iranian revolution, but today's Jewish population there is difficult to assess.

The *American Jewish Year Book* puts Iran's total Jewish population at 12,500; other estimates have put the current number as high as 35,000.

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AOL CANADA

Israel Election Notebook
May 17

By DAVID LANDAU
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Israeli Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon is flirting with Russia, with the seeming acquiescence of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu – and to the mounting chagrin of the United States.

Sharon's recent visit to Moscow comes as the United States and its NATO allies are continuing their campaign against Russia's traditional ally, Serbia.

The visit has critics charging that America's own intimate ally, Israel, has turned its back on Washington at a time of war.

Those mystified by Sharon's Moscow trip got a hint of what was taking place when he acknowledged to an American reporter the truth behind the rampant suspicions in Israel, that this policy departure on Russia is linked to the imminent Israeli elections.

The former general, who in 1973 was instrumental in founding the Likud bloc, told the *New York Times* in an interview that he believed Likud could win the Israeli election next month if just three percent more of the immigrant community from the former Soviet Union would vote for its prime ministerial candidate, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Indeed, many of these immigrants would be pleased at the sight of a warming relationship between their new country and their former Russian homeland, for which they still harbor emotional, and in some cases, business ties.

The first hint that something was afoot came last month, when, with NATO troops in action against the Serbs, Israel among all western nations remained curiously reticent in its expressions of solidarity with its patron and friend, the United States.

Netanyahu eventually made the requisite statements of support – but only after eyebrows had been raised at home and in Washington over his obvious reluctance to speak out in favor of the NATO strikes in Yugoslavia.

But Sharon left people on both sides of the Atlantic gasping when he not only failed to side with America, but actually criticized the NATO operation.

He hinted that the Kosovar Muslims were linked to nations and organizations hostile to Israel.

He also focused on Holocaust-era memories of Balkan collaboration with the Nazis – when the Serbs stood out for their brave resistance to the Germans.

He spoke of the dangers of a Kosovar state becoming a hotbed of Islamic terrorism that could rattle Europe for years to come.

He spoke of the dangerous precedent – for Israel – of outside powers intervening by force in the internal affairs of a sovereign state, when a part of its populace raises separatist demands.

And he spoke, too, of the need for Israel to improve its ties with the Serbs' longtime friend – Russia.

Further upsetting his critics, Sharon's comments, and subsequent visit, come at a time when Russia has been experiencing increased anti-Semitism, much of it prompted by the nation's ongoing economic crisis.

Observers who failed to notice that something new and unusual might be happening in the corridors of power in Jerusalem, got another clue when Netanyahu appeared to suggest to a visiting U.S. congressional delegation that the policy of economic sanctions against Russian firms, a means of curbing its supply of nuclear technology to Iran, might be replaced by an incentive-based approach.

The prime minister's aides later vigorously denied that Netanyahu had urged a six-month moratorium on sanctions. Benjamin Gilman, chair of the house international relations committee, endorsed the denials.

But to some observers, something seemed suspicious, and corroboration was not long in coming.

In Washington, U.S. officials vented their anger when they realized that their Israeli guest – Sharon – was planning to fly from the U.S. capital to Moscow.

This came on the same weekend that Russian President Boris Yeltsin's aides were busily denying their leader's apparent threat to retarget Russia's nuclear missiles at the NATO countries.

U.S. officials, for their part, denied Sharon's claims that his visit to Russia, and his overtures to the Kremlin, were all co-ordinated with Washington.

The same denial, in even blunter terms, was delivered by the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, Martin Indyk, visiting Israel as the head of a team of U.S. officials for joint strategic talks with the Israelis.

Along with voicing their anger over Sharon's visit, U.S. officials also criticized Israeli settlement activity.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, meeting with Sharon, urged Israel to refrain from expanding settlements.

And Indyk, during a meeting with Netanyahu, also criticized Israeli settlement activity, reiterating American concerns that it could hamper peace efforts with the Palestinians.

Meanwhile, there was a report that Sharon's Moscow visit had an added dimension.

The veteran defence editor of the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz*, Ze'ev Schiff, reported that Sharon was proposing to the Russians that they mediate a deal between Israel and Syria for the immediate withdrawal — before the elections – of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon.

Underscoring the potential electoral appeal of such a dramatic move, yet another Israeli soldier was killed in southern Lebanon by a Hezbollah roadside bomb.

Sgt. Noam Barnea, 21, was buried at a military cemetery.

Israel's security cabinet met in Jerusalem to discuss the nation's options in the face of mounting military casualties in southern Lebanon. Some Israeli media reported that Israel is starting to reduce its troop presence in Lebanon to reduce casualties.

All this came just as Sharon was reportedly making his case about Lebanon to Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov and other top policymakers in Moscow.

Sharon, who had stated he was visiting Moscow to press Russian officials to block the flow of weapons technology to Iran, denied the *Ha'aretz* report.

The stakes, then, are no longer merely three percent of Israel's Russian immigrant vote.

They also involve a deal on Lebanon that could be an election winner for Likud.

At the same time, however, the repercussions for Israel's friendship with the United States and for its overall strategic standing could be far-reaching indeed.

On election stump, Sharon courts Russia to chagrin of U.S.

Ariel Sharon

Yom Ha'atzmaut

A 79th Battalion armored car and its all-Machal crew during a lull in fighting in the Galilee, October 1948. From top, Jack Gold (Canada), Frank Perlman (United States) and Sol Ossin (South Africa).

Canadians fought for Israel's independence

By
YEDIDIA 'EDDY' KAPLANSKY
Special to The CJN

In the autumn of 1947, Montreal's Sydney Shulemson, a former RCAF pilot and Canada's most highly decorated Jewish serviceman of World War II, travelled to New York to participate in a meeting of a covert committee of influential Americans headed by Jewish philanthropist Rudolph Sonneborn.

The Sonneborn Institute, as they dubbed themselves, backed the Haganah throughout Israel's pre-state and nascent period, both practically and financially, in the recruitment of volunteers and procurement of military equipment.

Shulemson's participation in that meeting led to the formation of a similar covert group in Montreal soon after the UN General Assembly's adoption of the Partition Plan for Palestine on November 29, 1947. At about the same time, other like-minded groups sprung up in Canada's major cities. The one in Toronto was initiated by Ben Dunkelman, a highly decorated ex-army officer of World War II renown.

The efforts of the loosely connected committees, co-ordinated mainly through the Haganah office in New York, resulted in the active participation of many young Canadians in Israel's War of Independence. Perhaps because of the secrecy involved in recruitment of the volunteers, there was no fanfare or publicity when those who returned came home. To this day, their very existence has not been formally acknowledged by any national organization representative of Canadian Jewry.

Small wonder that few people, except friends and relatives, knew much about the Canadian volunteers before the publication in 1983 of David Bercuson's very revealing book, *The Secret Army*.

A most appropriate occasion for Canadian Jewry to have at long last paid tribute to their volunteers who put their lives very much on the line in 1948 for the Jewish state's creation, would have been their 1998 celebrations of Israel's 50th Jubilee. It is difficult to understand why such a tribute, which should rightly have been central to the Canada-wide celebrations, did not take place. Perhaps the idea simply never occurred to the decision-makers.

Whatever the reason, its likely consequence is that the volunteers themselves will never see their formal acknowledgment by Canadian Jewry, as time is quickly running out for them.

I am aware of only two such tributes last year, organized separately at the local level in Montreal and Toronto. Only the one in Montreal was exclusively for the 1948 volunteers, and of course both focused primarily on local veterans.

Israel's 1948 overseas volunteers were known as Machal, the Hebrew acronym for volunteers from abroad. About 3,500 in all, they came from 37 different countries and every continent, and included a considerable number of non-Jews. The 119 Machalniks killed or missing in the war came from 29 different countries, and included four women and nine non-Jews. The eleven from Canada who were killed or missing included three non-Jews.

Machal men and women served with distinction in all branches of the IDF on land, at sea and in the air, without rank and mostly poorly equipped. Their contribution proved particularly important in the formation and efficient operation of the air force, armored corps, medical corps and artillery.

Of the 235 or so Canadians, some 61 percent were veterans of World War II, among them a

Continued on page 38

FIRST CALL

This year, on the eve of the Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day, Yad Vashem will launch a broad-based comprehensive campaign to collect the names of Holocaust victims.

For over 43 years, Yad Vashem has been collecting testimonies of survivors in Israel and throughout the world. Survivors' testimonies are a foremost source of information in the documentation of the names of those who perished in the Holocaust. These testimonies are sometimes the only perpetuation of the victims' names. Relatives and loved ones complete pages of testimony with the victims' personal details, including last place of residence, profession, place and circumstances of their death. Occasionally, a picture of the victim is attached to the form. The pages of testimony are preserved in the Hall of Names at Yad Vashem.

Until now, 53 years after the end of World War II, some three million names of Holocaust victims have been collected in the Hall of Names at Yad Vashem. As the twentieth century draws to a close and the generation of survivors grows older, this may be the last opportunity for the Jewish people in Israel and the Diaspora to provide a name and memory for each of the six million people who were murdered simply because they were Jews. A census of the Jewish people will be initiated and conducted in order to collect the still unknown names of those who perished in the Holocaust.

Yad Vashem will again appeal, in Israel and in the Diaspora, to the relatives and loved ones of those who were murdered in the Holocaust, to complete pages of testimony. At a later stage, the pages of testimony will be scanned and entered into the international central data base of victims' names in the Hall of Names at Yad Vashem.

At the launching of the campaign at Yad Vashem, the President and the Prime Minister of the State of Israel will call upon the Jewish people to heed this appeal and fill out pages of testimony.

The Canadian Society along with the American & British Societies have been asked to be a part of this very exciting and critically important project. In Israel the Campaign will be launched on the eve of Yom Hashoah Monday, April 12, 1999, and will continue until the end of the century in Israel and among Jewish Communities worldwide.

Please take this opportunity to fill in this page of testimony and to obtain more pages or for further information contact the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem at 416-785-1333 or 1-888-494-7999 or e-mail ydvashem@istar.ca

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די אויפגאבע פון יד-ושם איז איינאמלען אין היימלאנד דעם אנדענק פון אלע יידן, וואס זענען נעפאלן, האבן זיך מוסר נפש נעווען, געקעמפט און זיך אנטקעגנגעשטעלט דעם נאציען שונא און זיינע אריוסהעלפער, און זיי אלעמען, די קהילות, די ארגאניזאציעס און אינסטיטוציעס, וועלכע זענען חרוב נעווארן צוליב זייער אנגעהעריקייט צום יידישן פאלק – שטענדיג א דענקמאל (געזעץ-כינ נומי 231, ז"י אלול תשי"ג, 82.8.3591)

דאטען וועגן אומגעקומענעם: יעדן נאמען אויף א באזונדער בלאט, מיט קלאראר שריפט
DETAILS OF VICTIM: INSCRIBE EACH VICTIM ON A SEPARATE PAGE, IN BLOCK LETTERS

בילד פון דעם אומגעקומענעם שרייבט אן דעם נאמען אויף דער ריקזייט פון דעם בילד

Victim's photo write victim's name on back side please

1. פאמיליע-נאמען: Family name:	
2. פארנאמען: First name:	
3. פאמיליע-נאמען פאר דער חתונה (פאר א פרוי): Previous name: (nee for woman)	
4. געבורטס-דאטע (ווי אלט) Birth date or appr. age	5. מין Sex
6. פארהיראט: Fam. status	
7. ארט פון געבורט (שטאט, לאנד): Birth place and country:	
8. מיטער פון דעם אומגעקומענעם - פארנאמען: - מיידלשע-פאמיליע: Victim's mother - First name: - Maiden name/nee:	
9. פאטער פון דעם אומגעקומענעם - פארנאמען: Victim's father - First name:	
10. מאן/פרוי פון דעם אומגעקומענעם - פארנאמען: - מיידלשע-פאמיליע: Victim's spouse - First name: - Maiden name/nee:	
11. סטאבילער וואוינארט (שטאט, לאנד): Permanent residence place and country:	
12. וואוינערטער בעת דער מלחמה (שטאט, לאנד): Wartime residence place and country:	
13. בערוף אדער פאך: Victim's profession:	14. צייט פון טויט: Date/year of death:
15. ארט און אומשטענדן פון טויט: Death place: Circumstances of death:	

Reported by: נעשריבן פון:
I, the undersigned איך, דער אונטערגעשריבענער
Residing at (address) וואס וואוינט (אדרעס)
Relationship to victim (family/other) קרובישאפט

דערקלער דערמיט, אז די עדות מיט אלע פרטים איז א ריכטיקע לויט מיין בעסטען וויסן
HEREBY DECLARE THAT THIS TESTIMONY IS CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

Place and date ארט און דאטע Signature אונטערשריפט

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State of Israel

Volunteers fought for Israel

Continued from page 37

number of non-Jews. It should be noted that of the 20 World War II-trained pilots from Canada in the Israel Air Force (IAF) during the 1948 war, an overwhelming 75 percent were non-Jews.

About 240 of the overseas volunteers served on the Aliya-Bet (clandestine immigration) ships whose importance to the pre-state struggle for independence is not widely known. While most were from the United States, the number includes 15 from Canada.

The above statistics derive from research in the late 1980s and 1990s, some of which I conducted.

The identity of virtually every Canadian Machalnik, plus other relevant facts and statistics, can be found in my interim research paper on the subject published last year in *The Canadian Jewish News* jubilee tribute to Israel. That paper, plus another on IAF fliers in the War of Independence, are readily available at Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives and at other appropriate repositories.

It angers and saddens me therefore, that erroneous Machal "facts" continue to appear. A case in point is *Voices From The Heart*, which was published last year.

The book's primary purpose was to commemorate the greater Toronto Jewish community's ties to Israel. It achieved this purpose well. But it also attempted to pay tribute to Machal. Unfortunately, some of what appeared was incorrect.

In one article, entitled *Who Were the Mahal?*, the number 3,000 is given as the Machal total including "the largest contingent, an estimated 1,500" from South Africa and "probably 400" from Canada.

Canadian volunteers resting at Kfar Bilu, probably in June 1948 during the first UN truce. Clockwise from bottom left are: Moe Dankevy (in undershirt), Murray Cappel, Jack Berger, Joe Gerstl, Avrom Siegel, Murray Ginsburg (seated forefront), Ben Ocupnik, Irving Kaplansky (standing with his hands on hips), Al Spiegel (in undershirt) and Joe Abramson.

The fact is that the largest contingent, an estimated 1,100, came from the United States, but on a Jewish per capita basis, the contingents of most, if not all of the other countries, including Canada, were larger than the American one. On a per capita basis, the South Africans greatly outnumbered every other country. In actual numbers, they were second to the contingent from the United States.

It is noteworthy too, that of the major Jewish communities worldwide, only South Africa's has shown consistent and unstinting pride in its 1948 Machalniks. In the early 1970s, the South African Zionist Federation even commissioned a book in their honor. Although the book is called *South Africa's 800*, a count of their names reveals that there were 678 Machalniks from that country. The apparent discrepancy between the two numbers is covered by the 129 South Africans who had by then settled in Israel on kibbutzim.

Voices From The Heart asserts that there were only 40 non-Jews in Machal ranks, and that the IAF was "at first 95 percent Machal." The fact is, however, that throughout the entire war the extent of Machal participation in the IAF never exceeded 76.6 percent.

The number of non-Jewish volunteer fliers in the IAF was 91, of whom 16 were from Canada. In addition, an undetermined number of non-Jews were in IAF ground jobs and in the ground and naval forces.

Voices from the Heart also included two people, Len Fine and Marjory Ziff among the list of Canadians who were killed or missing. Both survived.

But perhaps the most regrettable of the book's Machal errors, is its failure to mention the six young Torontonians who lost their lives. Lest they be forgotten, they were: the cousins Ed Lugech and Harvey Cohen, Reuben 'Red' Schiff, Sidney Rubinoff, Sidney Leisure and Wilf Canter. Three of them were barely 19 years old; the rest were not much older.

The dissemination of such misinformation about Machal is, of course, never intentional. But it does indicate a disregard for historical accuracy, the unfortunate result of which is that the truth is forever lost to posterity.

The author lives in Haifa.

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Yom Ha'atzmaut

TEL AVIV SCENES

The photo of Tel Aviv on the far left was taken in 1913 by Montrealer Henry Nathanson. The streets are not paved. Sand is everywhere, but the boy on stilts seems perfectly in command of his method of locomotion. The photo on the immediate left is of Tel Aviv 36 years later. People are everywhere, on rootops, on balconies and in the streets, waiting for the Yom Ha'atzmaut parade.

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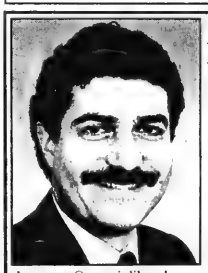
People sing and dance in large throngs on the streets of Israel, in celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut. At left, we see a large, happy gathering hitching a ride on a "refurbished" tractor in Jerusalem. Below, we see a crowd in the central square in Tel Aviv in 1948.

[IPPO archives]

In the photo below, we see two subsequent generations of Israelis celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut 50 years later, in 1998, in the same central square of Tel Aviv.

[Israel photo]



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Health

Amniocentesis said safer than blood tests

By BEN ROSE
CJN Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Women over 35 years old, who are pregnant with their first child, face an additional risk if they opt for a blood test at 12 weeks of pregnancy, instead of waiting for an amniocentesis at 16 weeks, says a staff physician at Mount Sinai Hospital

The risk is six percent higher than the risk of an amniocentesis, which can result in a miscarriage once in 200 cases, Dr. June Carroll told an audience at Leah Posluns Theatre recently.

The earlier blood test, known as CVS, involves taking blood from the placenta, Carroll said. During amniocentesis, cells are taken from the amniotic sac surrounding the baby.

One-third of babies with Down syndrome are born to women more than 35 years old, Carroll said.

She and three other geneticists taking part in a Healthy Living forum, advised families to share information openly about hereditary diseases.

They said that accurate information is needed about when the disease first showed up and what specific areas it affected. Both sides of the family need to be queried.

Some life insurance companies in Canada discriminate against people who are at risk of having a hereditary disease, said Dr. Wendy Meschino, a clinical geneticist at North York General Hospital and a consultant to the Ministry of Health.

"In the course of predictive testing, we sometimes advise people to check their insurance policies first, and then come back if they are satisfied there is no discrimination in the policies. On the other hand, some people decide not to be tested."

Though many people fear that they will develop cancer if a parent has the disease, Meschino said only five to 10 percent of cancers are hereditary.

About 65 percent of pregnant women in Toronto opt to have a blood test under a maternal genetic screening program, Carroll said. In six out of 100 cases, an unusual risk of hereditary disease is shown, and this can be confirmed, positively or negatively, at 16 weeks when an amniocentesis is taken.

Neural tube defects in babies, (spina bifida) can be prevented if the mother takes 0.4 mg. of folic acid daily during the early weeks of pregnancy, she said.

Genetic screening is a complicated matter, said Carroll, because it brings up the question of abortion as an option. For this reason, a lot of couples do not want the tests, she said.

The risk of developing Tay-Sachs disease, which affects Ashkenazi Jews, is four per 1,000 births.

Dr. Diane Kelsall, a Mount Sinai Hopsital staff physician, said that genetic counselling saved the life of someone in her family who had malignant hypothermia, a hereditary disease. The rare disease can be prevented by proper introduction of an anesthetic, she said.

Kelsall delighted the audience with pictures of her large family group sharing information about their health history. "Family members should talk to each other and to their family doctor," she said.

In her case, blood tests were taken at a family picnic, but she didn't think this was necessary in most instances.

Dr. Sean Blaine, a Stratford physician, gave an overview of the current state of genetic counselling.

The program was co-presented by Mount Sinai Hospital, Jewish Women's Federation and the Bathurst Jewish Centre, and sponsored by Imperial Oil Charitable Foundation. It was chaired by Carol Seidman of Mount Sinai Hospital.

NYGH gets ready to expand its emergency department

TORONTO — North York General Hospital has received approval from the minister of health to more than double the size of its emergency department.

The government will fund $2.2 million of the $4.3-million project, with the balance coming from the community.

"We are delighted that the government has fast-tracked the emergency department expansion so we can move ahead quickly to better serve our community," said hospital president and CEO Murray MacKenzie. "With this announcement, we can begin construction on the first phase of the project early this summer and complete 5,000 square feet of new space within nine months. Renovations will continue over the next three years as the Leslie site redevelopment project progresses."

North York General Hospital is one of the busiest emergency centres in the province, with close to 60,000 patients treated last year. The number of patients is expected to grow to 75,000 or 85,000 after hospital restructuring is implemented.

In order to accommodate the increased caseload, the emergency department will expand from 9,000 square feet to over 22,000 square feet.

"A group of physicians and nurses have been working together for months to plan the new, state-of-the-art department," said Dr. Tim Rutledge, chief of emergency services. "We're all very excited about the impact it will have on the quality of care we provide and the work environment for staff.

"After the congestion and overcrowding of the last few years, there's no question that more space will vastly improve the level of care for patients. There will be more cubicles which means greater privacy and dignity for patients and families. We will create special areas where we can concentrate care and resources on certain types of patients such as children, those with heart attacks and strokes, and so on," he said.

The emergency department expansion is one part of the redevelopment of North York General Hospital, including expansion of the Leslie site, conversion of the Branson site to an ambulatory care centre, and expansion of long-term care services at the Seniors' Health Centre and other locations.

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HONDA BUILT WITHOUT COMPROMISE

Actor enjoying director's dream

Will stage light comedy

By BEN ROSE
CJN Staff Reporter

Helen Kessler directs *Squabbles* at Holy Blossom Temple.

Helen Kessler, a former actor with the Holy Blossom Temple Stagecraft Company, is enjoying a director's dream.

For her first play as a director, she has chosen one she personally picked out after reading a slew of plays dealing with family relations.

"This is my choice and I believe in it," she told *The CJN*.

The play, *Squabbles*, has never been done in Canada and, as far as Kessler knows, has never been on Broadway, but has been staged twice in the United States.

"But I think it is a wonderful comedy, and I want to direct it so that people can laugh till their sides ache."

Deliberately seeking out a play which is not thought provoking or issue-oriented, Kessler said *Squabbles* is not in the Stagecraft Company's tradition. But she is so sure that it will hit the funnybone of Canadian Jewish families that the company is hoping to remount it at the Skylight Theatre in Earl Bales Park, or the Ford Studio Theatre this summer when its run at Holy Blossom is over.

Squabbles, by the American playwright Marshall Karp, is set in present-day Connecticut, and deals with a young married couple whose parents move in with them. From then on it's a scenario that, according to Kessler, anyone from age 5 to 95 will appreciate as coming close to home.

Kessler, who has appeared as an actor in *Body of Water*, *Shmulnik's Waltz* and *The Tenth Man* for the Stagecraft Company , said her chief problem in directing *Squabbles* is that even the actors are laughing at the lines. But she is sure this will clear up by opening night.

Leading the seven-member cast are Gerry Babins, Judy Malkin, Eric Kirsh and Ana Grossman, with supporting help from Susanne Egier, Abe Neufeld and Ellen Karabanow.

Squabbles is being staged at Holy Blossom Temple April 29, May 1 and 2. Curtain time is 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $10 in advance and $12 at the door, with students and seniors at half price on Thursday and Sunday. Proceeds from refreshments sold at intermission, and before and after the play will help finance the Temple's Out of the Cold program.

A patron's ticket at $50 offers reserved seating and a tax receipt for the maximum allowed. For tickets and information call 789-3291, ext. 511.

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Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

Dorothy Parker brings her martini back to Toronto.

A COMIC-DRAMATIC TAKE ON THE 20th CENTURY

Montreal-based theatre director, instructor and playwright **Anna Fuerstenberg** has taken years to develop Saidye, a 120-year-old comic-dramatic character who looks back on the 20th century from the year 2050, having survived a future apocalypse.

Saidye is based on "an amalgam of my aunts, none of which were actually related to me," says **Fuerstenberg**, who explains that her family, after surviving the Holocaust, acquired many honorary relatives in Canada. Fuerstenberg was born after the war's end in a refugee camp in Stuttgart.

"Because we had no family, we just adopted everybody," she says. "These women – I'm including my mother among them – were survivors and they had the most positive, light-filled lives. They survived everything and they had this glow about them, and they interpreted things with great spirit and joy. These women needed to be heard."

Fuerstenberg found that audiences would always react positively to Saidye's Yiddish-inflected malapropisms and her irreverent takes on the century's malaise and joys. After playing the character on numerous radio shows and comedy festivals, she built up a full show, which she performed to great acclaim last year in Nashville.

She performs the show, *Saidye's Millenium*, with only herself and a klezmer fiddler on stage, May 2 and 3, 8:30 p.m., at the Tarragon Extra Space, 30 Bridgeman St.

Incidentally, Fuerstenberg comes from a highly talented family. Her brother is **Adam Fuerstenberg**, a professor of literature at Ryerson and editor of *Parchment*, the annual journal of contemporary Canadian Jewish writing.

* * *

Holocaust Theme Explored: Sophia Tsouluhas offers a reading of **Anne Ptasznik's** 45-minute monologue-in-progress, "No Posthumous Victory." Ptasznik says the story examines, both with humor and seriousness, the impact of trauma on the next generation.

Presented by First Draft Theatre Company, the reading is followed by another reading of a new Canadian play, *Reuben's Wedding Cake*, by **Rosario Fernandez**. April 26, 7:30 p.m. Victory Cafe, 581 Markham St. (corner Lennox) 251-9292.

* * *

Arts Briefs

• *Students Writes* is a presentation of 21 original plays written, directed and produced by students in the four-year drama program at Unionville High School. Poor Alex Theatre, May 6 to 15. 905-479-2787, ext. 295.

• *That Dorothy Parker*, **Carol Lempert's** one-woman tour-de-force that played here last summer, returns as a full-length play May 4 to 22 at the Canadian Stage Theatre, 26 Berkeley St. $25-$10. 368-3110.

• Celebrate International Dance Day with a free party hosted by the Fringe Festival of Independent Dance Artists. April 29, 8 p.m. Danny Grossman Dance Company Studios, 509 Parliament St. 410-4291.

* * *

Art Shows

• The Wembley Group of Artists, consisting of **Myra Barook**, **Brenda Bornstein**, **Susan Cohen** and **Rosalie Seidelman**, present an exhibit and sale of their work at the Kathleen Gormley McKay Art Centre, 197 Main St., Unionville. The works extend from realism to fantasy, and include florals, impressionist and architectural pieces. April 29 to May 2. 905-886-3808.

• Gallery Telpaz, located in the Kanata Design Centre in the Ottawa area, presents the works of three award-winning Toronto sculptors: **Al Green**, **Maryon Kanaroff** and **May Marx**. Until May 2. 430 Hazeldean Rd., Suite 204. 613-831-7528.

• The 11th biannual Beach Studio Tour & Sale runs April 30 to May 2.

* * *

Names In The News

• Distinguished Canadian composer, conductor and arts administrator **Louis Applebaum** is the recipient of the 1999 Roy Thomson Hall Award, presented annually in recognition of outstanding contribution to the musical life of Toronto. The ceremony is May 4.

•*My Beloved's Garden*, a new choral work by 23-year-old **James Moffett**, has won the top prize ($500) in the Song of Songs Young Composers Competition. The work premieres in the multicultural Song of Songs performances at Trinity-St. Paul's United Church on May 26 & 30, and at the Leah Posluns Theatre on June 2. 924-6211.

•Canadian composer-conductor-violinist **Dr. Alexander Sasha Weinstangel** is in residence with the York Symphony Orchestra from April 12 to May 2. A series of concerts during this period culminates with the performance of Weinstangel's *Celebration Overture*. May 1 and 2. Markham Theatre. 905-305-7469.

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PICKERING 9:30am	Pickering Town Centre (Eaton's Side)
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Netanya R&D - *Innovation with Results*

Notable authors grace lineup of Bloor JCC literary series

Books and Bagles participants [from left] Hannah Swartz, Margie Wolfe, Frances Enchin, Susan Cole and Greta Hofmann Nemiroff. [Barbara Silverstein photo]

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — The coffee flowed and the bagels were piled high at the Bloor Jewish Community Centre's (JCC) Wallin lounge where the book *From Memory to Transformation: Jewish Women's Voices*, was the focus of Books and Bagels, the JCC's literary series.

Some 75 people – mainly women – listened intently to three women give readings.

Journalist and *NOW* magazine entertainment editor Susan Cole, and women's studies professor Greta Hofmann Nemiroff, both contributed to *Memory and Transformation*, edited by Margie Wolfe and Sarah Silberstein Swartz.

Silberstein Swartz' daughter Hannah Swartz, read for her mother who had to cancel at the last minute for personal reasons. Wolfe, of Second Story Press, introduced all the readers.

Books and Bagels, the brainchild of Frances Enchin, is run through the JCC's cultural arts program. Now in its fifth year, the series has had many notables giving readings, among them playwright Jason Sherman, novelist Morley Torgov and *Globe and Mail* columnist Rick Salutin.

Enchin, who was on the JCC's program committee in 1994, said she wanted to start a reading series because while there was a book fair in the fall there was no ongoing Jewish reading series.

"There was concern about whether we would be able to build a program throughout the year, which has proved to be no problem, Enchin said.

The first program was with Torgov. "We did it by the seat of our pants. I was terrified nobody would show up. But there were about 20 people."

"We 've had very little trouble getting readers. We called up people who we thought would be interesting and most people were eager to do it.

"Writing is a lonely profession and I think most writers welcome the opportunity to read. Now people often call us."

Enchin said she likes to have a variety of people, known and unknown, to read. "It's important to present people whose work has not got a lot of attention.

"When you see a lesser known person being discovered by an audience, that's what I find special."

The program, which is very informal, attracts people of all ages, depending on the writer; a lot people are from the JCC, she said. "There's a following."

On May 2 poet Libby Scheier will be reading from her new book *Kaddish for my Father: New and Selected Poems 1970-1998* and poet Malca Litovitz will also be reading. The Sunday morning series is held in Wallin Lounge at 11 a.m.

The series will end on May 16 with Harold Troper who will be reading from his new book, *The Ransomed of God: the Remarkable Story of One Woman's Role in the Rescue of Syrian Jews.*

Cantorial concert set

TORONTO — Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am's own cantor Yehudah Rottner will be performing at the synagogue's 8th annual Yom Yerushalayim concert of Song and Joy, May 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Rottner will be joined by other cantors from Canada and the United States, Sidney Dworkin, Itzhak Zhrebker and Yair Subar. They will be directed by symphony conductor Stephen Glass from Montreal.

Tickets are $10-$50. Call 633-5500.

JOLSON: THE MUSICAL GIVEAWAY

The CJN is giving away 6 pairs of tickets to *Jolson: The Musical* for Thursday, April 29, 1999, 8 p.m. at the Princess of Wales Theatre in Toronto.

Rules: Please print your full name, address and daytime telephone number on a piece of paper along with the answer to the following question:

What actor stars in the leading role in the current performance of *Jolson: The Musical?*

All correct answers received by 5 p.m on April 26, 1999 are eligible. Six eligible entries will be randomly selected at *The CJN* offices April 27, 1999 and the winners will be notified that day by phone. Winners must be 18 or over and must be able to pick up the tickets from our office at York Mills and Don Mills in North York on April 28. *The CJN will not mail tickets out. No exceptions will be made. The CJN* will not enter into any other correspondence with contestants.

Send your response to: Al Jolson Contest, Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Rd. #205, North York, Ontario. M3B 3K4. Or fax to Al Jolson Contest 416-391-0829 or Email [TORCJN1@aol.com] under the subject heading Al Jolson Contest.

Employees and immediate family members of The CJN and Mirvish Productions *are ineligible to enter.*

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Travel, Arts & Business

Jewish Film Festival to kick off on April 29

Sheldon Kirshner reviews five of the movies to be screened at the seventh annual Toronto Jewish Film Festival, running at the Cineplex Odeon Hyland theatre from April 29 to May 6.

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

It is a truism that Jews are found in the unlikeliest of places. Mississippi's delta, a hotbed of segregation prior to the dawn of the civil rights era, is one of them. In *Delta Jews* (May 5 at 4:30 p.m.), a fine, informative documentary, Mike De Witt explores Jewish life in that remote, ethnocentric corner of the United States.

Being white but not Christian, Jews enjoyed a special status in the delta, where cotton is king. They were at once insiders and outsiders, but compared to the degrading position of blacks, Jews were, for all practical purposes, blessed.

Mainly shopkeepers in towns like Greenwood, Cleveland, Vicksburg and Indianola, Jews won almost complete acceptance from their white gentile neighbors. And yet, as the film makes clear, they struggled with the gnawing feeling that they didn't quite belong.

Anti-Semitism, we're told, played little or no part in day-to-day dealings, but fear of it never dissipated. The social and political upheavals of the 1950s and 1960s, the decades of racial reform enforced by the federal government, released hidden resentments and made Jews acutely aware of their marginality.

Jews were under pressure to join the Citizens' Council, which fought de-segregation tooth and nail, and many did so "to get along." We're left with the impression that while bigotry was not in their hearts, local Jews did not appreciate the presence of "outside agitators," some of whom were northern Jews.

"These people had no business down here," says one Jewish man. "They were not our kind of people," observes a Jewish woman. Indeed, the issue was so explosive that some rabbis "stayed clear" of it.

De-segregation was not the only problem faced by delta Jews. Since the late 1940s, Jews have migrated from the area, and today, the Jewish population has dwindled to 300 from a high of 1,500 in 1945.

***

Identity and guilt are the issues at the core of Dan Tal's Hebrew-language documentary, *Split* (May 3 at 2 p.m.). Tal, 30, and his father, a German convert to Judaism, travel to Germany to confront the past. The results are edifying.

More than 30 years ago, Bernd Kandeler deserted from the German armed forces, then settled on a kibbutz. Kandeler, a Lutheran, was drawn to Israel for essentially two reasons. He was ashamed of Germany's central role in the Holocaust, and he was swept away by the idealism he sensed in Israel.

On the kibbutz, he met and

***The Dybbuk...* is an unappealing concoction.**

married a Jewish woman whose parents were Holocaust survivors. They objected to the match, but eventually reconciled themselves to it. Later, Kandeler changed his name to Ben Tal.

In *Split*, a reference to the Tal family's dual identity, father and son embark on a whirlwind journey. They visit a church in the company of relatives. They discuss the concept of collective guilt with Ben's brother and his daughter-in-law. They investigate the wartime career of Ben's uncle Wolfgang, a newsreel cameraman who was "the mouth and the eyes" of the Nazi regime.

At the conclusion of their odyssey, Dan and Ben feel a greater kinship toward each other, though they have hardly come to grips with Germany's crimes against humanity. There are two glaring omissions. Ben's life on the kibbutz goes unmentioned, and his wife, though pictured, is not interviewed.

***

Dariusz Jablonski's *Photographer* (May 3 at 4 p.m.) takes us back to the Lodz ghetto, the last in Poland to be liquidated by the Nazis. The film offers a new visual perspective on the subject, since it largely unfolds against the backdrop of 400 newly-found color slides of daily life in the ghetto. The slides, taken by Walter Genewein, the Nazis' chief accountant in Lodz (Litzmanstadt), were discovered in a second-hand book store in Vienna in 1987.

Photographer is also based on German records and correspondence and on gut-wrenching eyewitness testimony from Arnold Mostowicz, a Jewish doctor in the doomed ghetto. He recalls the odor of unwashed bodies, philosophizes about the spectre of death, and commiserates with Chaim Rumkowski's terrible dilemmas. Rumkowski, of course, was the leader of Lodz's Judenrat (Jewish council).

The German reports are chilling in their inhumanity. Genewein is portrayed as a detached opportunist who eagerly bought confiscated Jewish property and who was mainly concerned with the quality of his slides.

***

In *Andre's Lives* (May 2 at 4:30 p.m.), Brad Lichtenstein draws an eerie portrait of Andre Steiner, an 89-year-old Slovakian Holocaust survivor, and his two sons, Peter and George.

Steiner, a member of the "working group" which saved 7,000 Jews, is reluctant to revisit Slovakia, having tried to wipe that memory out of his mind. But on his son's insistence, the retired architect returns to his birthplace.

The threesome visit cities in what was once Czechoslovakia – Bratislava, Brno and Prague – and pay visits to three former concentration camps, Sered, Novaky and Vyhne.

On the journey, Steiner is assailed by ambivalent feelings. He is shaken by a meeting with a Slovakian collaborator whom he once bribed and by a visit to a town where he last saw his parents. Yet he is heartened by two reunions, the first, with a Jewish woman who shared his hardships and the second, with a Christian man, who hid him and his family in their hour of duress.

***

Yossi Somer's *The Dybbuk of the Holy Apple Field* (April 29 at 7: 30 p.m. and April 30 at 1:30 p.m.), melds elements of *The Exorcist* and *Romeo and Juliet*. A modern-day romance-cum-fable set in Israel, the movie broadly addresses the Orthodox/secular rift which periodically convulses Israeli society.

The protagonists are Hanan Ben-Karina, a young man who was orphaned as a youth; Moshe Sender, a shady businessman who was Hanan's father's partner; and Lea Sender, Sender's lovely daughter.

When Hanan and Lea fall in love, Sender unsheathes a battery of dirty tricks to derail their relationship. Sparks fly and passions flow, but *The Dybbuk of the Holy Apple Field* is an unappealing concoction which relies inordinately on histrionics and special effects.

Dariusz Jablonski's *Photography* takes us back to the Lodz Ghetto.

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The entrance of the Holocaust Memorial Centre in Montreal.

Museum of memories

By NANCY WIGSTON
Special to The CJN

MONTREAL — Each object on display at the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre once belonged to a survivor who later came to this city.

The first museum of its kind in North America, it welcomed its first visitors in 1979.

Directed by Bill Surkis, the centre now attracts some 37,000 visitors a year. In addition, it offers several series and outreach programs that help educate some 90,000 people about the grim realities of the Holocaust.

Yet, as visitors go from room to room, they see clearly that the displays focus firmly on the affirmation of life, as they show how Jewish and human values were sustained in eastern Europe, even in the face of death.

My guide, Paula Bultz, was born in Warsaw, and came to Canada at age four. Her tour stresses the personal aspects of the artifacts on display. Hidden in the ground or given to neighbors for safekeeping, all the items, she says, testify to the "moral and spiritual resistance" of the Jewish people. Their symbolism is poignant, as is that of the huge menorahs outside the Warsaw Synagogue pictured after they survived destruction on May 16, 1943.

Personal mementos comprise the bulk of the displays. In the first room, we find a Hebrew character typewriter; a kiddush cup with a saucer to catch the overflowing wine; a brightly embroidered Torah cover; and a theatre poster advertising a production of *Carmen* starring Yiddish theatre star, Ida Kaminska. Through these objects, an indelible picture of daily Jewish life in prewar Europe emerges before our eyes.

Survivors have sometimes donated the only evidence of their vanished way of life – "a tremendous compliment to us," says Bultz.

Interspersed with the exhibits are videotaped oral histories. A map shows the many and varied Jewish communities in Europe. These were rooted, not transient people, though they were always a minority wherever they settled. Local variations, such as Austrian crowns on an Austrian Jewish Torah cover, speak to Jewish loyalty to their country of residence.

The defining sentiment is not as much political as personal. Photographs mark the personal passages in life: a wedding, baby photos, family and school groups, sports and music clubs. Some faces were well known, like the founder of a children's home, a popular public speaker and lecturer, who went to his death with the children in his care. But most were not. A Romanian woman doctor is represented by her medical kit and her school report card from the 1920s.

As Bultz talks, the stories behind the photos come alive. Medals awarded for boxing prowess belonged to David Kropveld of Amsterdam, who was in Auschwitz before coming to Montreal. "He speaks to schoolchildren," she says.

Other stories concern the hidden children, those protected by gentiles during the war. "Some of these children who were hidden work here in the library," Bultz says.

Pointing to young faces, she lists their accomplishments: "She's a translator. He's a doctor. She's a psychologist here in Montreal."

After such compelling evidence of Jewish vitality in the pre-war period, the displays showing growing anti-Semitic propaganda, especially in Germany, seem particularly ugly. By 1933, every level of society was penetrated by the Reich. Family and politics grew uncomfortably close: a display copy of *Mein Kampf* is just one of thousands given to every newly married German couple, Bultz says. A board game has as its object to "get the Jews out of Germany." One display marks Kristallnacht, the beginning of the end of the Jewish community in Europe.

But even in the face of devastation, there was humanity. A neighbor gave a Jewish friend a double-bottomed brush in which to hide her jewelry, and its long journey ended in Montreal.

Even in the camps, the human spirit lived in the form of hidden diaries, newspapers and even schools. A heart-shaped autograph book was given to Fania Landau by fellow inmates in the Auschwitz munitions factory. Lodz ghetto workers sewed together the pants and sleeves on military uniforms as a form of sabotage.

As we examine some of the retrieved objects – a cutlery set buried in Russia; a letter from a Denver relative returned from Poland with the scrawled notation, "house burned down" – a volunteer stops to say hello.

He is Gustav Grossman. After the war, he helped a friend dig up a box of the family linen in northern Hungary, he tells us.

The last room, with six memorial panels for the six million dead, is sombre and spare, a place for remembrance and meditation.

This centre – which will double in size in early 2000, expanding on Jewish life before and after the Holocaust – brings tangible memories to life. Its theme is hope.

The Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre is currently located in the Cavendish Mall, 514-345-2605.

Advertising Feature

Catch Spring Fever At The JSR

Spring is upon us, and that means business at the popular Jewish Singles Registry (JSR) could not be better. Just ask Rob Singer, Founder and President of the 6 1/2 year old organization which uniquely takes the "blind" out of "blind dating." The way Singer sees it, as the weather outside heats up and the days get longer, single men and women who have been hibernating all winter long are now more enthusiastic than ever about becoming members of the JSR and finding that special someone.

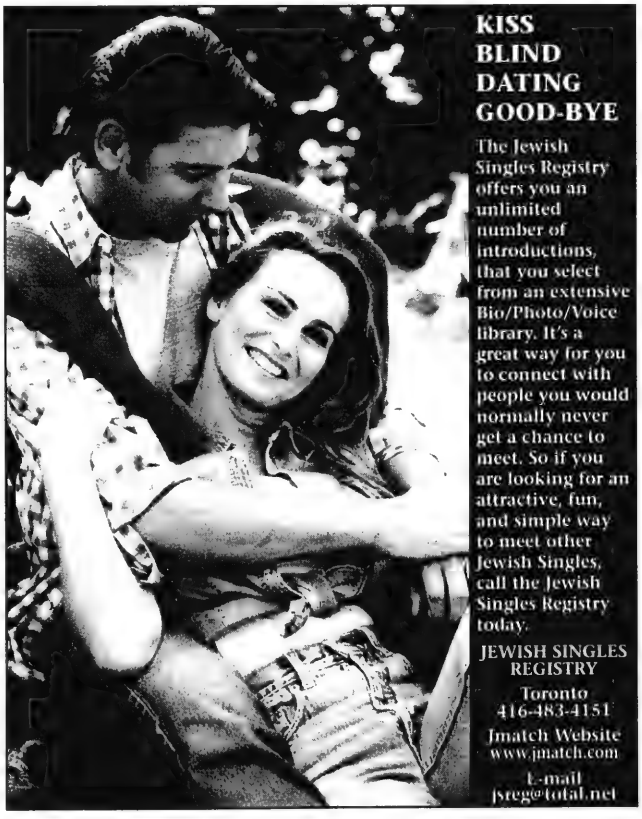
"We have hundreds of dynamic, eligible, and professional singles looking to meet one another," says Singer. "And it is so easy ... we let you choose for yourself who you think you would be compatible with. You get to read detailed profiles, see photographs and even hear what the person sounds like. We have professional staff on hand at all times to give you even more information, should you require some."

If there is one thing the Jewish Singles Registry is famous for, it is turning singles into couples. The ever popular dating service still remains Toronto's most effective way of meeting Jewish singles. And best of all, potential members are screened beforehand. Their wants and needs are analyzed, and then it is the potential member who decides if the service is right for them. Because of the large database of members, there is generally someone for everyone.

With all this going for the JSR members, the Registry takes it one step further. Membership in the Jewish Singles Registry now includes FREE membership in the ever so popular **www.jmatch.com** internet dating service. Close to 500 Toronto Jewish singles have already signed up since September /98. It's cyberdating at its finest.

Register Today!

If you are tired of the bar scene, have exhausted your circle of friends, or have had enough blind dates, then you owe it to yourself to join the Jewish Singles Registry, where hundreds of dates are arranged monthly. Why be alone this summer, when there are so many eligible Jewish singles at the Registry waiting to meet you? Call the JSR right now to book your first confidential appointment. You will get to see a Demo program that will show you in detail how easy it is for you to meet other Jewish singles who have the qualities you are looking for. The JSR can be easily reached at **(416) 483-4151** or e-mailed at **jsreg@total.net**. The spacious office is open 6 days a week for your convenience, including weekend and evening hours. Jmatch, can be reached by logging on to their website at **www.jmatch.com.**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Stone Craft Monument Factory owners David Friedman and Shai Lobart, are working together to ensure that the needs of their customers are met sensitively and fairly. Clients in the community can rest assured they will receive considerate service in choosing the appropriate monument to honour their loved one.

Friedman and Lobart, natives of Israel, started in the monument business about 8 years ago, when they were delivering monuments to cemeteries. "When we were installing the stones, we found many mistakes in the Hebrew. We realized that not everyone understands Hebrew, and many people did not even know that the stone was wrong," said Friedman, whose grandfather was in the granite business in Hungary, and whose brother is a sculptor and father is an artist.

Because Hebrew is their native tongue, said Friedman, it was very helpful and easier for their customers. "We are able to guide them through the Hebrew and ensure that everything is 100% correct. We got wonderful feedback about our work. Our stones look different because of our style of Hebrew lettering."

Friedman designed his grandmother's monument in Israel before he even knew he would one day go into the business himself. "I guess you can say the business is in my blood."

The pair, whose sons have now entered the business, began importing granite and engraving stones. "Eventually we expanded to the present factory, a much large. facility on Brisbane Road in Downsview."

Cemeteries have very strict regulations surrounding quality of granite, size and shape of monument; Stone Craft Monuments are accepted by all cemeteries. We take the burden off families by having all of the accurate and updated information regarding cemetery regulations.

Friedman and Lobart, whose parents are Holocaust survivors, are very sensitive to the needs of customers who are ordering a stone for someone who lost family in the war. "We engrave on the back of the stone at no extra charge, all the names of their family members who died. This is a beautiful way to remember those family members who perished in the Holocaust, and do not have family monuments honouring them. Coming from a family of survivors, we realize how important it is to help each other keep up the memories. It is something that comes from our hearts.

Stone Craft imports granite from Africa, India and China, said Lobart. "There are different colours and grades of granite; we use only the best because we want to make sure that our monuments last indefinitely. We also engrave the stone to the maximum depth. For letters to endure, engraving must be deep. To engrave that deep takes double the time, but the end results are worth the effort."

When families come in to see them, said Friedman, "they present us with the names and dates they want engraved, and we produce a computer design for them. Before the design is approved, we make sure that the Hebrew portion is approved by a rabbi. A third party is necessary to make absolutely sure everything is perfect. An artist, who works with us, makes sure that her design is correctly produced in accordance with Jewish law and tradition, and to the complete satisfaction of the customer's personal requests. The computer design is an exact replica of what will be on the stone, so customers can see exactly what they are getting."

Friedman and Lobart understand that ordering a monument is a very difficult and painful thing to do for many people. "We believe that it is easier for Jewish people to deal with other Jews at such a time, because it is a bit easier to develop a good rapport. According to Halachah, the stone must be ordered as quickly as possible, so if necessary, we are able to have a stone ready in one day. We want everyone to be comfortable with whatever they have decided."

> "It is popularly assumed that the monument must be erected approximately 12 months after death. In reality, only few scholars hold this view. There is every reason, based on major commentaries and numerous sources and long tradition, to arrange for the tombstone to be built as soon after shiva as possible."**

Friedman and Lobart stress that they now have over 60% of the Jewish market, not only because of their quality and service, but because of their prices. "Because we are wholesalers, we are able to save people money. Nobody can beat our quality, prices and workmanship."

Most important, said Friedman, they both feel that they are doing something very special for the community. "We deal with people who are going through all kinds of emotions and we try to make them as happy as possible under the circumstances. My heart feels good when I've completed a monument to complete satisfaction."

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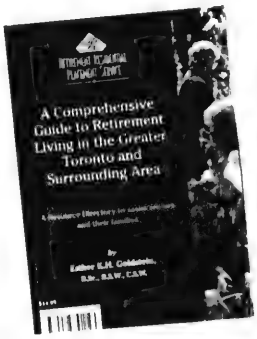

TORONTO — Choosing a retirement home or long-term care facility for a parent or loved one is not an easy task.

"It is often made more difficult by rigid time constraints, both personal and those set by the hospital or caregiver," says Esther Goldstein, a hospital social worker who works primarily with seniors. Currently, she works at Sunnybrook Health Science Centre.

Goldstein, who has a degree in social work from Ryerson Polytechnical University, says that with increasingly long waiting lists for nursing homes, more and more people have begun to turn to the private sector to provide care for the elderly who are sick or too dependent to return home.

"I have watched repeatedly how families struggle with accepting that someone they love can't return to their home."

A year ago, Goldstein sent detailed questionnaires to numerous residences, and compiled a publication titled *A Comprehensive Guide to Retirement Homes in the Greater Toronto Area*, a resource directory to assist seniors and their families in choosing a retirement living facility.

"The response to the first edition was incredible," says Goldstein. A large number were circulated free to social service agencies in the areas covered in the book.

The 1999 edition titled *A Comprehensive Guide to Retirement Living in the Greater Toronto and Surrounding Area* is twice the size (200 pages) as the first publication.

There are comprehensive listings of the centres, which include special features, residence information, staffing, health services, accommodation, dining services, amenities and activities, services included in the fee, and rental information.

The guide also provides information on numerous topics, such as wills and powers of attorney, tips on choosing a facility, how to make the transition easier, special needs facilities, as well as resources and support services.

"Once [the people who run] retirement homes saw the original book, they gladly contributed to this book. As well, I added a section on seniors apartment buildings to broaden the scope of information for people unsure of where their needs fit within the existing available options."

The guide also includes key features of the centres, including information on air conditioning, whether cognitively impaired or disabled people are accepted, cultural groups available, kitchens in suites, nonsmoking suites, nursing staff, open pantry, special diets, and pets allowed.

The guide is available at several hospital gift shops. For more information, call 457-6554, or fax 905-761-6264.

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PASSING ON THE TRADITION

Rita and Sol Dennis recently celebrated the bnei mitzvah of three of their grandsons in Israel at Massada with 20 family members. The family toured for two weeks with Sarah Pachter and described the celebration and visit as "thrilling."

Sol says that teaching his three grandsons to put on tfillin just as his father had taught him and he had taught his son, was "overwhelming—a thrill of a lifetime."

Seen in the photo taken at Massada are [from left] son-in-law Steven Kaminsky married to Cheryl Dennis, bar mitzvah Kyle Samuel Kaminsky, grandfather Leon Kaminsky, bar mitzvah Zachary Dennis, father Steven Dennis married to Rebecca Berkelhammer, bar mitzvah Dustin Dennis Anklewicz , grandfather of bnei mitzvah Sol Dennis, and son-in-law Sheldon Anklewicz married to Cindy Dennis.

GENERATIONS

Jack Abramowitz celebrates his 90th birthday with his two-year-old great-granddaughter Talia Abramson. [Beverley Abramson photo]

REAL ESTATE Section

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HomeLife/Bayview Realty Inc. is pleased to announce a new Managing Partner of the company, Mr. Steven Schmeiser.

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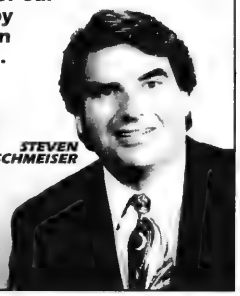

STEVEN SCHMEISER

HOMELIFE

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CUSTOM BUILT BUNGALOW – WALK TO SUBWAY

Spectacular one of a kind in the Manor. 3,000 sq. ft. plus similar sized lower level. 4+3 bedrooms, 5 baths on 83' wide lot. Self- contained separate apartment. Move-in, mint condition.

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THORNHILL – WALK TO BAIT!

Court location. Detached, all brick, 4+1 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2 kitchens, finished basement. Very bright, move-in condition. $449,900.

BATHURST & STEELES – 339K!

Beautiful side-split, all brick, 3+1 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2 kitchens, double garage, w/o basement. Move-in condition.

Re/Max Above the Crowd

Rose Printz @ Re/Max Realtron
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Paul Slavens
REAL ESTATE INC. REALTOR

RESULTS RESULTS 483-4337

FINE HOMES

LOWER VILLAGE - $898,000.
Executive 4 bdrm home on oversized lot. Elegant principal rms. Eat-in kitchen w/pantry. Main fl. family rm., powder rm. & laundry. Private drive, garage. *Betty Cohen.

• • •

BAYVIEW/YORK MILLS - $1,268,000.
Wonderful 5+ bdrm. Master w/sitting rm. + ensuite bath. Main floor library, family rm. + solarium. Approx. 5300 sq. ft. + finished lower level. Inground pool. *William Lipson.

• • •

YORK MILLS/LESLIE - $539,000
Attractive 5+ bdrms. Main fl. family rm. w/walk-out to patio. Finished lower level. Professionally landscaped grounds. Double garage. *Bobby Simpson.

• • •

BAYVIEW BUNGALOW - $569,000
Spacious principal rms. 3 bdrms. Centre hall plan. Finished lower level w/extra bdrm. & large rec room. Double garage. *Marlene Federman

• • •

GREAT VALUE - $259,000
Spacious 3 bdrm. bungalow. Finished lower level. CAC. Private drive & garage. Terrific location. Close to all amenities. Call *Barbara Kaplan.

• • •

ALLENBY SCHOOL AREA - $409,000
Recent renovation. Unique [SOLD]e. Master w/sitting area + ensuite bath. Family rm. with walk-out. Luscious landscaped English garden. **Don Wagman

• • •

AVENUE RD/LAWRENCE - $599,000
Newly built 3+ bdrms. Sky[SOLD]Main fl. family rm. Fin. lower level. Central air. Fabulous upgrades. *Ruth Kaufman.

• • •

JOHN ROSS ROBERTSON SCHOOL
$419,000. Charming 4+ bd[SOLD]e. Reno'd eat-in kitchen. Fireplace in living rm. Finished lower level. Central air. *Edith Weiss.

• • •

YONGE/ST. CLAIR - $439,000.
Superb city location. Unique[SOLD]y, 3 bdrm. home. Parking. Lot 178 ft. deep. Exceptional value. *Bobby Simpson.

• • •

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REAL ESTATE LTD. REALTOR

UNIQUE RENOVATED BUNGALOW ON THORNRIDGE
4 bdrms., mn. flr. fam. rm., new kit. Lot size 100 x 150. Open House Sun. April 25th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. *Esther Greenbaum

• • •

HERITAGE ESTATES - MUST SEE!!
Exquisite 5 bedroom home, double detached garage, premium lot, extras galore! *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST - B'NAI TORAH
Large 4 bedroom sidesplit on premium lot, hardwood, extra large family room, extras+ *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST - ROCKFORD IN BATHURST VILLAGE
Large 4 bdrm. backsplit with huge mn. flr. fam. rm. w/fireplace, double gar., hardwood, appliances. Shows great! *Ted Waxman

• • •

BATHURST - DREWRY "CHARLTON BLVD."
Custom built bungalow, 10 ft. ceilings, large mn. flr. fam. & laundry rooms, finished basement, double garage. *Ted Waxman

CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

BATHURST - CENTRE "ROYAL PROMENADE"
Just reduced to $189,000! Best priced unit in building! 1st floor, about 1,253 sq. ft., large clean, sun filled 2 split bdrms., 2 baths, June poss. Open House Sun. April 25th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. *Janette Shulman

• • •

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EXCLUSIVE FRANKLIN IN THORNHILL

5 bedroom home + finished loft with 2 bedrooms, huge well equipped reno kosher kitchen. Master craftsmanship quality library with panelled built-ins. Magnificent basement with Pesach kitchen, 3 bedrooms + recreation room, bath + direct entry. 5 baths, hardwood floors, built-in cabinets everywhere, steps to all shuls. Too many extras to mention! $644,000.

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ENCLAVE OF 10 MAGNIFICENT CUSTOM HOMES! 4 + 1 bedrooms, main floor family room, fireplace, maple kitchen, separate entry to in-law suite, only $499,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — NEW LISTING!

Spacious 3 bdrm., 2 storey home on generous 53 x 120 ft. lot. Shows well! Hardwood floors, new ceramics in basement. Fabulous location near park! $339,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / WILSON — NEW LISTING
Estate sale! 3 bdrm. brick bungalow on 60 x 131 ft. lot, quiet street, fabulous location, $279,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

• • •

THORNHILL — NEW LISTING
2 storey, 3 bedroom home on generous lot, family room, finished basement, only $269,900. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

AVENUE ROAD / BRIAR HILL — NEW LISTING!
Hot property, won't last! 4 + 1 bdrms., fam. rm., blend of contemporary & traditional, hardwood floors, marble fireplace, leaded windows, wainscotting ++, only $569,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

• • •

POWER OF SALE — INVESTMENT PROPERTY
New listing! 76 condo townhouses (rented) in Brampton, over 6 acres, $7.3 million. Call for details! Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

• • •

UPPER FOREST HILL
Spacious 4 bdrm., huge family room addition, gleaming hardwood floors. Breakfast room overlooks gorgeous garden, 50 x 125 ft. lot, fabulous location! Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

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BATHURST / LAWRENCE — REDUCED $30,000 TO SELL NOW!
Spacious ranch bungalow! California-style, 2,700 sq. ft. (approx.), 4 bedrooms, oversize family room, 69 x 120 ft. lot, eat-in kitchen, only $319,000. **ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / WILSON — NEW LISTING
Fabulous building lot! 40 x 130 ft., close to all amenities, only $299,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

• • •

AVENUE ROAD / WILSON / 401 CONDO — MAKE AN OFFER!
2 bedrooms + solarium, 2 parking spaces, ensuite laundry, priced for immediate sale at $209,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE / WILSON — CUSTOM BUILT!

Modern design, open concept, quality craftsmanship, 4 + 2 bdrms., large principal rooms, ideal for entertaining, cathedral ceilings. Call for details. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

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List with us and appear on our Website: www.foresthill.ca

CENTRAL PROPERTIES

AS NEW 5+1 BDRMS., 50X174: LYTTON PARK
Stunning in all respects! Maurice Gherson* 488-2875

781 SPADINA RD. CUSTOM HOME
To be built on 300' deep ravine lot. J. Weizel* 488-2875

517 VESTA DRIVE - WONDERFULLY SOLD
Warm 5+1 bedrooms, chair's open concept home, close to everything. J. Usianer*/S. Gruenstein* 226-1987

1ST AD! LOWER VILLAGE TOWNHOUSE - $699K
Lux. 4 bdrms., walk shops/subway. Maurice Gherson* 488-2875

JUST LISTED! ST. CLAIR/SPADINA
Renovated Georgian home. $649,000. F. Sversky** 488-2875

9 YEARS NEW BATHURST/LAWRENCE!
Stunning design! Nothing missing. Reesa Sud* 488-2875

1ST AD! DUPLEX - WALMER RD. - 2X2 BDRMS.
Fin. basement & kit. - updated kit. & bath. Beth Sokol* 488-2875

GLENCAIRN SYNAGOGUE AREA - FAMILY ROOM+
4 bdrms., spac. kitchen. & master bdrm. S. Flancman* 488-2875

34 ALDBURN ROAD! 4+1 BDRMS., 3 BATHS!
$469,900! Main floor family! Cac! Fabulous 38x103' lot! Walk to subway! Vendor says sell! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

ARMOUR HEIGHTS!
4 bedrooms, cac. large lot. Susan Dick-Goodman* 488-2875

ALLENBY BUNGALOW BUILD OR RENOVATE
Fabulous opportunity 30 x 125 lot. Bonnie Singer** 488-2875

BAYVIEW PROPERTIES

NEW PRICE ON FABULOUS MEAD COURT!
A contemporary masterpiece w/exceptional design, grand principal rms., fin. w/o lwr. to secluded pool. Sharon Bobkin* 226-1987

FABULOUS BAYVIEW RIDGE! CHARMING SOLD
Renovated bungalow on 3 [illegible], amongst million $ homes, near Granite Club & fine schools. Sharon Bobkin* 226-1987

EXCLUSIVE CRESCENT BAYVIEW/YORK MILLS
Open multi-level stone front. M. Merrick* 488-2875

BAYVIEW/STEELES 7 LAURELEAF ROAD S.
4+1 bdrms., totally reno'd., lrge. rooms. Neil Wagman* 488-2875

1ST AD! 26 BAMBOO GROVE! $519,900
Denlow Estates! 5+1 bdrms., 3 baths, mn. fam.+lib.+lau. Updated mechanics! Fab. 60x110'! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

2 CHEVAL DRIVE! NOW $498K 4+1 BDRMS.
4 baths, main family! Nanny suite! Fabulous 58x110'! Min. to school & community centre! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

NORTH PROPERTIES

THORNHILL'S MOST DESIRABLE COURT!
Gorg. 4 bdrms. backs on park. Susan Dick-Goodman* 488-2875

BEAUTIFUL FAMILY HOME!
4 bdrms., cac, fab. fam. room. Susan Dick-Goodman* 488-2875

BATHURST/CLARK L[illegible]TION! LOCATION! SOLD
Great 2 storey family home, 4 bedrooms + family room. Double garage, must see! 1st Ad! Ruth Bass* 226-1987

24 SPRINGHEAD - GARDENS! NOW $244,800!
Vendor says sell! Updated 4+1 bdrms., 3 baths, main fam.! Nanny ste.! Fab. 37 x 120'! Move-in! Sandon Schwartzben** 226-1987

CONDOMINIUMS

1ST AD! FABULOUS 2 STOREY CONDO
Walk-out to garden, 2 bedrooms, office, 3 baths, 2 parking, locker, about 1,850 sq. ft. Come see. Renee Seligman* 226-1987

LAWRENCE/BATHURST- JUST LISTED
Impeccable 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, balcony, in luxury building. Asking $214,900. Anne Eidlitz* 226-1987

** Associate Broker * Sales Representative

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$309,000
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$314,800. Split lvl., 3 bdrms., 4 baths, mod. white kit., appls., fam. rm., w/out, fin. bsmnt., dble. gar. steps to all, A-1 buy.

• • •

WILLOWDALE 67' X 133' LOT
Build or renovate existing home, great location, large lot, don't miss!

• • •

WILMINGTON BLUE FOREST
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A. & D. SEIDMAN 633-7373

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Spacious 2 storey 4 bdrm. family home on generous lot, move-in condition, self-contained bsmt. apt. w/ private entrance. Serious vendor, asking $469,900.

BATHURST / STEELES
Newly built, 3,850 sq. ft. 4 bdrm. family home on 63 x 298 ft. lot, triple garage, bsmt. apt. Unsurpassed quality and workmanship!

Call **Jacob Florans**
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BATHURST/STEELES
Bright, quiet crescent, 3 bedrooms + family room, fin. basement & double garage. $279,000. Call...
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80 ANTIBES DRIVE 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, all appliances, high floor, $185,000, immediately!

BATHURST / STEELES. 3 bedroom townhouse, finished basement, asking $174,900.

Call **Sol Goldkind**
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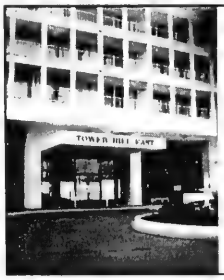

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110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

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240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Observant Jewish school in Thornhill is seeking an exp. F/T school secretary. Must be able to type Hebrew. Yiddish knowledge pref. Must have good communication & organizational skills, be able to manage school office. Fax resume w/references by May 15 to 905-764-3130.

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Principal of Middle School 6-8
Hillel Day School of Metropolitan Detroit, A Solomon Schecter Day School and constituent agency of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit has an opening for a Principal of General Studies - Middle School (6-8) for the Fall of 1999 or 2000. This position will supervise and coordinate general studies curriculum and faculty. The candidate will also be responsible for middle school programming and interaction with students and families. The candidate should have an advanced degree, teaching experience, as well as three years of administrative experience. Qualified candidates should forward resume and salary history to:
Search Committee
Hillel Day School
32200 Middlebelt Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
USA

Head of Lower School Judaic Studies
Hillel Day School of Metropolitan Detroit, a Solomon Schecter Day School and constituent agency of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit has an opening for a Head of Judaic Studies - Lower School (K-5) for the Fall of 1999 or 2000. This position will oversee Judaic Studies curriculum development and faculty. The candidate should have and advanced degree, teaching experience, as well as three years of administrative experience. Qualified candidates should forward resume and salary history to:
Search Committee
Hillel Day School
32200 Middlebelt Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
USA

240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

International Freight Forwarding Company looking for someone who is interested in the international transportation industry. Must speak Hebrew. Experience not required but would be an asset. If interested, send your resume in confidence, attn: Tova @ 905-670-9291.

Director of Admissions
Hillel Day School of Metropo'itan Detroit, a Solomon Schecter Day School, seeks a Director of Admissions to oversee the school's recruitment, admissions, and financial aid programs. Expertise in admissions management, as well as excellent organization and communication skills are required. Computer literacy is a must. This person will be accountable to articulate the goals and philosophy of the school and to work with administration, faculty, parents and students. We offer a competitive salary and benefits package. Please send resume and salary history to:
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Farmington Hills, MI 48334
USA

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• Licenced & Bonded
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Frustrated by trying to find a suitable nanny? Let us help you. We have dependable, caring nannies who are thoroughly qualified, personally interviewed & pre-screened. All refs. are checked. Some are CPR trained. Low finders fee.
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Housekeepers, elderly care, nannies, cleaning ladies, party helpers. 905-771-6543.

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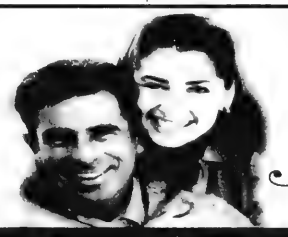
255 DOMESTIC HELP WANTED

F/T nanny/housekeeper req'd. Live-out. 416-782-4111.

Nanny/housekeeper req'd. 2 dys/wk for 2 kids. 905-886-0711

Nanny/housekeeper req'd. 2-3 days/wk. Refs req'd. 256-0176.



To **Listen** & **Respond** To Ads call **1-900-451-4552 *Ext.*# 65**
The cost of the 900# is only $2.49 per minute
To Place Your **FREE** Ad **call 905-276-6167 *Ext.*# 65**

The *Meeting Place*

Brought to you by the Canadian Jewish News

Women seeking Men
To respond to an ad, call 1-900-451-4552 Ext. 65

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single Jewish female, 36, cute, petite, long brown hair, hazel eyes, smoker, sincere, down to earth, enjoy movies, cooking, dining, dancing. Seeking a single Jewish male, 35-40, spontaneous, ambitious, for long term relationship, possible marriage & family. AD#1991

NON SMOKERS ONLY
Divorced mom of 2, Jewish, 41, 5'2", smart, cute, affectionate, passionate, energetic, enjoy movies, concerts, dining & dancing. Seeking a male, well educated, kind, good natured, only non smokers please. AD#1998

COUNTRY DRIVES
Single Jewish female, widow, 50, enjoy movies, theater, long walks, dining out, sports, travelling, drives in the country. Seeking a Jewish male, 47-57, non smoker, with a great sense of humour. AD#1987

SIMPLE TWIST OF FATE
Single mom of 2 children, interesting, intelligent, 34, unique, awesome. Seeking a Jewish male, 36-46, for friendship, fun and trouble. AD#2037

COMEDY CLUBS
Single Jewish female, 5'4", attractive, professional, stylish, dark brown hair, hazel green eyes, enjoy theater, movies, camping, roller blading, bowling, comedy clubs, dining out. Seeking a male, attractive, 32-43, similar interests & qualities. AD#1967

To renew your ad call 416-236-6644

SOULMATE
Divorced female, 33, red hair, blue eyes, slim, physically fit, enjoy theater, movies, working out, seeking a male, 30-41, who is physically fit, university educated, caring, open minded and a non smoker. AD#1971

CALL ME
Single female, Toronto born, 37, 5'8", medical professional, enjoy sports, dining and dancing, boating, travelling. Seeking a male, 5'9"+, who is a medical or legal professional. AD#1978

DOWN TO EARTH
Single female, slim, 5'6", professional, enjoy dancing, art, sports. Seeking a male, educated, down to earth, athletic, 28-38, with similar interests. AD#1929

CLASSY LADY
Single female, 5'7", 136lbs, long auburn hair, honest, good values, love people, reading, gardening, nature, travelling. Seeking a male, mid 40's to mid 50's, with integrity, for long term relationship. AD#1975

CALL ME
Single Jewish female, professional, petite, attractive, family oriented, enjoy dining & dancing, theater, movies, romantic evenings. Seeking a Jewish male, kind, easy going, for a possible long-term relationship. AD#1955

TRUE ROMANTIC
Single female, 35, 5'4", slim, attractive, true romantic, enjoy theater, movies, dining out, cottage life. Seeking a male, 36-44, down to earth, settled in his life, ready to settle down with the right person. AD#1961

LONG LASTING RELATIONSHIP
Single female, 40's, Orthodox, kind, caring, friendly, helpful, outgoing, enjoy travelling, dining out, movies. Seeking an Orthodox male, educated, intelligent, kind, caring, easy going, honest, outgoing, attractive, employed, good sense of humour. AD#1930

BRIGHT
Single female, 57, slim, non smoker, enjoy life theater, walks, movies, travelling, dining out, good conversations. Seeking a bright male, 50's, honest, financially secure, non smoker, with similar interests. AD#1934

LIVELY
Single Jewish female, attractive, 31, brown hair & eyes, enjoy music, dining out, theater, long walks. Seeking a kind hearted male, 35-45, who loves life, lives life to the fullest, a positive person, likes to travel. AD#1938

LOVES LIFE
Single female, professional, 29, 5'3", attractive, enjoy live, movies, theater, outdoors. Seeking a male, 28-37, financially and emotionally stable. AD#1951

TRADITIONAL VALUES
Single female, retired, professional, attractive, kind, intelligent, traditional values, seeking a male, 68+, kind, educated, for lasting relationship and companionship. AD#1950

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single female, 35, 5'4", slim, attractive, brunette, true romantic, enjoy movies, theater, reading, dining & dancing, ethnic foods, weekend getaways. Seeking a male, 35-44, romantic, sensitive, intelligent, handsome, attractive, inside and out. AD#1916

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single Jewish female, 36, slime, cute, petite, confident, enjoy dining & dancing, music, movies, long walks, good conversation. Seeking a single Jewish male, 35-40, spontaneous, down to earth, ambitious, for serious relationship leading to marriage and children. AD#1917

HEART OF GOLD
Single Jewish female, 58, speak only Yiddish and Russian, brown eyes and hair. Seeking a single Jewish male, 60-70, kind, and well established. AD#1919

Men seeking Women
To respond to an ad, call 1-900-451-4552 Ext. 65

ATTENTION LADIES!
Single white male, 56, self employed, romantic, warm caring, enjoy travelling, movies, quiet times, good conversation. Seeking a female with similar interests and qualities. AD#1996

LET'S CHAT
Single male, employed, tired of the bar scene, seeking a fun loving female, with wide variety of interests, for friends first relationship. AD#2056

SHARING HIS LIFE
Attractive, athletic male, 5'9", brown hair and eyes, employed, no children, enjoy reading, foreign movies, tennis, basketball, weight lifting. Seeking an honest female, who is open minded, compassionate, with a great sense of humour. AD#1957

HIGH QUALITY
Divorced male, mid 50's, 3 grown children, well educated, tall, slim, life in British Columbia, enjoy the outdoors, travelling, camping. Seeking a female, warm sensitive, serious, and ready for intense relationship. AD#1962

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single male, Jewish, 26, handsome, non smoker, enjoy long conversations, movies, music, animals, camping. Seeking an attractive, single female, non smoker, with similar interests. AD#1964

GOING OUT FOR COFFEE
Single Jewish male, 5'8", 180lbs, easy to get along with, healthy, down to earth, old fashioned, kind, man of many talents, enjoy art, sports. Seeking a single Jewish female with similar interests. AD#1937

WARM AND CARING
Single white male, 56, self employed, romantic, enjoy travelling, movies, quiet times, good conversations. Seeking a female with similar interests. AD#1933

EASY GOING
Single Jewish male, 41, fun loving, easy going, great sense of humour, enjoy movies, theater, long walks, skiing, skating. Seeking a female, 34-43, with similar interests. AD#1939

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP
Single male, Jewish, professional, late 40's, handsome, intelligent, good sense of humour, caring, sincere, enjoy dining & dancing, movies, good conversation. Seeking a warm hearted female for serious relationship. AD#1945

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single white male, professional, Jewish, computer engineer, good sense of humour, outgoing, gourmet cook, enjoy outdoor activities. Seeking a female for long term, lasting relationship. AD#1944

SENSE OF VALUES
Single Jewish male, smart, intelligent, strong, outgoing, with strong sense of values. Seeking a female, who is fun, trustworthy, 25-32. AD#1921

COLLEGE STUDENT
Single Jewish male, 22, 6'2", college student, enjoy sports, golf,baseball, movies, dining out, dancing.Seeking a female, 18-23, similar interests. AD#1922

LOVING
Single male, 5'10", black hair, green eyes, non smoker or drinker, happy going person, enjoy cooking, dancing, dining out, movies, caring, loving. Seeking a very nice and sincere female with similar interests. AD#1923

LATIN MUSIC
Single Jewish male, 5'6", 147lbs, healthy in body and mind, enjoy Latin music, great outdoors, tennis and fine dining. Seeking an attractive, slim female, with similar interests. AD#1906

ATTENTION LADIES!
Single male, professional, mid 50's, Israeli-European background, enjoy walks, movies, dining and dancing. Seeking a female, attractive, petite, down to earth. AD#1470

LONG DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 36, tall, fit, professional, easy going, live in Western Canada, enjoy travelling, movies, weekends at the lake. Seeking a Jewish female, sincere, outgoing, 25-40, willing to relocate or have a long distance relationship. AD#1886

LASTING LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 46, physically fit, easy going, sincere, hard working, enjoy movies, books, art, dining out. Seeking a female, 30-40, for a lasting relationship. AD#1892

CONSIDERATE
Single Jewish male, strong, fit, athletic, great sense of humour. Seeking a female, 30-40, nice and considerate. AD#1895

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single male, 36, slim, blue-green eyes, brown hair, enjoy movies, dining, dancing, travelling, good conversationalist, financially secure. Seeking an attractive, outgoing, female, good conversationalist, for relationship leading to marriage. AD#1898

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 34, 5'7", athletic built, Bachelor of Science, canny, honest, reliable, romantic, enjoy movies, cooking, 60's dancing. Seeking a single Jewish female, intelligent, professional, open, and friendly. AD#1877

SPONTANEOUS
Single Jewish male, outgoing, spontaneous, adventurous, enjoy working out, swimming, scuba diving, skiing, music. Seeking a female, who is passionate, with inner and outer beauty. AD#1878

OUTSPOKEN
Single male, 34, educated, outspoken, enjoy country life, outdoor activities, dining out, animals. Seeking a female with similar interests. AD#1880

257 HEALTHCARE AVAILABLE

HCA to care for elderly, eves & some days. Refs. 905-731-3327

HCA w/lots of TLC seeks live-out weekend position. 516-9651

258 HEALTHCARE WANTED

Live/in caregiver req'd for female bedridden senior. $1200/mo. Refs req'd.593-0545 ext 25

Would like to share a caregiver for a Baycrest resident in hospital or nursing home. Call Carol at 416-398-5339.

259 SENIORS

Ahavath Achim Retirement Home. The home with a Neshama. Planned activities, 24 hr. supervision. For information contact Joseph or Louise Sahar, office (416) 398-5486 or (905) 660-4831.

260 BUSINESS PERSONALS

Eliminate blind date disasters in a safe & secure environment. **INTERNET DATING SITE.** Free registration, 416-545-3283. **jewish.qualitysoulmates.com**

Jewish Singles Registry. Over 1730 registered. **416-483-4151.**

264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lydia & Steve (Sol) London and **Susan Kirsch** happily announce the engagement of their children **Marnie London** to **Brandon Posnansky**. Proud grandmother is Lottie (Cookie) Hosat of Montreal.

WILSON/KOIFMAN - Frank & Judith Wilson and David & Rebeca Koifman are proud to announce the forthcoming marriage of Barbi Wilson to Avi Koifman on Sunday, August 22, 1999. Proud grandparents are Jenny Wilson of Delray Beach, Florida and Julius & Elizabeth Winter of Miami Beach, Florida.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Heimish mensh. Prof. male, 55, n/smkr, tall, young, loves dancing, walking, music (jazz), gardening. Warm, sensitive, down-to-earth, European background, enjoys Yiddishkeit, funny, seeks slim, attr. lady, with the above interests, for a lasting relationship, CJN Box # 7174.

Mid - 50's retired Jewish gentleman, Israeli/Romanian background, fun living, 5'7", seeks attractive female companion, non-smkr. Send photo & phone number to Box 529, 250 Eglinton Ave. E, Toronto, M4P 1K0.

Prof. lady, 54, quiet, nice looking, sense of humour would like to meet a nice gentleman for marriage. CJN Box # 7173.

Replying to a Companion ad with a CJN Box Number?

Address your mail to:

The Canadian Jewish News
1500 Don Mills Rd.
Suite 205
North York, Ontario
M3B 3K4
Box # _____

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Single Retired male with a sense of humour, in good health, financially secure, fun to be with. I am looking for the lady who wants to meet me. CJN Box # 7168.

• CJN Boxes for Personal Companions Wanted ads are valid for 30 (thirty) days only (from 1st publication date). Replies must be received within this time frame in order to be forwarded to the correct CJN Box #.

CLASSIFIED ADS/ SERVICE DIRECTORY ADS
·CUSTOMER SERVICE·

The CJN requires that advertisers check their advertisement upon publication, as *The CJN* will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion, and there shall be no liability for non-insertion of any advertisement. Liability for errors in advertisements is limited to the amount paid for the space occupying the error. All copy is subject to the approval of the management of *The CJN*. *The CJN* reserves the right to classify all advertisements.

Service Directory & Classified Ad Deadlines are Wednesday, 8 days previous to the issue, by 4 pm.

330 OBITUARIES

GOTTLIEB, Anne - on Apr. 5, 1999.
WISE, Piroska - on Apr. 5, 1999.
LANE, Don - on Apr. 6, 1999, late of 7300 Yonge St.
MAGIDSON, Leonid - on Apr. 8, 1999.
ORBACH, Judith - on Apr. 8, 1999, late of 88 Barton Ave.
IANOVSKAYA, Izabella - on Apr. 9, 1999.
COHEN, Sara - on Apr. 10, 1999, late of 90 Fisherville Rd.
MANDEL, Max (Myer) - on Apr. 10, 1999, late of 108 Dudley Ave.
REISHER, Leon - on Apr. 10, 1999, late of 120 Promenade Circle.
SHAMI, Benjamin - on Apr. 10, 1999.
WOLFOWICH, Mendel - on Apr. 10, 1999, late of 2911 Bayview Ave.
LAIBOVITZ, Honey - on Apr. 11, 1999, late of 429 Walmer Rd.
PEARLMAN, Ruth - on Apr. 11, 1999, late of 2 Thorne Lane.
PIHA, Sarina - on Apr. 11, 1999, late of 6250 Bathurst St.
ROTSTEIN, Ben - on Apr. 11, 1999, late of 8 Edinburgh Dr.
WOLKOWICZ, Enrique - on Apr. 11, 1999, late of 1680 Ellesmere Rd.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Cash for jewellery, diamonds, coins & stamps. **416-605-1640.**

330 OBITUARIES

LAMPERT, Gerald - on March 25, 1999, late of 240 Heath St. W., #1101.
SMITH, Murray - on March 25, 1999, late of 5786 Leonard Ave.
LIPSON, Freda - on March 26, 1999, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
SCHEFFER, Israel - on March 26, 1999, late of 4701 Bathurst St., #212.
MISKIN, Rose - on March 27, 1999, late of 550 Cummer Ave.
STEINER, Joe - on March 27, 1999, late of 10 Senlac Rd.
KOWAL, Borys - on March 28, 1999, late of 85 Skymark Dr. #806.
POLLOCK, Melba - on March 28, 1999, late of 416 Lytton Blvd.
SPEIGEL, Morey - on March 28, 1999, late of 400 Walmer Rd., PH #6.
ROEBUCK, Marion - on March 29, 1999, late of 429 Walmer Rd.
GREENBAUM, Morris - on March 30, 1999, late of 444 Lawrence Ave. W., #3.
SMALL, Ida - on March 30, 1999, late of 3270 Bathurst St.
GORDON, Zella - on March 31, 1999, late of 581 Avenue Rd., /#302.
KAPLAN, Mike - on March 31, 1999, late of 95 Thorncliffe Pk. Dr., #3701.
KEMPER, Philip - on March 31, 1999, late of 100 Antibes Dr., #2703.
ROTENBERG, Robert - on March 31, 1999, late of 17 Sugar Millway.
TOKARZ, Hymie - on March 31, 1999, late of 41 Bryant St.
SILVERSTEIN, Max - on Apr. 1, 1999, late of 550 Cummer Ave.
SIMPSON, Eli - on Apr. 1, 1999, late of 33 Gilgorm Rd.
SOBERMAN, Morris - on Apr. 1, 1999, late of 19 Flanders Rd.
PRITZKER, Maxwell - on Apr. 2, 1999, late of 23 Elm Ridge Dr.
SHIFF, Shirley - on Apr. 2, 1999, late of 745 York Mills Rd., #1908.
FISHMAN, Mordchai - on Apr. 4, 1999, late of 155 Kendal Ave., #410.
SHERMAN, Roland - on Apr. 5, 1999, late of 4415 Bathurst St., #511.
TURKAT, Frima - on Apr. 6, 1999, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
WOLF, Louis - on Apr. 6, 1999, late of 645 Castlefield Ave.
FELD, Blanche - on Apr. 7, 1999, late of 645 Castlefield Ave.
RODNESS, Elizabeth - on Apr. 7, 1999, late of 3560 Bathurst St.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

DRUTZ, Harold - on March 28, 1999, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
REIKEN, Jean - on Apr. 4, 1999, late of 15 Canyon Ave., #1005.
KASTNER, Susan - on Apr. 6, 1999, late of 101 Creighton Rd.
JACOBSON, Lenore - on Apr. 7, 1999, late of 2900 Bathurst St., #704.

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330 OBITUARIES

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
DAVID BROWN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, April 25th at 11:00 a.m.
Mt. Sinai Memorial Park
Shaarei Shomayim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
WILLIAM (BILLY) FROHMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, April 25th at 1:00 p.m.
Roselawn Cemetery
Chevra Kadisha Agudas Achim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
NANCY GULKO ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, April 25th at 1:30 p.m.
Pardes Sholom Cemetery
Community Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HYMAN RAPHAEL ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, April 25th at 11:30 a.m.
Adas Israel Cemetery
Hamilton (Burlington) - York Rd. off Hwy. #6
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SAMUEL SEGAL ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 2nd at 12 noon
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Pultusker Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
DORA ABRAMS ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 2nd, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
IOF Quartz Topaz Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
RALPH M. KIRSH ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 2nd, 2:00 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Clanton Park Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JANET KIRSCHNER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, April 25th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Sholom Cemetery
(Dufferin St., n. of Major Mackenzie)
Temple Har Zion Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
BRENDA SHAPIRO ז"ל
(mother of Belle Grossman)
will take place
Sunday, April 25th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Sholom Cemetery
Emunah Shlemah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

TO PLACE AN UNVEILING NOTICE PLEASE CALL AT LEAST 14 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE UNVEILING

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25 HOUSES WANTED TO RENT
30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE
35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT
40 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE/RENT
45 CONDOMINIUM WANTED
50 ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE
55 ACCOMMODATION WANTED
60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION
65 ACCOMMODATION/SWAP/EXCHANGE
70 UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION
75 APARTMENT FOR RENT
80 SHORT TERM RENTAL
81 APARTMENT TO SUBLET
82 ROOM FOR RENT
84 ROOM WANTED
85 APARTMENT WANTED
90 DUPLEX/TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE
95 DUPLEX/TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT
100 DUPLEX/TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE/RENT
105 COTTAGE FOR SALE
110 COTTAGE FOR RENT
115 COTTAGE FOR RENT/SALE
120 COTTAGE WANTED
122 TIME SHARE FOR SALE
123 TIME SHARE FOR RENT
125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE
130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT
135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT
140 FLORIDA ACCOMMODATION WANTED
143 FLORIDA SHARED ACCOMM. AVAIL.
145 FLORIDA SHARED ACCOMM. WANTED
147 FLORIDA ACCOMMODATION
150 FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION
155 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR SALE
160 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR RENT
165 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT
170 ISRAEL PROPERTIES WANTED
175 ISRAEL ACCOMMODATION WANTED
178 ISRAEL TRANSPORTATION
180 OUT-OF-TOWN PROPERTIES
185 OUT-OF-COUNTRY PROPERTIES
190 VACATION PROPERTIES
195 PROPERTIES WANTED
196 VACATION PROPERTIES-EXCH./SHARE
198 SPACE FOR LEASE
200 OFFICE SPACE
201 OFFICE SPACE WANTED
202 STORAGE SPACE WANTED
205 INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL SPACE
210 LAND/LOTS FOR SALE/LEASE
215 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
217 RETAIL OPPORTUNITIES
220 INVESTMENT PROPERTIES
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230 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
232 BUSINESS FOR SALE
235 FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES
240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
245 EMPLOYMENT WANTED
246 VOLUNTEERS
247 DAY CARE
248 CAMPS
250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE
255 DOMESTIC HELP WANTED
257 HEALTHCARE AVAILABLE
258 HEALTHCARE WANTED
259 SENIORS
260 BUSINESS PERSONALS
264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
265 PEOPLE SEARCH
270 PERSONALS
275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED
279 PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY
280 ANNOUNCEMENTS
290 LOST & FOUND
295 PETS
300 ARTICLES FOR SALE
305 ARTICLES WANTED
310 ARTICLES/SWAP/EXCHANGE
313 BOATS
315 CARS FOR SALE
320 CONTENTS SALE
325 GARAGE/YARD SALE
330 OBITUARIES
331 IN MEMORIAM
332 MONUMENTS
335 UNVEILINGS
338 SHIVA CATERING

SERVICE DIRECTORY

345 ACCOUNTING
350 APPLIANCES
355 AUDIO-VISUAL REPAIRS/SALE
357 AUTOMOTIVE
358 BRIDAL
360 CABINETS
365 CARPENTRY
368 CARPETS
370 CATERING
371 CERAMICS
372 CHUPPAHS
375 CLEANING
377 CLEANING SUPPLIES
379 CLOCKS/WATCHES
380 CLOTHING
385 COMPUTER
386 DANCING
387 DECORATING
390 DRIVING
392 DRY CLEANING/LAUNDRY
394 EDUCATION
395 ELECTRICAL
396 ELECTRONICS
400 ENTERTAINMENT
405 FURNITURE
407 GIFT SERVICES
410 HEALTH, BEAUTY & FITNESS
411 HEALTH THERAPIES
412 HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING
415 HOME IMPROVEMENTS
420 INVITATIONS/PRINTING
425 JEWELLERY
427 JUDAICA
430 LANDSCAPING
432 LAWN CARE
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434 LIMOUSINE SERVICES
435 LIQUIDATION
436 LOCKSMITH
439 MAKE-UP
440 MISCELLANEOUS
442 MUSICAL SERVICES
445 MOVING
449 PEST CONTROL
450 PAINTING/WALLPAPERING
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452 PARTY SERVICES
455 PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEO
460 PLUMBING
465 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
470 RENOVATIONS
475 ROOFING
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479 SENIORS
480 SECURITY SYSTEMS
481 SEWING
482 SIGNS
483 SKIING
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Sports

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The Canadian Jewish news

Hockey nights in Canada leave little time for much else

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — I'm a hockey mother, but not by choice. Hockey chose me. As a mother of three sons it was virtually inevitable.

The boys, aged six, nine and 11, are all hockey enthusiasts. Between their games and practices, there are eight to nine visits to the arenas every week. And that doesn't include tournaments.

Our household revolves around hockey, with a game almost every other night. On weekends it feels as if we live at the arena. My oldest son even has a standing game every Saturday night...So much for having a life.

I'm a rather unlikely candidate for hockey mother. I'm not the type to hit the arena at 6 a.m. I can barely get my kids to school on time.

Until recently I felt a little guilty about not being a real hockey mom – the type who arrives at the arena at the crack of dawn, with three kids in tow, smiling as she lugs the hockey bag.

But I discovered the proverbial hockey mom is a bit of an urban myth. I thought there were legions of these dedicated women, when in fact, the true-blue hockey mom is a rare breed. A few die-hard moms show up at those early morning games, but mainly, it's the dads who are there.

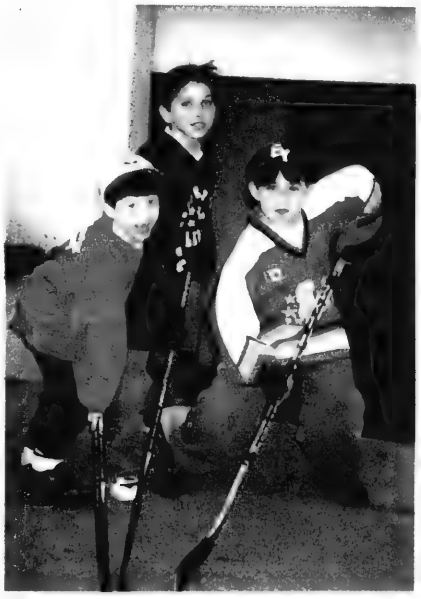
I certainly don't see too many moms when I take my 6-year-old to hockey. I'm usually the only mother in the change room.

However, the arena is swarming with dads. They don't just watch from the bleachers. Half of them are out on the ice, skating and hollering and helping out. They look like they're having as much fun as the kids.

Essentially, the dads run the house league teams. Each team has a hierarchy of coaches and assistant coaches. My husband – Mr. Keen I call him – helps out when the assistant coaches can't make it. He's just thrilled when he gets the call.

It's his job to take the kids to most of the their games and practices, leaving me to do hockey detail when he's not available. In reality, I don't go to that many games. I'm a hockey widow. I stay home with whichever of the kids aren't playing.

My husband never seems to tire of the games, which is a good thing for our sons. He enjoys the endless marathon of week-night games and quickie suppers on the run. He doesn't seem to need a life.



Mathew, Leigh and Evan Silverstein

Just recently my 6-year-old informed us that he wants to play select hockey next year. Just what I needed – another three games added to our weekly schedule. But I'll cross that bridge next year.

Right now it's playoff time and the countdown to the end of season has started. For me the playoffs are kind of a win-win situation. If my sons' teams win, I feel happy for them. Any self-respecting mother would. But if they lose, they're one game closer to elimination and for me, that's almost as good as a win. Not that I would ever admit that out loud.

The end of hockey season isn't exactly a happy time for the boys – hubby included. After months of getting together three to four times a week or more, the teams break up. The friendships formed don't always survive. Many kids move up to other levels.

So I don't crack open the champagne when the gear is shelved for the season.

Besides I don't have all that much to celebrate.

With spring around the corner, soccer, softball, ball hockey and tennis will soon be under way. Once the warm weather starts, I'll be spending evenings and weekends shuttling between parks.

Did I say something about having a life?

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Summer youth games on tap

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Despite a recent heavy snowfall in Toronto, organizers of the city's Jewish youth team are thinking summer as they gear up for an upcoming sports extravaganza.

Teen athletes in a variety of disciplines are being recruited to participate in the JCC Maccabi Youth Games, which will be held in Rochester, N.Y., from Aug. 15 to 20.

The Toronto contingent will include about 100 athletes aged 13 to 17, who will compete in both team and individual sports, said Irv Gottesman, chair of the committee charged with assembling the team.

Toronto will send teams in both boys and girls basketball, boys volleyball, boys baseball, girls softball and boys soccer. In addition, male and female athletes in swimming, track and field, tennis and golf are also slated to participate in the regional games.

Tryouts for the various sports are being held intermittently, with notices for times and places posted in *CJN* ads, Gottesman said.

In the past, Toronto has scooped up its fair share of medals, thanks in large part to strong teams in baseball and basketball. The Bathurst Jewish Centre's boys hoops team usually forms the nucleus of the group sent to the regional games, while additional players are recruited from high school teams.

In boys baseball, many of the players come from a Thornhill club team, Gottesman said.

The girl's softball team boasts no such single source of players, but efforts are under way to find them in a variety of community teams.

Recruiters were disappointed when only two girls showed up for a tryout for a proposed volleyball team. The idea for a team was subsequently shelved – at least for this year.

"We try to have as many girls as boys. We try to promote a 50/50 mix," Gottesman said.

The regional games are expected to attract as many as 2,000 young athletes from communities in Eastern Canada and the United States, including Montreal, Hamilton, Ottawa, Rochester, Buffalo, Detroit and Hartford. Other regional games will be held in Columbus, Ohio, Cherry Hill, N.J. and Houston, Tex.

"We're not just looking for elite athletes, it's a complete Jewish experience," Gottesman said.

Participants will enjoy a Shabbaton, they will participate in classes to discuss aspects of Jewish life and they will, of course, make friends with other young Jewish athletes, he added.

For more information, contact Grant Smith, head of the Toronto delegation, at 636-1880.

Yehuda Levin and human life

As I was saying...

By RON CSILLAG

Rabbi Yehuda Levin blew into Toronto from Brooklyn like a hurricane, huffing and puffing and threatening to blow our house down. I'll say this for him: his defence of Human Life International (HLI), the high-voltage anti-abortion group, is articulate and lightning-quick, and he's eminently quotable, evidenced by his ubiquitous comments in the Toronto media during the organization's annual conference held here earlier this month.

HLI is no ordinary pro-life group. Even by the hot-button standards of the current debate on abortion, at least in the United States, it is radical and proudly extremist, and has been accused of being homophobic and anti-Semitic. Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) has called HLI "dangerous," and has led the way in disseminating the anti-Jewish ravings of its founder, Father Paul Marx.

In a chapter of his 1987 book, headed *Pro-Abortion Jews and the New Holocaust*, Father Marx accuses Jews of leading the "greatest holocaust in all history," exhorts his followers to look up abortion providers in the phone book and note the Jewish names – For what reason? Is it a coincidence that of the last six attacks on abortion doctors, five have been Jewish? – and adds he thinks he can prove that Jews in Israel "have one of the highest abortion rates in the world."

With this crude tripe, Rabbi Levin, the father of nine, agrees, saying that an "inordinate amount of Jewish organizations support abortion on demand," while HLI's assertions about Jews are "painful but factual." He exonerates Father Marx and HLI of anti-Semitism by pointing out that they have donated "thousands" of dollars to the pro-life movement in Israel.

Following a heated press conference on the eve of the HLI gathering, he vilified Congress for "wild, irresponsible actions," saying it's "shameful that you [CJC] make your bed with pro-choice groups and militant homosexuals." He fumed to reporters, that like Father Marx, he was being "tarred and feathered," and he vaguely threatened legal action, possibly to a beit din.

So instead of innuendo, let's stick to the facts: Rabbi Levin's been active in the anti-choice and "family values" movement since 1978, and is associated with a number of groups that work closely with the U.S. radical Christian right, including Jews for Morality. He's gone on record as saying that abortion can be fairly compared to the Holocaust.

Fact: Rabbi Levin was a vocal supporter of Pat Buchanan's campaign to win the 1996 Republican nomination for the presidency. This is the same Pat Buchanan who disparaged American Jews as Israel's "amen corner" in Washington, and whose supporters wave signs reading, "Guns, God and Pat."

Fact: Rabbi Levin is a staunch defender of both Joan Andrews Bell and Donald Treshman. Bell is an Operation Rescue activist who was sentenced to five years in prison for invading a Pensacola abortion clinic. A soft-spoken mother of three, she told the *Toronto Sun* after addressing the HLI conference that while she considers it murder to kill abortion doctors at their homes, killing them at a clinic might be all right. "If they're shot as they're walking into an abortion mill, I will accept whatever the church teaches on that – whether it's justifiable homicide, like a policeman shooting a terrorist."

Treshman, who was hired as HLI's publicist last year, was one of 12 defendants found guilty in February for an anti-abortion Web site, called Nuremberg Files. The site lists abortion doctors' names, addresses, license plates and even the names of their children. Three doctors whose names appeared on the list were later killed by a sniper. The jury ruled the site amounted to a death threat, and ordered the defendants to pay $107 million in damages.

Fact: In 1992, Rabbi Levin defended Project Rescue demonstrators who arrived, singing Christmas carols, to picket the home of a Jewish doctor who was celebrating Chanukah.

Fact: Testifying before a congressional committee in 1997, Rabbi Levin urged the U.S. Congress to withhold its annual allocation to the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington because it includes exhibits on gay victims of the Nazis. Attempts "to create a moral equivalency" between the Nazis' gay and Jewish victims is "intellectual sodomy," he stated. The rabbi appeared alongside one Scott Lively of the chillingly named International Committee for Holocaust Truth, who said homosexuals were responsible for both war-era and neo-Nazism.

As my Bubbie used to say, you can tell a lot about someone by the company he keeps.

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Brisket w/Portobello Mushrooms and Dried Cranberries

1 cup dry red wine
1 cup broth
1/2 cup frozen cranberry juice cocktail concentrate, thawed
1 1/2 tblsp. chopped fresh rosemary
12 oz. medium portobello mushrooms, sliced
1/4 cup flour
1 large onion, sliced
4 garlic cloves, chopped
1 4 lb. brisket
1 cup dried cranberries

Preheat oven to 300°F. Mix wine, broth, cranberry concentrate and flour in medium bowl; pour into roasting pan. Add onion, garlic and rosemary. Season brisket with salt and pepper. Place brisket, fat side up, in roasting pan. Spoon some of wine mixture over. Cover pan tightly with heavy-duty foil.

Bake brisket about 3 1/2 hrs., basting with juices regularly. Cool at room temperature. Thinly slice brisket across grain. Arrange slices in pan over sauce.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Place mushrooms and cranberries in sauce around brisket. Cover pan with foil. Bake 30 mins. or until mushrooms are tender and brisket is heated through. Serves 8.

About Seniors

Dear Jesse,

My father, a retired university professor and researcher, had a stroke. He remains in hospital. He does not have much use of his right side. The hospital would like to discharge him. He lives alone. I have my own children and grandchildren whom I care for and cannot see how I can further divide my time. It hurts me terribly to see my father in this situation. What should I do?

JR

Dear JR,

Your situation is indeed a sad one. Hospitals understandably have policies to free acute-care beds as soon as it is appropriate. Most hospitals have a discharge co-ordinator whose task it is to appropriately organize the discharge of patients who no longer need acute-care services. In order to do so, they must organize a care plan for him.

You may need the assistance of a trained advocate to help you ensure that this care plan meets your father's needs, and does not overburden you. Some agencies have trained volunteer advocates or professional staff who would be available to assist you throughout this process to ensure your needs are met. It is difficult to be caregiver to three generations of family!

Readers are invited to send any questions they have for Jesse to The CJN. *Jesse is the executive director of Jewish Support Services for the Elderly (JSSE) in Montreal.*

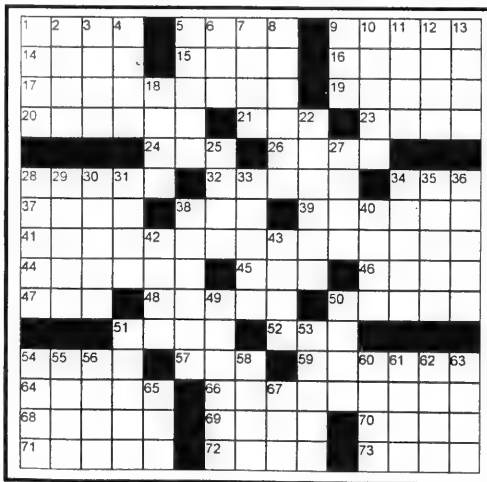
What are you laughing at?

Veteran Pillsbury spokes-model Pop N. Fresh died yesterday of a severe yeast infection. He was 71. Dozens of celebrities turned out for the funeral including Mrs. Butterworth, Betty Crocker, Chef Boyardee, and the Hostess Twinkies.

The grave site was piled high with flours as longtime friend Aunt Jemima delivered the eulogy, describing Fresh as a man who never knew how much he was kneaded.

Fresh rose quickly in show business, but his later life was filled with many turnovers. He was not considered a very smart cookie, wasting much of his dough on half-baked schemes. Still, even as a crusty old man, he was a roll model for millions.

Fresh is survived by his second wife. They have two children and another in the oven. The funeral was held at 3:50 for about 20 minutes.



The Canadian Jewish news

Crossword Puzzle

They Write the Songs

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

Across

1 Chai location, often
5 Genesis victim
9 Itzchak _____ (Israeli President, 1978-83)
14 Israel, to America
15 Best Actor of 1936
16 Mediterranean tree
17 Grammy winner for Album of The Year, 1970, 1975 & 1986
19 Manishevitz and Carmel
20 Hits the hay
21 Forego chugging
23 Nickel fifth
24 "Caught you!"
26 Giggle-evoking painting
28 Acts like a yente
32 Shofar cousin
34 "I ____ Rock" (song by 17-across)
37 Jai ____
38 It can be surfed
39 Adman's idea
41 Grammy winner for Album of The Year, 1963
44 Noted contemporary writer in Hebrew
45 Aurora, to Greeks
46 Bit of Arthur Miller
47 Wanted a *Knesset* seat
48 Moshe's father-in-law
50 Polio vaccine developer Salk
51 Refusenik's residence
52 China Chairman
54 Revolutionary Trotsky
57 Cambridge sch.
59 Attends a yeshiva
64 Whoopi Goldberg movie of '96
66 Grammy winner for Album of The Year, 1979
68 Make ____ of (pay special attention to)
69 Nobelist Wiesel
70 Israel, India, and so on
71 Hannah of "Splash"
72 Spotted
73 Depend (on)

Down

1 Snoozes
2 One way to Jerusalem
3 This phrase, for example
4 "Twin Peaks" actor MacLachlan
5 Pennsylvania subculture
6 Schlump
7 One of Seth's sons
8 Coat feature
9 This instant
10 Linda Lavin role
11 Source for 19-across
12 Bakery need
13 Egg home
18 Slimming-down sites
22 Signs of life
25 Fortas and Vigoda
27 Where to nosh on knish
28 Elephant of cartoons
29 Animal of 36-down
30 Book of Exodus name
31 Messy eaters' tools
33 Complete
34 *Play It* ____, *Sam* (play by 53-down)
35 Miraculous food
36 Range from Chile to Colombia
38 *Shoah* cause
40 Scandinavian capital
42 Cohn and Rogers
43 Leona Helmsley "product"
49 Dan and Reuben
50 Dennis the Menace's pal
51 Peacemaker's goal
53 "Manhattan" director
54 Element #82
55 Novelist Ferber
56 Kitchen scent
58 Scrabble piece
60 Not quite closed
61 Bette Midler hit song (with "The")
62 Simon of theater
63 Kill, in the Biblical sense
65 Electric ____
67 Whopper

(This week's answers are on page 42.)

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This Week

National

El Al launches non-stop flights from Toronto to Tel Aviv. *Page 3*

Proposed changes could restrict shul size and location in Vaughan. *Page 5*

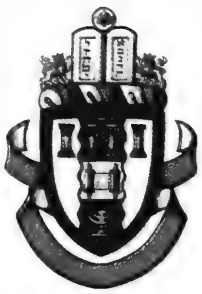
Israel's fallen soldiers recalled at solemn Yom Hazikaron service. *Page 7*

CHAT student gets top marks in math contest. *Page 23*

On Campus

Queen's University Hillel helps to reschedule frosh week this fall. *Page 25*

Coast to Coast



Canada's oldest synagogue is to receive its coat of arms on May 21. *Page 27*

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Candlelighting: 8:00
Iyar 14, 5759
Havdalah: 9:05

www.cjnews.com

Israeli doctors go home

Twelve babies born in Macedonia field hospital

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd. and CJN News Services

JERUSALEM — Israel Defence Forces doctors returned last week from their 16-day mission to Stenkovec, on the Kosovo-Macedonia border, after treating some 1,600 Kosovar patients, and delivering 12 babies at a field hospital set up in the refugee camp.

The 70 doctors and nurses who ran the field hospital, returned to Israel with two Kosovar refugees, who had worked as translators at the hospital and had asked to come to Israel. Their request was personally approved by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Last week, Israel gave refuge to 112 Kosovo residents, forced from their homes by the Serbian army following the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia. The refugees will be allowed to remain in Israel for six months, after which their status will be reviewed based on the situation in their homeland.

Meantime, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) reports that 16 more Kosovar Jews are now safe in Israel. Of the 73 Jews in Kosovo before the war began, 30 remain in the region, and are said to be reluctant to leave.

And of the 300 Belgrade Jews who were taken to Budapest early in the war, 200 are expected to arrive in Israel before the month's end, officials say.

Last Thursday night, a planeload of 48 Yugoslavian Jews who had been taken to Budapest touched down in Israel. Of those, about 10 have expressed an interest to stay.

On Friday, Netanyahu was scheduled to meet with a group of new Yugoslav arrivals in his office.

With the latest arrivals, the number of Yugoslav Jews in Israel is about 150, and the majority are between 18 and 35 years old,

Continued on page 32

The Israeli medical delegation to Macedonia returned last week to Israel. In this photo Maj. Tzafrir Hendler is met by his wife Yael and son Aviv, moments after the physician's arrival back home. *[Israel Sun photo]*

'An historical injustice'

By **SHELDON KIRSHNER**
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Mair Musafija, a Jewish refugee from Bosnia, claims that NATO's aerial bombing campaign of Yugoslavia is legally and morally indefensible.

"NATO has no legal and moral authority to bomb Yugoslavia," he declared last week. "Nor do they have the means to solve the problem in Kosovo."

Musafija, whose wife Sladjana is of Serbian Greek Orthodox and Jewish origin, said that boiling ethnic tensions in Kosovo – a province of Yugoslavia populated mainly by ethnic Albanian Muslims – should be resolved by Serbians and Albanians through negotiations and not at the point of a gun.

A 37-year-old clerk in Citibank's credit processing department, Musafija contacted *The CJN* out of concern that NATO – the western military alliance of which Canada is a charter member – is committing an "historical injustice" in Yugoslavia.

Jewish refugee from Bosnia criticizes NATO

Before the outbreak of the 1991 civil war, Yugoslavia was a federation consisting of Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Vojvodina, Kosovo and Macedonia.

As a result of the wars of secession, Yugoslavia has been reduced to a rump state comprising Serbia, Montenegro, Vojvodina and, reluctantly, Kosovo.

NATO, led by the United States, has accused the Yugoslavian government, headed by President Slobodan Milosevic, of war crimes. The international war crimes tribunal in The Hague charges that Yugoslavian forces have terrorized and killed Kosovo Albanians, destroyed their villages and driven them out in a brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing.

NATO began launching air strikes against Yugoslavia on March 24 to deter Milosevic, and compel him to withdraw his forces from Kosovo.

As the conflict escalates, the Israeli government, as well as major Jewish organizations in the west, have come out in support of NATO's bombardment of Yugoslavia. In a half-page ad in the *New York Times* on April 18, the

Continued on page 26

INSIDE

The CJN introduces a new monthly advice column Food." Norene Gilletz, one of Canada's pre-emine chefs launches her *CJN* career. *Please see page 51.*

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The new battle for Jerusalem ha... ...age 31

The News in Brief

CANADA

Collins To Appeal

VICTORIA — Controversial newspaper columnist Doug Collins is appealing an order of a B.C. Human Rights Tribunal that found four of his articles promoted hatred or contempt of Jews. Collins' lawyer, Doug Christie, will ask the court to declare unconstitutional the section of the B.C. Human Rights Act which deals with hate promotion. Christie said the section is an unreasonable infringement on the right to free speech. Last summer, adjudicator Tom Patch ruled that the four Collins articles, which appeared in the *North Shore News*, together promoted hatred of Jews. He ordered Collins and the newspaper to pay Harry Abrams, the complainant, $2,000 for loss of self-respect and dignity.

Supplies Received

MONTREAL — A representative of the Honduran consulate here reports that the seven containers of clothes, blankets, boots and toys shipped in December and January have reached their destination. In December, Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) donated $12,500 to cover the costs of shipping goods received at the Honduran consulate here. The merchandise had been collected to help victims of Hurricane Mitch but was sitting in two Montreal warehouses for several months because transporting them to Honduras was too costly.

JIAS Conference

WINNIPEG — Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada (JIAS) is putting finishing touches to a one-day conference intended to help new arrivals. The May 16 conference, called Immigrant to Immigrant, will bring together Jewish emigres who have become successful since their arrival in Canada to serve as mentors, teachers and potential employers to a group of more recent arrivals. Details may be obtained by calling 416-630-9051 or at www.jias.org.

ISRAEL

Extradition Law Passed

JERUSALEM — The Knesset has passed a law making it easier to extradite Israeli citizens charged with committing crimes abroad. Under the new law, those who hold Israeli citizenship but are not residents of the country will be extradited, while residents will be tried in the Jewish state. The law was prompted by, but does not affect, the case of Samuel Sheinbein, a Maryland teenager accused of killing an acquaintance. Sheinbein fled to Israel in September 1997 and fought extradition to the United States by claiming Israeli citizenship through his father.

Terror Fatalities Drop

JERUSALEM — The number of Israeli fatalities from terror attacks dropped over the past two years, the head of the nation's anti-terrorism task force told the cabinet. There were 131 terror-related Israeli deaths in 1995 and 1996, and 46 in the following two years, according to Meir Dagan. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed credit for the decline, saying it was a "badge of honor" for his government.

WORLD

Jews Protest at Reichstag

BERLIN — A small group of concentration camp survivors protested this month outside Berlin's newly renovated and opened Reichstag, or parliament, charging that Germans are too ready to forget the victims of Nazism. Meanwhile, the Central Council of Jews in Germany officially dedicated its new headquarters here, and work began on a new school for Jewish teachers, sponsored by the New York-based Ronald S. Lauder Foundation.

Wallenberg Statue Unveiled

BUDAPEST — A statue commemorating the heroism of Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg was unveiled last week here. Hundreds of people braved pouring rain to honor Wallenberg, credited with saving about 100,000 Hungarian Jews from the Nazis.

Satmar Rabbi Sentenced

NEW YORK — A leader of the Satmar chassidic community has admitted channeling more than $6 million illegally from the New York City school system to a private Jewish girls school in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn. Rabbi Hertz Frankel pleaded guilty this month to felony charges of conspiracy after he admitted placing as many as 80 Jewish women in non-existent jobs on the district payroll, and diverting their paychecks to the Beis Rachel School, where he was principal. He was sentenced to three years' probation and ordered to pay $1 million in restitution.

Macedonian Jews Plot Future

SKOPJE — As NATO bombs punish Yugoslavia for abusing ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, the odds are growing that Macedonia will either be dragged into a wider Balkan war or erupt in a civil war of its own.

So, just as hundreds of Yugoslav Jews have taken refuge in neighboring Hungary, Macedonia's Jews may one day find shelter with the Jews in next-door Bulgaria. For now, however, the 190 or so Macedonian Jews say they are staying put.

"We have always shared the fate of the people of this country," Viktor Mizrahi, president of the Jewish community of Macedonia, said in an interview with JTA. "So we will continue to protect the interests of both the country and the Jewish community."

During the Holocaust, the Jewish community was nearly obliterated. Roughly 7,300 died at the hands of Bulgarian fascists. The country's Jews are in 52 families, though it's estimated there are some 200 to 300 unaffiliated Jews elsewhere in Macedonia.

Israel has built the first field hospital for Albanian refugees here, contributed $100,000 worth of medicine to the Macedonian relief effort and have taken in more than 100 refugees.

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El Al launches new non-stop service from Toronto

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — El Al Israel Airlines, long associated with cramped seating, little leg-room, smoke-filled cabins, mediocre food and frequent landings has turned over a new leaf as it attempts to make itself more responsive to passengers' needs.

Last week, El Al unveiled its new Boeing 767-200 extended range aircraft that will fly non-stop from Toronto to Tel Aviv twice a week. And fly them in comfort, according to El Al general manager Moshe Shamai.

Shamai presided over a *chagigah*, a small party, to celebrate the new Thursday non-stop flights to Israel, and to invite a select group of travel agents and community leaders to tour the airline's new 767.

One of two 767-200s purchased recently from Air France, the plane featured increased leg-room and spacious seating. That was accomplished by removing 24 of the plane's 224 seats to make the 12-hour flight to Israel more comfortable, Shamai said.

El Al's meals, prepared under contract in Lufthansa Airline's kosher kitchen, have also been upgraded, he said. El Al's chief chef spent five days in the kitchens, suggesting new recipes and advising the cooks on how to make the meals tastier, he said. El Al has been using the new menus since last summer.

Passengers travelling to Israel from Toronto, will now have four flight options each week during the spring, summer and fall seasons.

The 767s will fly non-stop to Tel Aviv on Thursdays and Sundays, while larger capacity 747s will fly on Mondays and Wednesdays via Montreal.

The Thursday flights, which arrive in Israel at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, give passengers a full day in Israel prior to the onset of Shabbat, Shamai said.

El Al believes the changes fulfil the airline's promise of improving its service. "We are committed to a significant improvement," Shamai said. "We hope the people will try us, and experience the significant changes made by El Al to serve the Canadian market."

Shamai rejected suggestions El Al made the changes because of competition from Air Canada, which also offers non-stop flights to Israel from Toronto.

El Al's flights are meant to satisfy the demands of its passengers while doing so in an economical manner, he said.

Until the introduction of the two new 767s, El Al serviced the Toronto market with larger capacity 747s. To fill the aircraft, they often had to stop in New York to load more passengers. With the acquisition of the 767s, which are fitted with powerful 747 engines, El Al has combined "lower capacity with long range," he said.

The aircraft will also serve the Chicago market, flying non-stop to Tel Aviv, he added.

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2. Too many people procrastinate endlessly about making financial decisions.

Most investors wait for the "time to be just right" before starting an investment program. Usually, they are baffled by the sheer variety of options and choices and lack the knowledge to act decisively. This procrastination can end up being the greatest barrier to reaching financial goals. The reality is, the time may never be "just right" when investing money. Keep in mind, time is against you. You cannot turn back the clock and regain the compounded growth that has been lost. Worse yet, every day puts you closer to the day when you will need your retirement savings to maintain your lifestyle.

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From the editor's desk

We have answers to find

Thankfully, we have not yet reached the point where, having seen so much that is abhorrent, we fail to be shocked.

The cold-blooded assault and massacre on the students and teachers of Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo. is the most recent example of rampant evil among young people.

As more and more details emerge of the murderous scheme plotted and executed by the two presumed perpetrators, our hearts are sickened even as our spines are chilled.

It could have been worse. Many more could have been killed.

But indeed, in a certain sense, how could it be worse?

How is it possible that so much distance could exist between the intellect and the conscience of people so young?

There is no doubt that 18-year-old Eric Harris and 17-year-old Dylan Klebold were intelligent, bright teenagers.

But, alas, there is equally no doubt they were also evil, without any moral compass to direct them between right and wrong.

The police and other forensic specialists are meticulously investigating the facts of the crime. In due course, probably very soon, they will be able to piece together a complete reconstruction of the technique and the technicality of the massacre.

But their work is the easy part. They are "only" investigating the visible, outer manifestations of the teens' criminal behavior.

The harder part of the crime will take much longer to investigate. And the pieces will not be reconstructed as exactly or fall as precisely in place as the facts of the crime.

The harder part will be to try to fully and completely understand the motive of the crime, the underlying character dementia that separates free will from morality and morality from free will.

This part involves the boys' parents, teachers and peers. It involves social and behavioral scientists. It involves doctors and philosophers. It involves politicians and entrepreneurs.

It involves us all.

We have created a civilization increasingly dependent on machines. Harris and Klebold were devotees of machines, namely their computers and the Internet highway, which they constantly travelled to dark and sinister destinations.

But in a civilization of machines, we need a human anchor.

It is a mug's game and of little value, at this point, to pinpoint cultural and sociological "scapegoats" for the cause of their deviant, abnormal and violent behavior. It is simply too complicated a problem with too many contributing specific and general factors.

Undoubtedly, music, videos, films, the "hypnosis" of the Internet, personal problems, family relations, peer pressures all played a role in molding the final clay into the ghoulish golems they became, happy at calculating the deaths of their colleagues to the minutest detail.

But what are the lessons and how do we learn them?

In a well-written essay that appeared in last weekend's *Globe and Mail*, Jennifer Curtis, an Ottawa journalist, put forward one theory for the social distress and violent behavior among teenagers such as Harris and Klebold.

She explained the phenomenon on the basis of the recent book by Yale Law professor Lawrence Friedman, entitled *The Horizontal Society*.

In a thumbnail sketch, Friedman's thesis, according to Curtis, is that traditional, hierarchical relations such as "parents, bosses, heads of state, priests and others," are influencing modern life less and less.

"Modern communication technology" has created a more horizontal society in which youngsters are able to interact with "like-minded people in groups that do not meet face-to-face but through the miracles of technology.

"The key to Prof. Friedman's thesis," writes Curtis, "is what he calls the horizontal identity, which confers a feeling of power, potency and freedom, and distracts us from the barren landscape of disconnectedness that is modern life.

"The horizontal identity is a feeling that anything is possible... we feel we can transcend the boundaries of our primary identity, such as gender, religion and race and carve out new identities."

The Friedman analysis may indeed be on the right track.

The horizontal identity may indeed be the offspring of the Internet, high-tech, global, fibre-optic, satellite age we are passing on to our children.

And youngsters may indeed be increasingly imbued with a sense of new possibility and may indeed be carving out new identities for themselves.

But how can we explain that the new identity Harris and Klebold chose was that of the Nazi stormtrooper?

Where do we look to know why they chose Adolf Hitler as their hero?

As we move deeper into the new age, we had better start to work on trying to find these answers. *MBD*

SEE JN

EXEMPLARY VOLUNTEERISM RECOGNIZED

Julia Koschitzky, far right, received Ontario's prestigious Volunteer Service Award from Ontario's Lt. Gov. Hilary Weston, second from left, during a ceremony last week at Queen's Park. Helping to celebrate the occasion are Koschitzky's husband Henry, at her side , and daughter Sarena, far left. [Signature Photography]

Greater Toronto Area

Vaughan bylaw could restrict shul size, location

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

VAUGHAN — Jewish organizations in the City of Vaughan fear that proposed changes to bylaws governing houses of worship would restrict future synagogues' size and location.

The city is seeking to make its bylaws on houses of worship conform to its own official plan and to those of York Region, which prohibit the building of new facilities on agricultural land and set standards on size.

The city stresses that its proposals are very preliminary, but Jewish and other religious groups are concerned that changes would result in increased costs, inconvenience and, in some cases, impede a person's ability to worship.

The amendments would disallow houses of worship from being built in agricultural zones, restricting them to primary or arterial roads.

They would also set standards on size, both "small-scale" and "large-scale," and replace the current definition of church with an updated, non-denominational definition that includes the range of activities that can occur at a house of worship.

The city had earlier taken notice of the Jewish community's concern that a broadened definition of "place of worship" would adversely affect minyans held in people's homes. The city has reassured the community that under its proposals, a house would not be considered a place of worship if its primary use is a residence.

The city has also assured that existing religious schools and places of worship will not be affected by the amendments.

The city said the changes – whatever form they will take – will affect only new buildings or those which require permits for major renovations.

At a packed public hearing in the city's council chamber last week, Jewish representatives pointed out that often, the only land available on which to build a new synagogue is zoned as agricultural.

Norm Grafstein, representing the Canadian Friends of Aish Hatorah, told council members and Mayor Lorna Jackson that the proposals, as they now stand, would make life difficult for Orthodox Jews.

He explained that restricting new synagogues to certain roads could prevent Orthodox Jews from attending, since the buildings might be too far to walk to. He said limiting the size of synagogues might not be feasible for York Region, home to Canada's fastest-growing Jewish community.

A man saying he represents philanthropist Joe Berman, who supports several Jewish causes, said amending the bylaw on houses of worship is "premature."

Residents also expressed concern about existing homes being converted into places of worship.

Jackson reassured residents and organizations that the City of Vaughan was not being anti-religious.

She also said she thinks it's "wrong" to disallow new houses of worship from being built on agricultural lands, and said she will ask her staff to review that provision.

Councillors said the city is still at the start of its consultation process, and that any changes are months, perhaps over a year, away.

CORRECTION

In the story "Sunnybrook holds seder for veterans," we stated that Sunnybrook was home to the first Jewish chapel in a hospital. In fact, Mount Sinai Hospital was the first in North America to build a synagogue. Part of the construction in the new hospital, the Mount Sinai Synagogue, dedicated by Fay and Joseph Tanenbaum, was opened in 1975. We regret the error.

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Zundel case put on hold

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A Federal Court judge has ordered a member of a human rights tribunal to step down from a case involving Holocaust-denier Ernst Zundel because of the perception of bias.

The decision, which is being appealed, has led to the adjournment of Zundel's long-running hearing that was scheduled to resume last week.

Federal Court judge Douglas Campbell ruled that Reva Devins, a member of the three-person tribunal hearing the Zundel case, should be made to withdraw because of a press release that was issued on May 13, 1988.

The news release, issued by the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC), commended a court ruling that found Zundel guilty of publishing false statements denying the Holocaust. (The Supreme Court of Canada later ruled that law unconstitutional.) Devins was a member of the OHRC at the time.

"I find that a reasonably informed bystander, knowing of the May 13, 1988 press release, would have an apprehension of bias by Ms. Devins against the applicant (Zundel)," Campbell stated.

The judge went on to say that since there were no allegations of bias against the two remaining tribunal members, the hearing could continue.

Zundel is facing a complaint under the Canadian Human Rights Act for allegedly operating an Internet Web site that distributed material likely to promote hatred or contempt of Jews.

Skinhead pleads guilty

TORONTO — One of the skinheads charged with promoting hatred against Romani (Gypsy) refugees staying at a Scarborough motel has pleaded guilty to the charge, according to Canadian Jewish Congress, which is monitoring the case.

Walter Froebrich was sentenced last week to a 90-day conditional sentence, along with one year probation. He was also ordered to have no contact with any of the other six co-defendants or any member of a white supremacist organization.

Froebrich and six others were charged after they paraded in front of the Lido Motel in August 1997 with signs that said, "Honk if you hate Gypsies."

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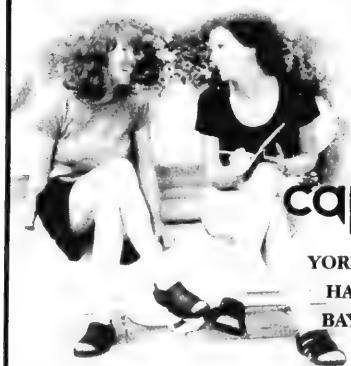

VETERANS' SEDER

From left, Al Barris, Lionel Mernick, Esther Smith, Rose and Morris Forgang attend the annual seder held for Canadian Jewish war veterans and their families at Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Science Centre. Members of General Wingate Branch 256, Royal Canadian Legion, volunteer at the seder every year. Inaccurate information that Ralph Snow, David Smuschowitz and Leslie Dan attended appeared in *The CJN*, April 9. We regret the inaccuracies.

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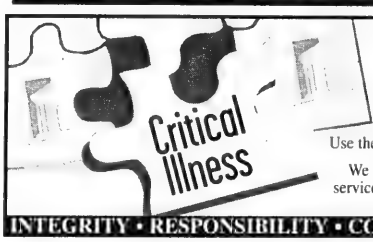

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Greater Toronto Area

Israel's fallen soldiers recalled at solemn service

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — The day before one of the most joyous days in the modern Jewish calendar, Yom Ha'atzmaut, Independence Day, a solemn ceremony was held at Beth Sholom Synagogue in observance of Yom Hazikaron, a day of remembrance for the soldiers who died defending the State of Israel.

Many of the 700 community members in attendance lit memorial candles set out on a long table in the shul's lobby.

As they filed by the table they donned the symbolic floral emblem of Yom Hazikaron, the *dam ha Maccabim* (blood of the Maccabis). This red flower, which grows in Israel, is the official remembrance-day flower.

Teenagers from Young Judaea marched with Israeli flags at the outset of the bilingual assembly, a a mix of prayers, readings and songs. Shula Ophir, the aliyah shlichah, and Israeli Consul Irit Waidergorn were the MCs.

To date, 18,939 soldiers have died, Toronto Consul General Jehudi Kinar told the assembled group. "Sons, brothers, daughters and sisters gave all they had for our freedom...We remember our heroes to whom we owe so much."

They sacrificed their lives "to secure the continuity of our existence as a free people in our own land," Kinar said.

"The price is a very heavy one to bear, but it insures...that the tearful and tragic images we receive from Kosovo will never be broadcast from Israel, and that the Jewish people will never again be led like sheep from the slaughter house."

Rabbi Aaron Flanzreich said, that for the six million Jews who perished during the Holocaust "there was no Israel. No place to run and to hide from the anger and evil of those who hate us."

The soldiers who died in defence of Israel have paid an "awesome price...to reap what we enjoy today," he said.

"As millions in Israel paid their respects to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our nation, so we now remember and respect their gift to us."

At the ceremony, a memorial candle was lit by Tami Ben-Lulu, who lost her cousin in the helicopter disaster on the northern Israeli border, and Israeli resident Esther Etinger, who was visiting her daughter Tzipi Erez in Toronto.

Etinger lost her husband during the War of Independence, her brother during the Yom Kippur War, and her son-in-law during his military service.

After the order of the day from the IDF chief of staff was read by Col. Yaen Vered, Cantor Israel Gutman recited K'El Maleh Rachamim, the mourner's prayer. Rabbi Flanzreich said Kaddish.

Most of the audience joined in spontaneously when Orly El Balach sang *Bab El-Wad* – it's about the battle for Jerusalem during the War of Independence – one of the oldest and most famous Israeli war songs. The other singers were Meital Golan and Limor Twena.

Participants in the Yom Hazikaron assembly also included Hassida David, Mitch Silverstein and Israeli shlichim Yonaton Kessel of Habonim, Baruch Livrant of Batar, Noam Massad of Shomair Hazair and Ryan Hasse of Young Judaea.

The assembly was organized by the Consulate General of Israel, Toronto, in conjunction with B'nai Brith Canada, Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario Region, Canadian Zionist Federation and the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto.

Dror David, a volunteer at the Yom Hazikaron assembly, arranges memorial candles for fallen Israeli soldiers. [Barbara Silverstein photo]

Canadian Jewry at Year 2000 & Beyond: Who's Who in Canadian Jewry

Dr. Edmond Y. Lipsitz, Editor

would like to inform invited participants that the deadline for inclusion in this exciting publication has been extended due to Pesach and Yom Ha'atzmaut.

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Dry Bones

FOR DECADES AFTER THE HOLOCAUST WE HAVE SHOUTED AT THE WORLD...
NEVER AGAIN!
AND FROM THE BALKANS THE WORLD NOW SHOUTS BACK ITS ANSWER
EVER AGAIN!

Foot soldiers too

The Palestine Central Council convened this week in Gaza to formally deal with the issue of May 4 and a unilateral declaration of statehood. As of this writing, 24 hours before the 124-member council had actually met, it seemed certain that Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestinian Authority (PA) would not declare statehood but would, instead, reserve the right to do so at an appropriate and convenient future date.

In the past many weeks, Arafat has travelled the world, meeting with as many leaders of government as possible to lay the "diplomatic foundation" for his statement on statehood.

He has travelled to capitals in North America, Europe, Africa, the Middle and Far East, securing high profile photo opportunities with the "Who's Who" that live in the corridors of power. By and large, he also secured their support for Palestinian statehood though he was advised not to pronounce statehood unilaterally.

Events in Yugoslavia and more recently in Littleton, Colo. tended to overshadow the media coverage he had originally intended for his capital tour. His failure to fill page 1 of the international press notwithstanding, Arafat's triptych was useful and clever.

He was able to line up the major leaders of the world to the cause of Palestinian statehood. Presumably, he will conduct their uniform chorus after the Israeli elections.

Arafat will thus be able to report that there is wide international support for a Palestinian homeland, and that any delay in achieving that homeland (the blame for which would naturally be pinned on Israel) would amount to an attempt to thwart, not only Palestinian aspirations, but also international will.

But if Arafat is succeeding in the international diplomatic arena, he is failing in the more important arena closer to his home, namely, among Israelis.

As we have frequently written in this space, the key to a truly successful, mutually secure, long-lasting resolution to the peace process lies in Arafat's gaining the confidence and the trust of the majority of the people of Israel. Without that confidence or that trust, there will never be a signed agreement, let alone the relationship between the two peoples on which the willingness to take the necessary risks for peace must be based.

In light of the recent manouevres and games being played by Faisal Husseini, the PA official in charge of the Jerusalem "portfolio," it is difficult to see how Israelis can feel any confidence or trust in their erstwhile peace partners.

Husseini recently invited some 30 foreign diplomats for a political briefing in Orient House in east Jerusalem. His motives are transparent and simple. He is trying to muster de facto international legitimacy for the Palestinian claim that Jerusalem will be their capital. That this subterfuge is a violation of the Oslo Accords seems not to bother the leaders whom Husseini's boss, Yasser Arafat, has been assiduously courting.

Not surprisingly though, it did bother the people and the government of Israel. Interior Minister Avigdor Kahalani, has threatened to close down parts of Orient House.

It should also bother Diaspora Jewry.

Husseini's tactics are part of the battle for Jerusalem. The European Union has already pronounced its support for the idea that Jerusalem should be a *corpus separatum,* a separate entity.

And the Vatican has joined the Europeans, floating the idea that the Israelis and the Palestinians should accept a return to UN Resolution 181, in which pre-1948 Palestine was partitioned and post-1948 Jerusalem would be "internationalized."

Three days before the elections on May 17, we commemorate Yom Yerushalayim. Our commemorations this year should bear in mind that we, the Jews of the Diaspora, are also "foot soldiers" in that battle.

WISDOM OF THE AGES
"Six days do work and on the seventh day rest for the Sabbath."
(Parshat Emor)

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Questions right of Israel Supreme Court to overrule Knesset

Lately, *The CJN* has published columns and letters that are critical of Orthodox protests of the decisions of the Israel Supreme Court. The criticisms of these writers, however, cloud the issue with tendentious simplifications of the Orthodox position.

There has been no questioning of the overall legitimacy of the institution of the Supreme Court itself, but rather, protestations of the legitimacy of specific recent decisions on its part. This was the gist of the huge, yet peaceful, demonstration in Israel. Let it be noted as well, that all elements of the Orthodox world were represented there, though some seem to wish to marginalize the protests as haredi or ultra-Orthodox.

Recent Supreme Court decisions have served to undermine the religious status quo, the compromise that, since the founding of Israel, has mediated the inherent tension between a democratic state and a state that not only describes itself as a Jewish state, but also has a large minority of religious citizens.

Although Orthodox protests have been the loudest, many leading Israeli academics, journalists and Knesset members have also vociferously criticized the Israeli Supreme Court. The current justices have a ready willingness to overrule Knesset legislation and to do so in wide-ranging areas that have never been part of its jurisdiction before.

Appeals to Israel's basic laws of 1992, as if they are a constitution analogous to the Canadian charter, are misleading. The basic laws were enacted in a very modest and limited way; not with any of the formality and public debate one would expect of a major constitutional change. The sponsors of the legislation explicitly stated that the basic laws were not meant to confer new powers on the Supreme Court.

Like all legislative assemblies, the Knesset may be imperfect, but it may embody democratic values more than a Supreme Court whose bias is increasingly compromising its role as a neutral arbiter. So the question of who is undermining the rule of law in Israel is indeed the crux of the debate itself; it may not be Orthodox demonstrators who are doing so, but rather, the current justices of the Supreme Court.

Robert Levine
Toronto

Cpl. Jack Stern helped knock out tank

I'm looking for a fellow who served in the First Division, 3rd Brigade, 4th Field Engineers, RCE, who was wounded in an action in the Liri Valley near Monte Cassino in July1944.

He was Cpl. Jack Starr, nicknamed Jakie. He had teamed up with Sapper John Campbell (now of Cardston, Alta.) to poke a Bangalore Torpedo between the wheels of a Panzer that was perched on top of a hill, busy picking off our tanks.

Although wounded, Jakie and John knocked out the tank and brought back three prisoners from a nearby German bunker.

Ralph Charad
Montreal
514-369-7730

Says Harnick reneged on Zundel prosecution

I was pleased to read that Charles Harnick has decided not to run in the next provincial election (*CJN,* April 9). He touts all of his achievements as attorney-general from 1995 to now, but leaves out one very important failure that directly affects the Jewish community, as it does all people scarred by racism.

While in opposition from 1990-95, Harnick was the Tory critic for the attorney-general. Among the things he criticized was the attorney-general's inaction against Ernst Zundel. The provincial attorney-general has the sole responsibility and authority to permit the police to lay a charge under Canada's anti-hate legislation, which has twice been found constitutional by the Supreme Court in other cases.

During the 1995 election campaign, Harnick issued at least one piece of literature (delivered to my house) that said he would press the government to bring Zundel to trial under this law, instead of the "false news" law that, on appeal by Zundel, had been found unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. Having been made the attorney-general, and no longer just an opposition critic, Harnick reneged on his position and his promise. He has done just what his predecessors did – nothing.

Bernard Katz
Toronto

No recognition for world War II Jewish vets

For the past several months, the Jewish community has been inundated with Canadian Jewish Congress espousing a Holocaust memorial in Ottawa, and FEDERATION CJA beating the drums for the new Jewish community campus.

While both projects are of importance, it is time that the Jewish community paid tribute to the 17,000 Canadian Jews who served in the armed forces so that the Holocaust could be at an end. Some 440 paid the supreme sacrifice.

Let us not forget, that it was through their sacrifices that Canadian Jewry came of age, as before World War II we Jews were held as second class citizens.

It is time that the community paid tribute to our Jewish veterans. Surely, some tangible memorial can be erected to acknowledge their sacrifices.

Kek Rosenblatt
Montreal

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Perspectives

What is a good alternative to statehood?

By DANNY RUBINSTEIN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Some 100 members of the PLO's Central Council are convening in Gaza this week with Palestinian Authority (PA) leaders to decide what to do next week, on May 4, when the Oslo interim accords expire.

By then, PA Chairman Yasser Arafat will have returned from his world travels, Arafat deputy, Abu Mazen (Mahmud Abbas), and PA Minister of Local Government Affairs, Saeb Erekat, will have returned from Washington, where they met last week with U.S. envoy Dennis Ross in an effort to draft a letter of American guarantees to be given to Arafat in return for his refraining from declaring an independent state.

The anticipated decision of the PLO council is more or less known; it will decide that on May 4, Arafat and his spokespersons will declare that the Palestinians have the right to establish an independent state at any time they see fit and convenient to do so.

In other words, they will not declare a state, but they will also not adopt a resolution to postpone the declaration, and instead will use vague language to say they have to hang on another few weeks until the fateful date for the peace process: May 17, Israeli election day.

Arafat and his spokespersons have been explaining that their campaign to declare the establishment of a state on May 4 has already achieved results, even though no such declaration will be made.

The respective positions on Palestinian statehood of the two key prime ministerial candidates, Benjamin Netanyahu and Ehud Barak is a key issue for the Israeli electorate. Below, we see a photo of a demonstration last year in Jerusalem by Palestinians objecting to the "Juidisim (sic)" of Jerusalem. [RNS/Reuters photos]

The most important achievement is that the idea of a sovereign Palestinian state has sunk in around the world, and nothing will stop its establishment. Ostensibly, there is nothing simpler and clearer than a national movement's demand, such as the PLO's, to establish a state for its people. But that is not the case with the Palestinians.

Close inspection of the PLO's famous 1964 national charter, the underlying document of modern Palestinian nationalism, will find no mention of establishing a state. For many years, the right of return was the national goal of the Palestinians; not establishing a state, and certainly not a mini-state, only in Gaza and the West Bank.

Establishing a state in only part of Palestine was, for many years, even considered betrayal by many Palestinians, especially refugees in Lebanon and Syria.

The latter declared a day of mourning in 1988 when the Palestinian National Council (PNC) approved the Palestinian declaration of independence at the famous Algiers meeting. In the future, as well, when Arafat declares the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, there will be considerable opposition to it from refugees who will no doubt understand that this entails a kind of waiving of their right to return to their land and homes inside Israeli territory.

In other words, the demand to establish a Palestinian national state has, in recent years, replaced the demand to obtain the right of return, and that is the important political revolution to which Arafat has led his movement.

In this respect, at least, Israel should not oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state and should even support it, as maintained by Shimon Peres, whose voice and that of his colleagues has disappeared in the election campaign.

Continued rule by Israel the only option

The thought of what will happen in Israel, if a Palestinian state is not established, is frightening. The only alternative to not establishing a Palestinian state is continued rule by Israeli occupation, directly and indirectly, over large areas of the West Bank and Gaza.

All of the security risks that Israel will, indeed, encounter after the establishment of a Palestinian state are not worth the loathsome situation that the Jewish state will inevitably fall into if a Palestinian-Arab state is not established alongside it. And this week in Gaza, the PLO's Central Council will pass a resolution in principle to establish it.

Opinions

A Jewish children's museum

I am an old museum buff, but I have never seen anything like this. I was amazed when the literature I received at this museum said that there are over 250 children's museums around the world, and that their number has doubled during the last decade.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Just what is an up-to-date children's museum? I learned that while adult museums teach through the use of information labels, these newcomers use things like toys, games, costumes, a playhouse, interactive exhibitions, hands-on activities, intergenerational learning, or special programs such as storytelling, sing-alongs or puppet shows. It all amounts to learning and fun, intertwined.

The place of my discovery was not the downtown general children's museum, but My Jewish Discovery Place, tucked away in a corner of the Bathurst Jewish Centre in Toronto. It is the first of its kind in Canada, and the second in North America.

Director Katya Rudzik, a native Torontonian, got the inspiration when she visited the Los Angeles Jewish children's museum, and last October, with the help of the centre's director, Deborah Pinsky, was able to create this addition to the Jewish world of wonders.

The few months it has been opened, it has attracted over 4,000 visitors, and the director hopes to reach the 5,000 mark in the near future. Visiting hours on Sundays had to be extended so that children of supplementary schools of the city's synagogues might have an opportunity to take a field trip.

I was delighted to see this latest voyage into the expanding field of Jewish education. Rudzik describes the program as filling a void by being "fresh, young and fun." Children and parents come, but not merely to look; they participate. At Purim time, they can dress up in the costume they wish. At Pesach time, they have an opportunity to set the festive table. Further exhibits explore Jewish music and dance, stories and folk tales, mitzvot, the Hebrew language, Israel, Shabbat and more.

The exhibits change regularly, and their weekly, annual and special programs are designed to transform visitors into participants, and offer adults and children a unique opportunity to jointly discover the wonders of our Jewish heritage.

The themes of My Jewish Discovery Place are universal. The underlying message of each exhibit relays basic moral and ethical essence, while attempting to promote understanding and respect within our differences. In the process, it is hoped the visitors of all ages will be led to understand themselves a little better.

The ages to which the museum appeals range from two to eight years. Facilitators and volunteer docents encourage, guide, mediate and support the unique experiences of each visitor.

Altogether, it is a wonderful addition to our Canadian Jewish experience, and hopefully other cities will soon follow. I hear that the interest in Montreal is already quite high.

There is a small entrance fee, and the membership in a program is available as well. It's a place to which I would gladly take my great-grandchildren, if I had any.

For more information, call 636-1880 ext. 390.

Getting a higher education

I am amazed at the amount of useless knowledge that I can fit into my head. I can recite tidbits of information that would only be useful for multiple choice exam questions or while playing along with *Jeopardy* at home.

Jennifer Fox in Halifax

As I write this column, I should be studying for my last exam of the 1998-99 school year. My exam for an English course on plays in the tragedy genre is supposed to test my ability to analyze and synthesize the material studied for the last eight months. On the whole, however, it will consist of nothing more than regurgitation of inane details.

This leaves me with a quandary. What's the point of it all? In 10 years, six months or the minute after I finish the exam, will it really matter who killed who in a 17th-century revenge play?

The point of higher education is twofold. Firstly, I'm there to learn. By learning I mean not the ability to crank out dates, names and plot synopses, but the ability to take thoughts of those before me and mold them into a thought of my own.

That's the general argument for having a liberal arts degree. It teaches you how to think and to see more than what's on the page. This is why I've always enjoyed English or social science classes.

The need to improve someone's ability to think and analyze leads into the second goal of university and college – finding a job.

Luckily for me, I knew the answer to the sentence, "When I grow up I want to be a..." since I was 13. I don't know how, but I decided upon "journalist," and picked a university that would help me achieve my chosen career. But the elementary school statement "when I grow up" means that eventually I have to grow up.

After this exam, I will have completed my second year of my degree. Two years down, two to go. This means in a mere 104 weeks, I will be thrust from the secure setting of the academic world into the reality of the job force.

Naturally, this upcoming event preys on my mind. For the last 16 years all I've ever been is a student. That's it. I know tests, assignments and summer vacations. It's familiar and I'm good at it. Am I willing to give up the life I've always known for tax deductions and RSP contributions? I don't think I'm ready to be all grown up just yet.

If the purpose of my four years at King's College (and the large sums of money given to the bursar's office) is to educate and prepare me for my transition into the world beyond the picturesque quad and the neoclassical buildings, then why do I need to know so much trivial information?

Whether or not I can name the two sons of Oedipus will make no difference to me when I'm writing a story about a recent robbery or election. No one will care that I can list Aristotle's six parts of tragic action. And if in a middle of an interview, the person turns to me and demands to know the year Shakespeare wrote *Macbeth*, I will be the most shocked of all.

I came to school with the expectation of expanding my mind. I also came with the hope that along the way I would evolve into a full-fledged adult. This means doing things I don't want to do, including answering obvious questions for marks and filling my head with facts I'll never need again.

This means I should stop whining and go study. On the plus side, I'm very good at *Trivial Pursuit*.

Montreal's Jewish future

At Hillel, students have taken the initiative to guide Judaism into the 21st century.

Being involved at Hillel, the Jewish student centre at McGill University, I have observed and have assisted with the rebirth and revival of Jewish student life on campus.

Erica Horn in Montreal

Hillel members have begun to realize that they are the keys to the Jewish future in Montreal. And, perhaps most importantly (in terms of our existence), the staff has come to that same realization.

There is no doubt that without Jews in my age group deciding to live and stay in Montreal, the future of the Montreal Jewish community seems grim. Hillel, therefore, has willingly taken on the burdensome task of helping to lay the foundations for a future they hope will be bright.

By the same token, Hillel could and would not exist unless there were students wanting to be involved and who were conscious of the weight of the future put on their shoulders.

In many regards it seems to me that Hillel's existence is often taken for granted by members of our community.

While time and time again, we are forced to campaign for extravagant amounts of money to accomplish our far-reaching goals, other agencies targeting a similar population are holding seemingly token events to encourage us to stay in Montreal.

Admittedly the odd party is a good way to meet those with whom we must build our future and it is undoubtedly an easy way to socialize. However, truth be told, a simple stroll down St. Laurent on a Saturday night or a trip through the Cavendish Mall will achieve the same purpose.

Moreover, if the reason some people decide to stay in Montreal is due to an annual party in October where they are guaranteed to run into 100 or so Jews, then I suggest that they get their heads checked.

Students are often criticized for being idealists and always in search of a good party. I cannot contradict either assertion.

Idealism is the only way that we can hope to achieve our goals, and parties are fun social events. However, students have other interests besides dressing up and seeing their friends.

They are demonstrating a commitment, not only to a fruitful social life in Montreal, but perhaps to something more meaningful, more representative of the long-term goals for our community. Such commitment, in my opinion, encourages people to stay.

Guest lecturers, student activism on campuses and fundraisers that encourage the involvement of students, highlight the necessity of our participation. Activities such as these, which show us that we are good for more than just our socialization skills, are bound to reap more benefits than the odd party.

The Jewish Renaissance witnessed at Hillel has been overwhelming.

We accomplished more in the month of March than agencies with more funds and personnel have achieved in a school year. Art Spiegelman, cartoonist and author of Pulitzer-Prize-winning Maus, visited Montreal through Hillel's initiative.

The Purim party was a smashing success – and I know this because the bar was filled to capacity and I couldn't even get in to count the number of people there.

Hillel was actively involved with the Wake-Up tour and Stay-Up program, innumerable Shabbatons, an inter-CEGEP party, a basketball tournament, a scratch-card fundraiser, a chocolate seder and the ongoing protest against Concordia University's decision to bring Norman Finkelstein, an anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic Jew to speak on a Friday night. Is that enough for one month? We could have done more.

Tooting one's own horn is a bad trait – I know. However, I speak on behalf of all the students involved at Hillel.

We are the future and as idealistic as we may be, we need more than parties to keep us going. We need to see that our community trusts us.

Dry Bones
YOU'RE WATCHING THE NATO BRIEFING ON TV?
YUP
IN 2012, WHEN I'M IN COLLEGE, I'LL BE ABLE TO ANSWER THE HISTORY QUESTION ABOUT THE BALKANS AND THE START OF WWIII
IF YOU'RE IN COLLEGE IN 2012
YUP
AND IF THEY'RE STILL BOTHERING TO TEACH HISTORY

The Kirshner File

The Jews of Palestine and the Holocaust

The past two decades have seen an explosion of interest in Holocaust studies. Much of the new research has naturally focused on Europe, the scene of the unspeakable crimes. But in line with this trend, Israeli historians, from Dina Porat to Tom Segev, have begun to take a closer look at the Yishuv – the Jewish community in Palestine – during this critical period.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Two of the most recent works of this genre, both of which are diligently researched and well worth reading, are *The Yishuv in the Shadow of the Holocaust* (Westview Press) by Abraham Edelheit and *Ben-Gurion and the Holocaust* (Harcourt Brace) by Shabtai Teveth.

Edelheit's book offers a cogent analysis of the Yishuv's response to the imperative of saving European Jewry between 1933 and 1939, an era which encompasses Adolf Hitler's accession to power and the outbreak of World War II. Teveth's work debunks the argument that David Ben-Gurion, the pre-eminent Zionist leader in Palestine, was insufficiently militant in responding to the unfolding tragedy.

The rise of a rabidly anti-Semitic regime in Germany was considered worthy of extensive coverage by the Hebrew press in Palestine, Edelheit observes. Virtually all the newspapers devoted increasingly large amounts of precious space to describing and analysing the menacing events in Germany.

In May 1933, just four months after Hitler's appointment as chancellor and only a month after the first Nazi-orchestrated economic boycott against Jewish merchants throughout Germany, the Jewish leadership in Palestine issued a manifesto calling on the world to help and defend German Jewry.

Beyond that plea for assistance, the Yishuv embarked on a concrete program of rescue aliyah. From 1933 to 1937, for example, 174,803 Jewish immigrants reached Palestine, of whom 39,324 hailed from Germany. Considerable numbers of olim also poured out of Poland, Romania, Latvia and Lithuania.

Despite strident calls for an economic boycott of Germany, the Yishuv adopted a practical (and expedient) approach to the issue. In August 1933, following negotiations between Jewish officials and Germany's consul general in Jerusalem, a mutually beneficial agreement was reached that allowed German olim to bring with them to Palestine manufactured goods and raw materials.

The accord was morally controversial and broke the back of the international boycott against Germany, but it encouraged aliyah and provided the Yishuv with the wherewithal for further expansion and growth, Edelheit notes.

Similar agreements were signed with Latvia and Lithuania in March and April 1936. Talks with Poland began in the same year, but failed to produce a deal. Zionist negotiators claimed that the Poles did not negotiate in good faith.

Finally, Edelheit examines the Yishuv's position toward the White Paper, which limited Jewish immigration and acquisition of land. Issued in May 1939, the White Paper was a stinging repudiation of the 1917 Balfour Declaration and a litmus test of Zionist intentions with respect to Britain.

With the White Paper, Britain essentially bought Arab support (or at least their neutrality) in any upcoming European war. On the other hand, the Yishuv's support was assured by virtue of Jewish animosity to Germany.

The Brits, of course, were right. The struggle against the White Paper was delayed by the war. On Sept. 3, 1939, in a rhetorical flourish, Ben-Gurion declared: "We shall fight Hitler as though there were no White Paper, and we shall fight the White paper as though there was no Hitler."

Considering the dire circumstances, did Ben-Gurion really have a viable alternative?

When the Holocaust was at its height, Ben-Gurion and his closest associates were accused not only of indifference to the fate of European Jews but of actual responsibility for their deaths through collaboration with the Nazis. According to the critics, Ben-Gurion cut deals with the Nazis that enabled selected Zionist Jews to escape to Palestine, leaving the rest to their fate.

Teveth, however, believes that he exerted ceaseless efforts to save Jews caught in the web of the Nazi occupation. Describing him as a pragmatist and a visionary, Teveth says that Ben-Gurion was an ardent believer in the concept of the ingathering of the Jews in their ancestral homeland. Ben-Gurion, therefore, sought with every fibre of his being to bring Jews to Palestine.

Why, then, has Ben-Gurion been castigated? Teveth lists two reasons.

In his public appearances, he generally kept his feelings to himself. But in times of national crisis, people expect a leader to articulate their horror and sorrow.

Ben-Gurion, too, recognized that very little rescue could be achieved while a fierce war was raging. Teveth subscribes to this view. "The tragic fact is – and about this there is a consensus among the first rank of Holocaust historians, as well as among many of the survivors – that no matter how much effort Zionism and the Yishuv might have invested in the attempt, only a very few more Jews could have been rescued."

Nonetheless, Ben-Gurion did not wash his hands of rescue, and continued working on behalf of Jews trapped behind enemy lines. Indeed, it was Ben-Gurion who demanded a study of "any proposal that offers even the slightest hope for rescuing Jews from the Nazi inferno."

In closing, Teveth makes two more telling points. British policies and restrictions constrained rescue efforts, and Allied war aims ruled out any massive rescue plans.

Need more be said?

Ruthless killers

Before Auschwitz and before the Nazis' systematic extermination of European Jewry, cavalcades of ruthless killers, known collectively as Einsatzgruppen, hunted down and murdered Jews in cold blood by the thousands in the Soviet Union.

They perpetrated their crimes in relative secrecy, often with the assistance of local collaborators. Their targets were primarily helpless, hapless Jewish civilians. They embarked on their killing spree in June 1941, following Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union. In their first massive act of mass destruction, they slaughtered 34,000 Jewish civilians at Babi Yar in September 1941.

The four Einsatzgruppen units ranged far and wide, from the Baltic to the Black Sea, working hand in glove with the regular German army. They were true believers, being of the view that Jews were subhumans, vermin who had to be wiped off the face of the earth.

By the time they were through with their grisly task, unprecedented in the annals of history, they had killed approximately one million Jews, primarily in the Baltic republics, Belarus, Russia and Ukraine.

If not for the persistence of an American Jewish lawyer, Benjamin Ferencz, these murderers might have eluded justice. Shortly after the war, Ferencz – the subject of a recent A&E television documentary entitled *The Nazis' Secret Killing Squads* – stumbled upon Einsatzgruppen records in Berlin. He persuaded Telford Taylor, the chief prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials, to bring the Einsatzgruppen leaders to trial.

The proceedings began on Sept. 29, 1947 and ended on April 10, 1948. The 22 accused, some of whom were highly educated, claimed in self-defence that Jews posed a mortal threat to Germany. Their plea fell on deaf ears. Four were hanged and the rest were given long prison sentences.

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Tuesday May 4, 1999; 7:30 PM

RESTITUTION UPDATE FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS
with Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut, Moshe Ronen, Greg Schneider
Wednesday May 5, 1999; 7:30 PM

At the Posluns Auditorium, 2nd Floor; Jewish Home for the Aged
Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care; 3560 Bathurst Street

Translators will be available during the question and answer periods
Parking and admission are free for both public forums.
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Tickets are $50.00 for dinner and performance.
For tickets call Judy Csillag (416) 785-2500 Ext. 2009

These community events are part of a four day multidisciplinary conference, *A Time to Heal: Caring for the Aging Holocaust Survivor* sponsored by Allan and Patty Friedland and Family

Holocaust Committee Chairs: Margie Levitt, Florence Brill; **Committee:** Judy Cohen, Roz Davidson, Eva Doje, Anita Eckstein, Max Eisen, Patty Friedland, Helen Ross

For information about the conference call Jodeme at (416) 785-2500, Ext. 2550

Baycrest is an academic centre affiliated with University of Toronto.

Biblical history

***The Oxford History of the Biblical World*, edited by M.D. Coogan (Oxford University Press $79.95).**

Books
Bernard Baskin

The 24 books of the Hebrew Bible were composed over a long period of time. The epic sweep of biblical history, from the time of Abraham to the Babylonian Exile, covers approximately 1,500 years.

Biblical writers were profoundly affected by the cyclical rise and fall of a long succession of imperial powers: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome.

Unfortunately, ancient Israel was dangerously positioned between the major powers of the time. Except for a few decades during the reigns of David and Solomon, ancient Israel, a strategic land bridge joining Asia to Africa, was continually trampled on by other nations.

Domination by often hostile neighbors gave biblical writers their distinctive outlook on history and uncertainty about the will and intentions of their God.

The book under review, a composite work by a group of acknowledged scholars, explores the background of the Hebrew scriptures.

It starts with the Bronze Age, accounts of Creation and the Patriarchs of Israel, and continues through the tumultuous period of the Kingdom and the Exile.

Several final chapters deal with the shifting fortunes of Jews and Christians in the Hellenistic and Roman worlds.

Bringing to bear the latest findings in archeology and biblical research, the contributors, in chronologically ordered chapters, provide information on the arts, architecture, languages, economic conditions, literature and religion of a variety of Middle Eastern cultures and civilizations.

Harry Orlinsky, the renowned Bible scholar once wrote, "It is now possible to see the entire ancient Near East from a thoroughly new perspective, and so it has become necessary to re-examine the biblical record in the light of our broadened understanding."

He emphasized, however, that by and large the biblical accounts are more likely to be true than false – unless clear-cut evidence from sources outside the Bible demonstrate the reverse.

The essays contain a multitude of insights and much striking information, of which the following two examples are typical.

In discussing the Exodus from Egypt, the Bible indicates that a mixed crowd, made up of 600,000 men and their families, left Egypt with a lot of livestock.

One scholar points out that if all the 2.5 million people in such a group "marched 10 abreast, the resulting line of more than 150 miles would need eight or nine days to march past any single fixed point.

"Taken at face value, such a host could not have crossed any ordinary stretch of water by any ordinary road or path in one night; nor could these numbers, or anything remotely approaching them, have been sustained in the inhospitable Sinai desert ... The entire population of Egypt in the mid-13th century BCE has been estimated at 2.8 million."

The Bible indicates that two gigantic pillars stood at the entrance of the Temple in Jerusalem, each of them 33 feet high. They carried the enigmatic names Jachin and Boaz.

"As freestanding columns, they flanked the building's forecourt, just as pillars marked the monumental gateways of sacred precincts throughout the ancient Near East.

"Carved reliefs of such gateways show that the completion of a temple was marked by a grand procession and celebration... The highly visible pillars – the only elaborately decorated element in the otherwise plain exterior of the Temple – therefore communicated the presence of Israel's God to all onlookers."

This handsome, large format, volume of 672 pages is enhanced with nearly 200 illustrations, many of them in color. Some of the articles, or a portion of them, are detailed and scholarly and not easy reading, but, all in all, this is perhaps the best one-volume work on a subject of unending interest and importance.

More Israeli election sites

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Last week, we began our look at some of the Web sites trying to woo and inform Israeli voters as the May 17 elections approach. Today, some of the sites belonging to the political parties. Please note that this is not a comprehensive look at party ideologies but a guide to where you can learn more. All the sites are in English or bilingual unless otherwise mentioned.

As I mentioned, you should start your search at the Jerusalem Post – Elections 1999 site **[http://www.jpost.co.il/Info/Elections99/index.shtml]**. Anyone mystified by the mechanics and rhetoric of the election will enjoy this primer.

When you look at Moledet's home page, you'll not only find three Israeli flags but the lyrics to Hatikvah, too **[http://www.moledet.org.il/]**. The Hebrew-only site includes photos of party leaders along with the party platform. ("The Land of Israel belongs to the Jewish people and only to the Jewish people.") For more (in Hebrew), see the Yedioth Aharonot site **[http://www.elections-yedioth.co.il/Articles/506.htm]**.

Yossi Sarid's Meretz **[http://www.meretz.israel.net/]**, the democratic party of Israel, believes in what it calls "the right to live without religious coercion." It had nine members in the previous Knesset under the leadership of Yossi Sarid. You can find more in Hebrew at the Yedioth site **[http://www.elections-yedioth.co.il/Articles/507.htm]**.

Shinui **[http://www.shinui.org.il/]** calls itself "the only active liberal party in Israel [which] finds its ideological position at the centre of the political map." It supports the peace process and the Oslo agreement, wants a free market economy based on liberal principals, and believes Israel should be a democratic state. Shinui is currently represented in the Knesset by Avraham Poraz.

I couldn't find an official site for some prominent parties. You can find background on Agudat Yisrael at the Jewish Student Online Research Centre **[http://www.us-israel.org/jsource/Politics/aguddat.html]**.

Yisrael b'Aliyah made an impact on the Israeli political landscape in 1996 when the party won seven seats. You can find a brief profile of party leader Natan Sharansky at the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs site **[http://www.israel.org/mfa/go.asp?MFAH00gc0]** and more in Hebrew at Yedioth **[http://www.elections-yedioth.co.il/Articles/472.htm]**.

Finally, here are a couple of parties you may not have heard of. Ale-Yarok (The Green Leaf Party) **[http://ale-yarok.org.il/]** supports the use of marijuana for medical, industrial, agricultural and environmental purposes.

And then there's Pnina Rosenblum **[http://www.rosenblum.inter.net.il/]**. When you go to her Web site, you may do a double-take. It is *very* pink. The *Jerusalem Post* says that although most of the media are treating Rosenblum's candidacy as a joke, "the former blonde bombshell turned cosmetics queen" has articulated policies (pro Oslo; maximum sentences for perpetrators of domestic violence **[http://www.jpost.com/com/Archive/31.Jan.1999/Features/Article-18.html]**). And "as a potential Knesset member, she's a lot more genuine than her blonde locks – and many of her fellow candidates."

Next week, Labor, Likud and other parties and platforms.

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at [mdm@inforamp.net].

Jewish Life

Literary void exists

By AVI BENLOLO

A quick search of the catalogue of most Canadian libraries would reveal very few books and journal articles that document the life and history of Sephardim in Canada.

This is a tragic state for an ethnic community that settled in Canada prior to Confederation, that built one of the oldest synagogues in Canada – the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue in Montreal – and has developed numerous synagogues and schools throughout the country.

There is a negative and a positive side to this literary void. On one hand, the lack of academic work in this area provides an opportunity for aspiring researchers. The study of Sephardi Jewry in Canada is a good topic for those searching for a relatively uncharted area in Canadian academia.

On the other hand, students and academics studying the Canadian Jewish experience need to dig deep to find out about the existence of Sephardim in Canada. Moreover, since sources are rare, attaining a full and accurate picture of Sephardi life is difficult because of the limited information available.

Still, there are a few Canadian thinkers who have taken the time to examine the Canadian Sephardi experience, although in some cases, they have been too focused on the Sephardi-Ashkenazi relationship.

Sarah Taib-Carlen presents, perhaps, the most comprehensive account of Toronto's Sephardi Jewry. Her 1989 dissertation titled *Assessment of a Small Group Ethnic Identity: The Jews in North Africa and the North African Jews in Toronto* covers an expanse of Sephardi life.

Taib-Carlen discusses issues relating to Sephardi origins, family structure, customs, religious beliefs, ethnicity, ethnic identity and Sephardi-Ashkenazi relations.

In another article titled *Sephardim and Ashkenazim in Montreal*, Jean-Claude Lasry looks at the linguistic differences that have distanced these groups. He found that rather than assimilating with the established Anglo-Jewish community, French speaking Sephardim integrated into Francophone society, and they were especially motivated by Quebec nationalism.

As a result of linguistic differences, Elazar and Miller contend in their 1990 book, *Maintaining Consensus*, that North African Jews are in the "anomalous" position of speaking the language of the majority, but forming part of a religious minority. Interestingly enough, Daniel Elazar and Harold Miller devote very few pages of their book to Canadian Sephardim, and in these pages, they mostly deal with the Sephardi-Ashkenazi relationship.

It is in my opinion that future academic work on Sephardi Jews in Canada must break free from the Sephardi-Ashkenazi quagmire. Academics and others have been too focused on this issue for too long.

Surely, there are other issues that can and need to be discussed, such as immigration, demographics, assimilation, ethnic mobility, integration into communal structures, religious movements and the Sephardi relationship with Israel.

As Canadian Sephardi communities begin to mature, and the second generation firmly takes its place in the academic, professional and communal world, I suspect new research will emerge which will engage the Sephardi experience in Canada in a much more comprehensive way.

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The Burgenland collection

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

For more than a decade, an Israeli archivist has been asking Austrian officials to return to Jewish hands, a large archival collection that once belonged to the Jewish communities of Burgenland, a former region of Hungary that is now the easternmost province of Austria.

According to Hadassah Assouline, director of the Jerusalem-based Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People, the disputed collection occupies about 40 metres of shelf space in a regional archives in Eisenstadt. Assouline made an extensive inventory of its contents in 1988.

The material, which dates from the late 17th to the 20th century, includes Jewish communal record books (*pinkassim*), burial society records, and school, military, metrical and tax lists.

Also included are rabbinical correspondence and numerous letters between Jewish communal figures and the Esterhazy family of Eisenstadt, the longstanding patrons and protectors of Burgenland's Jews.

Assouline points out that the collection, which Austrian archivists salvaged from the Nazis, is "stolen Jewish property."

She says: "This is property belonging to the Jews of Burgenland and under normal circumstances it never would have left their possession."

Famed for its well-known "seven communities" with their illustrious rabbis and yeshivot, Burgenland was an important centre of Austro-Hungarian Jewish life from about 1690 until September 1938, when the Nazis expelled the Jews and declared 10 cities, including Eisenstadt, to be "*Judenrein*."

The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People is an independent government-funded institution situated on the Givat Ram campus of Hebrew University. Since 1969, it has built one of the most extensive collections of documents pertaining to the Jews of the Diaspora, from the Middle Ages to the present day.

Regarding the Burgenland collection, Assouline emphasizes that it did not originate as government material. "It belonged to the Jewish community, which was a private organization," she says. "The community was never obliged to deposit any of this material with the regional or state government."

When the collection resurfaced after the war in regional archives in Eisenstadt, the Jewish community in Vienna – legal heir to all Jewish communities of Austria – requested its return, but to no avail. A request from an organization of Burgenland Jews in Israel was also unsuccessful.

Since the early 1980s, Assouline has persuaded successive Israeli ambassadors to Austria to raise the matter with the Austrians.

While the Austrian government has maintained that the issue is a regional, rather than a federal matter, officials of the regional archives in Eisenstadt have asserted that they cannot legally repatriate the material to Israel.

In 1986, the chief of the Burgenland archives agreed to microfilm much of the collection and ship it to Jerusalem on an open-ended "long-term loan." Microfilming occurred in 1994, but the archives subsequently refused to relinquish the material on loan as agreed.

Attempting to break the bureaucratic logjam, U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg wrote last winter to the Austrian embassy in Washington, asking for help "to bring this matter to a satisfactory close."

Assouline remains adamant that the collection must eventually be given back to the Jewish people. "This material chronicles a very important chapter of our history," she says. "It's no less valuable than bank accounts, buildings, art, or any other type of stolen Jewish property. It must be returned to us."

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Mincha Service 7:10 p.m. – Talk during *Seudah-Shelisheet:*
"'Stars' and 'Extras':
The Unnamed Players in Biblical Narrative"

Sunday, May 2
Men's Club Breakfast – Service 9:00 a.m.
Breakfast 9:30 a.m. (Nominal charge) Lecture 10:00 a.m:
"Midrash She Wrote:
Recent Women's Writings on the Bible"

Public Cordially Invited

Author offers shocking look at world's hidden history

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — John Loftus hasn't changed his speech much over the past few years, but his discussion of the world of international intrigue, spying, subterfuge and betrayal still packs a powerful punch.

Last week, the author of *The Secret War Against the Jews* received a standing ovation from an appreciative audience who'd travelled to The Old Mill in Etobicoke to hear him speak at an Aish HaTorah program commemorating Israeli Independence Day.

Loftus had them gasping with shock at his revelations that U.S. and British intelligence agencies spy on each others' Jewish communities and trade the information, so they can deny they spied domestically. They shook their heads when he described how western governments welcomed Nazi collaborators to their shores as part of a planned anti-Communist army.

He also stunned onlookers with his claim that U.S. intelligence intercepted a 1973 Arab cable and knew of the planned Yom Kippur attack four days before Egypt and Syria surprised Israel – but did not tell the Israelis about it.

A Justice Department lawyer in the late 1970s, Loftus began his work investigating the world's "hidden history" almost by accident. He had joined a unit that was investigating the presence of Nazis in the United States, and was assigned the less than glamorous task of poring through the U.S. archives in Maryland. One day he got lost in the massive, one-acre subterranean vaults and came upon files that had been marked classified until 2015.

Reading the files, he learned that after World War II, Britain, Canada and the United States were already making contingency plans for World War III against the Soviet Union. They devised a scheme to bring Eastern European anti-communists to the west, and train them as an underground army that would be sent back in the event of war.

Unfortunately, the program was supervised by British agent Kim Philby, who was the highest ranking Soviet spy in Western intelligence. Instead of bringing freedom fighters to the west, "he sent the dregs of the Nazi war criminals of Eastern Europe," Loftus said.

"It wasn't hard to find Nazis in Toronto," Loftus said. "They were everywhere."

Loftus publicized his U.S. findings on *60 Minutes*. The revelations shocked the American public. "Mike Wallace got the Emmy Award, my family got the death threats," he said.

Afterwards, he went into private law practice, but intelligence agents continually sought him out and fed him all sorts of juicy information.

"They taught me a lot about how the world really works," Loftus said.

Among his revelations:

• Churchill and Roosevelt knew about the Nazi massacre of Jews as early as September 1941. Roosevelt proposed calling on Hitler to release the Jews, but Churchill did not want to anger the Arabs by admitting Jews to Palestine, while the United States and Canada had a closed door policy to Jewish refugees. Roosevelt backtracked on condition Britain agreed to the prosecution of Nazi war criminals after the war.

• Zionist leaders "blackmailed" Nelson Rockefeller to get his co-operation in the UN vote for the creation of Israel. Rockefeller, who was serving as head of the CIA for Latin America at the time, had done business with the Nazis through Swiss companies. The Zionists threatened to expose those links if he didn't help them get the Latin American votes Israel needed. He agreed on condition Israel not establish a unit to hunt for Nazis, who Rockefeller knew were coming to South America in great numbers. "It was a devil's bargain, but Ben-Gurion agreed to it," Loftus said.

• Though he hated Hitler, Pope Pius XII, along with a small group of anti-communist Italian clerics, set up a network to smuggle Nazis out of Europe after the war.

• British intelligence wire-tapped King Edward, and learned he was sympathetic to the Nazis. He was forced to abdicate, not because of marriage to an American divorcee, but because he was willing to make back door deals with Hitler.

• Despite possessing intelligence indicating the planned October 1973 attack on Israel, chief U.S. foreign policy adviser Henry Kissinger withheld the information. "We wanted to let Israel bleed a little but come out ahead" Loftus explained. Through re-supply of ammunition, the United States would get the leverage to coerce Israel into accepting its plans for a comprehensive Mideast peace.

However, the war went very badly for Israel, and the Jewish state was in real danger until Gen. Alexander Haig, then serving as White House Chief of Staff, arranged to supply Israel with the then-new TOW anti-tank missiles. Israel used them on Egyptian armor with devastating success, he said.

• Britain and the United States started tapping the phone lines of Jews in the United States, Britain and Canada even before World War II ended. They were concerned that Jews would attempt to supply the Jews of Palestine with arms.

Meanwhile, Lev Hoch, a Czech Jew who had infiltrated British intelligence, learned of a British plot to overthrow the democratic, leftist government of Czechoslovakia, and instal a right wing one with some fascist elements. He informed the Czechs, and received in exchange cooperation in selling arms to Israel. It was those arms that turned the tide in Israel's War of Independence.

That Czech Jew later changed his name to Robert Maxwell and became an international publisher.

"No matter what he had done later in his life, in his youth Maxwell had saved a nation," Loftus said.

Loftus said he was motivated to investigate the world's unseen history as a result of a friendship he had developed with a Holocaust survivor.

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Agudath Israel of Toronto (O)	129 McGillivray Ave. (416) 789-5514	7:00 PM	8:45 AM	7:00, 7:30 8:00, 8:30	Mon. Thurs. 6:25, 6:50, 7:15 Tues. Wed. Fri. 6:30, 6:55	8:10 PM
Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am (C)	55 Yeomans Rd. (416) 633-5500	8:00 PM	9:00 AM	8:30 AM	7:00 & 8:00 AM	8:15 PM
Beth Emeth (C)	100 Elder St. (416) 633-3638	7:00 PM	8:45 AM	7:30 & 8:30 AM	7:30 & 8:15 AM	8:15 PM
Beth Lida (O)	22 Gilgorm Rd. (416)489-2550	7:00 PM	9:00 AM	----------	----------	----------
Clanton Park Synagogue (O)	11 Lowesmoor Ave. (416)633-4193	7:00 PM	9:00 AM	7:30 AM & 8:15 AM	Mon. Thurs. 6:50, 7:15 Tues. Wed. Fri. 7:00, 7:25	8:10 PM
Shaarei Tefillah (O)	3600 Bathurst St. (416) 787-1631	7:00 PM	8:45 AM	8:30 AM	6:30 & 7:30 AM	8:10 PM
Temple Emanu-El (R)	120 Old Colony Rd. (416) 449-3880	7:30 PM	10:30 AM	8:30 AM	7:30 AM	----------
Temple Kol Ami (R)	36 Atkinson Ave. (905) 709-2620	7:30 PM	10:30 AM	----------	----------	----------

This is not a comprehensive listing of the synagogues in the Greater Toronto area. The information is provided by the Vaad Harabonim of Toronto and the Toronto Board of Rabbis. The Vaad and the Board will periodically revise the listings. For statutory holidays, please call the Synagogue for any changes in times.

Aging Holocaust survivors focus of conference

TORONTO — Organizers at the Baycrest Centre are busy putting finishing touches to a groundbreaking conference, A Time to Heal: Caring for the Aging Holocaust Survivor, which will bring together dozens of experts from Canada, the United States, Israel, Germany and France.

The conference, from May 4 to 7, will explore meeting the needs of aging Holocaust survivors and their families with knowledge, dignity and respect.

Practitioners of social work, psychology, medicine and nursing will join rabbis and other professionals for a series of workshops and seminars.

Of particular interest, will be three presentations open to the public. Multi-generational Caring for the Aging Holocaust Survivor will take place May 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Posluns Auditorium of the Jewish Home for the Aged (3560 Bathurst St.)

Elaine Todres, president of the Baycrest Foundation, will moderate a discussion featuring Dr. Natan Kellerman of AMCHA, an Israeli organization that offers survivors psych-social support; Dr. Robert Krell of Vancouver, a child survivor and psychiatrist, and a leading expert on survivors' psychological trauma; Tamara Stieber, representing the third generation; and Paula David, a social worker and the Holocaust resource co-ordinator at Baycrest, as well as the conference's co-ordinator.

A Restitution Update for Holocaust Survivors will take place May 5 at 7:30 p.m., also in the Posluns Auditorium. Rabbi Gunther Plaut, chair of Canada's Swiss humanitarian fund for needy survivors, will join Canadian Jewish Congress president Moshe Ronen, and Greg Schneider of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, to discuss reparations and restitution.

On May 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the dining room of the Wagman Centre (55 Ameer Ave.), Theresa Tova, author of the play *Still the Night*, will sing Yiddish and Broadway songs. Tickets are required, and available by calling 785-2500, ext. 2009.

Among the conference's keynote speakers will be local Holocaust historian Paula Draper; Dr. William Seidelman, an expert on medicine during the Third Reich; historian and author Harold Troper; and American expert Allen Glicksman, who will address the special needs of Holocaust survivors from the former Soviet Union.

The conference will also feature some 40 workshops for professionals. Areas to be explored include healing, coping with depression and anxiety, the hospitalized elderly survivor, and family and community support.

The conference is presented by Baycrest and sponsored by Allan and Patricia Friedland and family.

For details, call Jordana Berger at 785-2500, ext. 2035.

Volunteers Needed

Summer youth volunteers! Baycrest Centre is looking for youth between the ages of 13 and 25 to volunteer in a variety of recreational programs with the elderly. Also gift shop, cafe assistants and office volunteer opportunities are available. If you would like to gain experience, have fun, meet people your own age and you are available July and Aug., call Sheri 785-2500, ext. 2575.

***

Canadian Cancer Society, North York Unit, is seeking volunteers to assist in the organization of the First Annual Ride 'n' Stride to Beat Cancer on the Waterfront to be held June 27 at Martin Goodman Trail-Beaches. There will be five and/or 10K routes for walking, running, in-line skating or biking. Volunteers are needed to assist in organization and preparation and/or on the day of the event. Contact Jena Chiu of the North York Unit at 226-0646 or the Toronto Region at 440-3330.

***

The Leukemia Research Fund of Canada: Volunteer canvassers are urgently required for the annual Dollar Days for Leukemia fundraising campaign running June 4 to 6 throughout the Greater Toronto Area. Call the Toronto Branch office 661-2873.

***

Reena volunteer opportunities: PAL-unteers to work one-on-one with individuals with developmental disabilities, Home-Buddies visit and assist in Reena's group homes; Battle Family Developmental Centre to help with life skills training and program activities; Dial-a-ride to drive people to programs, doctor appointments, social events; administrative volunteers to assist in the office. Contact Arlene Margolese, manager of volunteer services 905-889-6484.

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DINNER — Sunday — 4:30pm to 10pm — $11.99 per person — Children Under Ten $5.99

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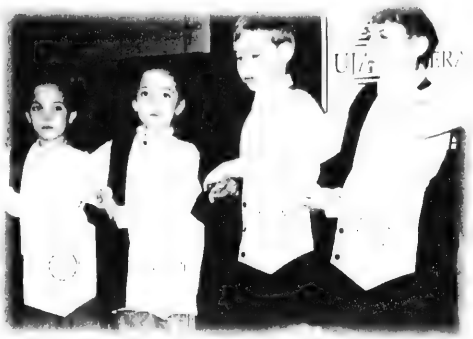
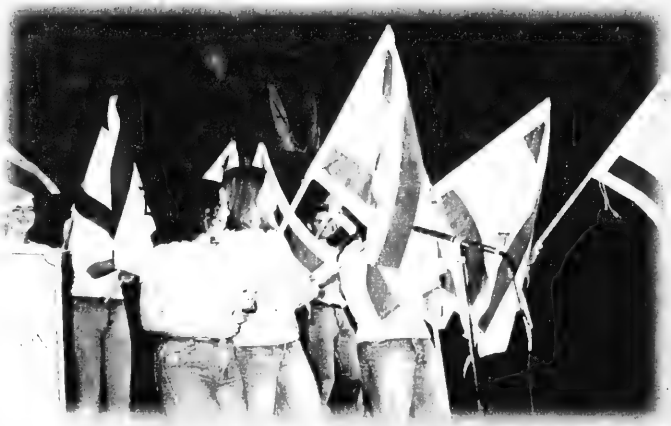
CELEBRATING ISRAEL

The Bathurst Jewish Centre was the place to be for IsraelFest'99, UJA Federation's Yom Ha'atzmaut event attended by some 1,200 people. Highlights, pictured, included an Israeli flag ceremony with Tzofim (Israeli Scouts) members and the singing of a combined children's choir from Bialik Hebrew Day School and United Synagogue Day School. Among the evening's participants were Jehudi Kinar, Consul General of Israel; Lorraine Sandler, event chair; and Cantor Noam Goodman. Moshe Shamai, El Al's general manager for Canada, presented two tickets to Israel to draw winner Michelle Klein-Weinberg.

[Frances Kraft photos]





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שישאר בינינו

גידי קורן וחברים

תרבות דרעי, 1999:

הרשעתו של אריה דרעי בעבירות שוחד אישיות איננה מיוחדת כל כך, כי היא אירעה כבר בעבר לפוליטיקאים. הדבר המיוחד בפרשה הזו נעוץ לדעתי בעובדה שלמרות שנשלח לארבע שנות מאסר, קיים ציבור של כרבע מליון איש,כולל רבנים מכובדים, שאינם מקבלים את פסיקת בית המשפט וממשיכים לראות בו גיבור לאומי ומנהיג שאינו ניתן להחלפה. הם אומרים בריש גלי: יש בית משפט של מטה, ויש בית משפט של מעלה (ענו האל בכבודו ובעצמו),והאל הוא לצידו של דרעי. הם גם אומרים: האיש הזה עזר לנו, ואם חלק מהכספים שהועברו דרכו מצאו את דרכם לביסו - מותר לו. לשון אחרת: זה שהוא מרמה את המדינה זה בסדר, כל זמן שהוא משלנו ועוזר לנו. יש בכך ביטוי בוטה לתהום עמוקה בין שתי תרבויות מאוד שונות. התהום הזו חזקה מההבדלים שבין דתיים וחילוניים, בין מזרחיים ואשכנזים, יהודים וערבים. זהו כיום, לדעתי קו השבר החזק ביותר בישראל. זה לא אומר כמובן שבעוד חודש חודשיים לא יווצר קו שבר חדש, לאורך עקרונות אחרים. אבל חזון למועד.

פרופ' חיים רויפמן - בודד בצמרת:

חודש מאי 1999 הוא ללא ספק החודש של חיים רויפמן, רופא ילדים וחוקר בעל שם בינלאומי בבית החולים לילדים של טורונטו. חיים, שמנהל את המחלקה לאימונולוגיה (תורת החיסון) בבית החולים, זכה בפרס היוקרתי ביותר שמעניק ע"י אגודת חוקרי רפואת הילדים על הישגיו בהבנת המנגנון שבו מגן הגוף על עצמו נגד זיהומים וגורמים חיצוניים אחרים. עבודות המחקר של פרופ' רויפמן פורסמו בעיתוני המחקר היוקרתיים ביותר בעולם וזכו להד ופרסום עצומים. הוא מוזמן דרך קבע להרצות במיטב האוניברסיטאות בעולם. מלבד ההכרה הבינלאומית העצומה בעיקבות הפרס, שינתן לחיים במעמד של אלפי רופאים בסן פרנסיסקו, הוא גם זוכה בפרס כספי ניכר. ובאילו זה לא מספיק, לקראת סוף החודש תוענק לפרופ. רויפמן קתדרא מטעם אוניברסיטת טורונטו ובית החולים לילדים של טורונטו. זוהי הכרה מאוד יוקרתית בהישגיו של חיים, ומלבד הכבוד - מדובר בתרומה של 2 מליון דולאר לטובת תוכנית המחקר שלו.

מזה שנים משתלמים אצל חיים רופאים וחוקרים מכל העולם, ובאופן קבוע גם רופא או שניים מישראל. וכך במשך השנים היה פרופ. רויפמן אחראי להכשרתם של חלק משמעותי מהרופאים שעוסקים בישראל בתחום זה. זוהי, דרך אגב, תרומה מאוד נכבדת של קהילת הרופאים והמדענים הישראליים בצפון אמריקה, שמכשירה מאות אנשי מדע שחוזרים ארצה ויוצרים סטנדרטים צפון אמריקנים במקצועותיהם.

משהו טוב באמת:

בישראל פתחו במתקפה רבתי להורדת מספר תאונות הדרכים: השותפות, בנוסף למשרד התחבורה, הן מע"צ, המשטרה, הרשויות המקומיות ומשרדי החינוך והבריאות. והינה, עוד התוכנית בחיתוליה, חלה ירידה של כ - 25 אחוזים במספר התאונות עם נפגעים ברבעון הראשון של 99 לעומת 98, וירידה של 30% במספר ההרוגים. קשה לדעת אם זה מקרי, או שינוי בגישה, או הישגים אמיתיים של התוכנית החדשה. בכל מקרה - זהו משהו טוב באמת. דבר אחד אני יכול להעיד אחרי שבוע של נהיגה בישראל באפריל 99: אינני רואה שיפור ב"כמעט תאונות" שנובעות מאופי הנהיגה הישראלי. זהו משהו משהו! הסיכונים שבני אדם מוכנים לקחת בשביל כלום! אבל שישאר בינינו.

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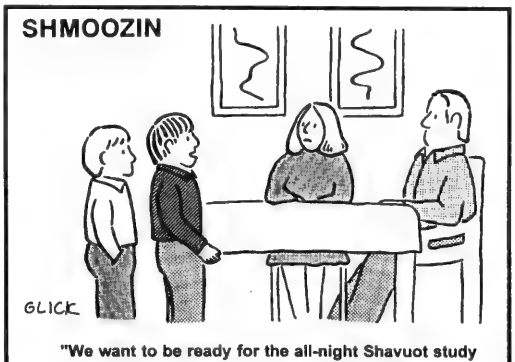

Mohel's dream comes true with day of multiple brits

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Performing a brit milah, a ritual circumcision, is considered a mitzvah in Jewish tradition, so imagine the joy in being able to perform five mitzvot in a single day.

Rochelle Schwartz was kvelling in the aftermath of her mitzvah-filled experience in which she performed "brits" on triplets in the morning and twins in the afternoon.

"It was a wonderful day," Schwartz said later. "It was a mohel's dream to do a triplets bris and twins. I feel like it was the greatest mitzvah of my life. I'm glad God chose me to carry out this wonderful mitzvah."

A doctor in family practice for 14 years, Schwartz had performed circumcisions for many of her non-Jewish patients when she decided to do Jewish ritual circumcisions.

After studying with Rabbi Daniel Komito-Gottlieb of Temple Kol Ami, Schwartz was certified by the Berit Milah Board of Reform Judaism in November 1997, becoming one of only two female mohelets in Canada. (A third is now studying for certification in Ottawa.)

Schwartz has been performing brits for a little over one year though she's performed circumcisions for her non-Jewish patients for 14 years.

Before officiating at a Jewish tradition as ancient as Abraham, Schwartz begins the day with a tradition of her own. As she has done before most momentous events in her life, from getting married to writing a med-school exam, she visited her father, Harry, a kohen, to receive his blessing.

"I would not do anything without my father's blessing," she said.

He in turn, remembers being blessed by his father before him. "He said he always felt safe" when he received the blessing. "It's something that's passed down through the generations," Schwartz said.

After receiving her blessing, Schwartz's next stop was at the home where Ali and Philip Offman and their three boys, Corey, Ryan and Jordan, awaited her.

Ali, a nurse in Schwartz's Thornhill medical office, gave birth in late January, but the "brits" had to wait until the boys grew larger and stronger, Schwartz explained.

A stickler for preparation and organization, Schwartz had visited the family beforehand to discuss the service and handle all arrangements. Three pillows had been set up, along with three Kiddush cups and three sets of instruments.

Traditional in many ways, Schwartz has modified her circumcision procedures in the last three years to make the experience as comfortable for the boys as possible. One hour before the service, they are given Tylenol while 10 minutes before, they are injected with a pain medication, a dorsal penile block, which freezes the area.

Add that to the gauze dipped in wine and sugar, which is given to the boys to suck on, and it "helps to control the pain," she said. "Usually they don't cry and if they don't, I say it's a woman's touch."

After enjoying some bagels and lox, Schwartz departed for her second appointment, at the Holy Blossom Temple, where Laura and Brian Dallal-McLean were waiting with their twins, Benjamin Alan and Nethaniel Steven.

The second set of "brits" had a distinctively Middle Eastern flavor to them, thanks to the Dallal family's Iraqi origins.

Naim Dallal, the papa, as the grandfather is called in the Sephardi community, served as sandak, and recited a special prayer for that role. The boys were each seated in a velvet-covered wooden Elijah's chair that belongs to the Iraqi Jewish Association and which is used in brit ceremonies. The prophet Elijah is said to presage the coming of the Messiah and the chair is brought for him in the hope that the baby may be the long-awaited Messiah, Schwartz explained.

Ali Offman (right) hands one of her sons to Rochelle Schwartz for a brit milah.

Six candles were lit by female friends and relatives of the families and they recited Shehechianu.

The service was also punctuated by lots of singing and ululating.

A green myrtle branch was also used, as it is in many happy occasions in Iraq, Dallal said.

Harriet Schachter, for one, was very impressed with the service Schwartz conducted. One of the triplets' grandmothers, she said it was the first time she'd seen a woman serve as mohel. "It was just beautiful. No one could have done it better. It was personal, interesting, very moving. It was wonderful."

For Ali Offman, who was Schwartz's patient before she worked with her as a nurse, the service "meant a lot. I knew she was going to take her time and she takes pride in what she does for our family. It was a beautiful bris."

Laura Dallal, the twins' mother, said she chose Schwartz after she read her letter to the editor of the *Toronto Star* about pain control during circumcisions.

"Her philosophy was in keeping with our view to give the boys an anaesthetic," she said. "We wanted to minimize the pain for the babies."

Laura Dallal also was impressed with Schwartz's desire to personalize the ceremony. "She involved the women a lot, much more than any brit we had attended.

"It was a beautiful ceremony. She personalized it and her attention to detail really showed during the ceremony."

— Correction —

The date of

An Evening With Eitz Chaim

with our special guest speaker

Rabbi Dovid Gottlieb

on page 25 of our issue of April 22 should have read

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1999.

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NORTH YORK GENERAL HOSPITAL
BRANSON DIVISION

A vision for ambulatory care services at Branson

Our commitment to meeting the health needs of the community

North York General Hospital assumed the governance, management and operations of the former North York Branson Hospital in May 1998. Since then, we've worked hard to maintain services in the community and continue to operate Branson Division as a full service acute hospital including emergency care.

We also have been busy planning for the future role of the Branson site: redevelopment into an ambulatory care centre with special focus on services for seniors. The Centre will offer a wide range of health services for people living in north central Greater Toronto from Dufferin Street to Victoria Park, and from Lawrence Avenue to Highway 407.

The community surrounding Branson has a large number of seniors. For this reason, many of the programs offered at the ambulatory care centre will promote wellness and help seniors manage on a daily basis. As well, the Centre will play a key role in linking people to other services provided in the home, community, hospital and long term care (nursing home) facilities.

Our vision for a comprehensive, state-of-the-art facility will set the standard for ambulatory services in Ontario. It will help bridge the gap between hospital and home and we will work closely with community partners to meet the needs of our diverse community.

Now it's time to share our vision with you.

What is an ambulatory care centre?

An ambulatory care centre is a community health centre where patients come and go during the day because there are no beds for overnight treatment. People can visit their family doctor for a routine check up, see a specialist, and have tests and procedures — all on an outpatient basis.

Our proposed services

Primary Care:

- Groups of family physicians, nurses, social workers, and other health professionals will work together in teams to look after patients of all ages.
- An After Hours Clinic with direct follow up to family physicians will be available when physician offices are closed.
- An Urgent Care Centre will be open 16 hours a day, to handle a wide range of illness and injury.

Seniors' Wellness Services:

- Specialized geriatric services will be provided in the home or at the Centre. This group of services will be designed to help maintain independence and ability to live at home as long as possible.

Specialized Ambulatory Services:

- Health education and promotion.
- Clinics for diabetes, chiropody, ear nose and throat, neurology, urology, and more.
- Cardiac and respiratory diagnosis and rehabilitation.
- Ophthalmology diagnosis and treatment.
- Rehabilitation for injuries such as fractures, repetitive strain, and degenerative conditions.
- Diagnostic imaging like x-ray, CT scanning, ultrasound and mammography, and possibly MRI.
- Minor surgical procedures.

Mental Health Services:

- A wide range of services will be available including outreach teams, crisis intervention, substance abuse programs, an eating disorder program, and special services for seniors with mental illness.

When will it happen?

The new ambulatory care centre will be completed by late 2003. ***In the meantime, the Branson Division remains open for business as usual, including emergency care and inpatient programs.*** Some ambulatory services may also be put in place at the Branson site to start setting the foundation for its new role.

We want your feedback

Please let us know what you think of our plans to develop a comprehensive ambulatory care centre on the Branson site. For more information, pick up a copy of our newsletter ***New Directions*** at the Information Desk, Branson Division, 555 Finch Avenue West. Or call us at (416) 633-9420, ext. 6074, and we will mail a copy to you. Send your ideas and suggestions to:
Jeff Brown, Director of Planning
North York General Hospital, Branson Division
555 Finch Avenue West
Toronto, ON M2R 1N5
Fax: (416) 635-2537
E-mail: broj@nybh.org

If your community group, association, or congregation would like us to visit and talk to you about our plans, contact our Public Relations Department at (416) 635-2525.

Standing by our community

North York General Hospital has a proud tradition of providing quality health services in new and innovative ways. One of our guiding principles is to provide the right care, in the right place, at the right time, by the right profession. The ambulatory care centre will enable North York General to fulfill our commitment and reach this standard of excellence.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF CANADA
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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, May 3 is deadline for May 13 issue, and Monday, May 10 is deadline for May 20. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0289.

Saturday, May 1

JEWISH MEANING OF MAY 1

Workmen's Circle marks May 1 – May Day with a lecture, May 1 in Jewish History, by **Prof. Eugene Orenstein** (in Yiddish), dean of Jewish Studies, McGill University, 8 p.m., 471 Lawrence Ave. W. $3. 787-2081.

Sunday, May 2

THE DREADED Y2K

CIBC's **John Burns**, vice-president in charge of the Y2K project, discusses and answers questions on the subject at Temple Har Zion. 9 a.m. services, breakfast 9:30, lecture at 10. RSVP **Derrick Kalmanson** 905-731-1377.

KOLLEL OF HAMILTON

Dr. John Loike, Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, afternoon seminar on new medical technologies and how they impact on the halachic definition of human identity. For rabbis and other halachic scholars, by reservation only.

Dr. Loike also delivers a community-wide lecture on Jewish biomedical ethics, 8:15 p.m., Adas Israel Synagogue, 125 Cline Ave. S.

For seminar reservations or more details 905-528-5451.

LET'S HELP THIS PLANET

In celebration of Israel's birthday and Earth Day, My Jewish Discovery Place Children's Museum, with the assistance of Mariposa in the Schools, presents Let's Help This Planet, interactive singing and storytelling by children's entertainers **Kim** and **Jerry Brodey.** $1/person, $5/family. 1 p.m., Bathurst Jewish Centre. 636-1880, ext. 390.

MEDICAL ETHICS

Rabbi Richard Weiss, rabbi of West Side Jewish Centre, Manhattan, discusses Living Wills and the Health Care Proxy in Judaism, 7:30 p.m., Beth Jacob Synagogue (BeYAD) 142 Overbrook Pl. 638-5955.

HABONIM BREAKFAST

Congregation Habonim features **Mitchell Solomon**, senior analyst, Sony Information Group, speaking on How Will Y2K Affect You and What Should You Do About It! Implications concerning home, family, community, 10 a.m. at Beth Habonim, 5 Glen Park Ave. Breakfast and lecture $6.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Feminist Book Discussion Group, North York Chapter, Older Women's Network, discusses *A Stranger in Two Worlds* by **Jean Harris,** 2 p.m. Barbara Frum Library, 20 Covington Rd. **Ruth Goldsmith** 783-6414.

Monday, May 3

ISRAELI FILM

Downtown Jewish Day School benefit screening of the Israeli film *Mr. Baum*, part of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, 7 p.m., Hyland Cinema. $25. Reception following at Ace Bakery. Tickets/information, **Doris Weisz**, DJDS office 924-6211, ext. 135.

LAG B'OMER TALK

Rabbi Mendel Weinbach, founding dean and Rosh HaYeshiva of Ohr Somayach Jerusalem, Lag b'Omer talk, Heat of the Flame, Brilliance of the Light: Understanding the Depth of Lag b'Omer, 8:30 p.m. at Ohr Somayach, 613 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill. $5. 905-886-5730.

Tuesday, May 4

STUDYING TORAH

Beth Tzedec Congregation 4-part dialogue featuring rabbis from different religious viewpoints continues with Studying Torah: Will It Bring Me Closer to the Divine? with **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein,** Kolel for Liberal Jewish Learning, and **Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl,** Beth Tzedec. 7:30 p.m.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

Family members are invited to learn about unique needs of survivor relatives from an expert international panel. 7:30 p.m., Baycrest Centre.

HOME SAFETY

Step Forward with Care, an information session on how to keep a home safe for elderly and/or physically challenged individuals, and demonstration of safety and mobility aids, by physiotherapists **Edda**

Continued on page 21

Greater Toronto Area

Sarah Zelsman celebrates 100th birthday

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
CJN Staff

TORONTO — Birthday greetings for Sarah Zelsman came from Queen Elizabeth, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Mayor Mel Lastman.

But the warmest birthday wishes were expressed by Zelsman's family members, who gathered recently at a special brunch in honor of her 100th birthday.

Four generations of her family – Zelsman is the mother of four, grandmother of eight and great-grandmother of 12 – were present at this elegant birthday party at the Sutton Place Hotel, attended by 70 people.

Dressed in a black, embroidered, ankle-length dress, her honey-brown hair perfectly coiffed, Zelsman looked far younger than her chronological age.

And her memory was in fine form, too. Not only can she rattle off the birthdays and phone numbers of her large family, she also remembers times and dates of all her phone conversations, granddaughter Francine Kerdman told the assembled guests.

Indeed, Zelsman had little trouble recalling her early days in Toronto. She came from Belarus at the age of 12, with her sister Dora, to join an older sibling, she said.

"I arrived here on a Friday and I went to work on Monday."

She also lost that job in the garment industry by the first afternoon; she asked someone the time, and her employer fired her on the spot for talking, she said.

"He was only paying me $3 a week. Two weeks later, I got a better job doing piece work, and I was making between $10 and $12 a week."

At 16, she met her husband Jacob; he was to become a co-owner of Atlantic Fur Company, and three years later they married.

In the 1930s the couple moved from downtown to Forest Hill to raise their four children, the late Leonard and Edward; and Marvin and Frances (Steinberg), her two surviving children, who with their spouses, hosted the birthday brunch.

Zelsman's husband died in 1967, and in the early '80s she lost a granddaughter to cancer.

Steinberg described her mother as a dedicated parent and grandmother, and as the consummate balabusta. "She was always there. Our house was open house."

Zelsman was active in several charities, among them Hadassah and Baycrest.

Marvin Zelsman and Frances Steinberg flank their mother Sarah Zelsman at her 100th birthday party. **[Barbara Silverstein photo]**

One of Steinberg's fondest memories is of her mother's volunteer work at Baycrest Centre, she said. "She would bring in residents from the home. They would have lunch and sing songs in Yiddish."

Her home was the venue of 12 charity teas a year, and during the war years she invited Jewish soldiers to her home on Shabbat and the holidays."I always had my table full," Zelsman told *The CJN*.

Many of her grandchildren remember her always being in the kitchen, and they cited personal favorite dishes from her culinary repertoire.

For Howard Zelsman, his grandmother's chicken fricassee was second to none, while his cousin Barbara Biel's personal favorite were the butter cookies or bubbie cookies, as she called them.

They said their grandmother usually had a coke and a cigarette in hand.

She quit smoking at the age of 90 when she was treated for pneumonia, and moved to an apartment in the Eglinton and Bathurst area where she resides today, granddaughter Lisa Casselman said.

"She's the best grandmother," Casselman said."She would tell you what was on her mind if you wanted to hear it or not. I still get phone calls."

Zelsman is believed to be the oldest member of Beth Tzedec; she and her husband joined the Goel Tzedec in 1936.

In her speech, granddaughter Kerdman said that words could not adequately honor her grandmother, whom she described as an "extraordinary, loving, perfect person."

Perhaps granddaughter Jackie Cohen summed it best: "While my grandmother is fortunate enough to have, not only her physical, but her mental health, I am the one who is truly fortunate to have such a beautiful and remarkable woman as my grandmother."

What's New

Continued from page 20

Laxer and **Terry Lipkus**, 8 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue.

Wednesday, May 5

RESTITUTION UPDATE

Latest information about the restitution process with panelists **Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut**, chair, Swiss Humanitarian Fund for Needy Survivors of the Holocaust; **Moshe Ronen**, national president, Canadian Jewish Congress; **Greg Schneider**, director, Institutional Allocations, Jewish Material War Claims Against Germany Inc. 7:30 p.m., Baycrest Centre.

DINNER & LUCKY DRAW

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Fundraising Dinner and Lucky Draw, 6:30 p.m. Grand prize $10,000. Ticket $150 (tax receipt of $100 and dinner). Partial tickets available. 633-5500

Thursday, May 6

WOMEN AND ADDICTION

Holy Blossom Temple Sisterhood lecture series on Women's Health Issues deals with Women and Addiction with **Barbara Shapiro** and **Barb Farkas**, addiction therapists, The Donwood, 8 p.m.

YIDDISH SONGS

Naomi Bell entertains with Yiddish Songs of Love and Courtship at Forest Hill Place, 645 Castlefield Ave., 2 p.m. Reserve, **Marlene** or **Susan** 785-1511.

And What Else Is New

AT BETH TZEDEC

Adult education committee presents **Prof. Adele Reinhartz**, department of religious studies, McMaster University:

Saturday, May 1: Morning service from the pulpit, Messengers of God: Angels in the Torah; Minchah service 7:10 p.m., talk during Seudah Shlishit, Stars and Extras: The Unnamed Players in Biblical Narrative.

Sunday, May 2: Men's Club Breakfast, Midrash She Wrote: Recent Women's Writings on the Bible. Service 9 a.m., breakfast 9:30 (nominal charge), lecture at 10.

BAYCREST CHALLENGE

The annual Baycrest Challenge on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9. Events include 5K and 10K runs, 5K walk for families, children's carnival, face painting, clowns, games, prizes, barbecue. Run/walk route from Baycrest through Earl Bales Park system. $20 to register before May 9. $25 on race day. Call 256-2-RUN.

SHABBATON

Shabbaton, The Nature of the Spiritual World, with **Rabbi Dovid Gottlieb** of Ohr Somayach Jerusalem, Shabbat and Sunday, May 8-9 at Ohr Somayach Thornhill. Rabbi Gottlieb will speak Friday night, Saturday afternoon and evening and Sunday evening. Home hospitality available. For details, call Ohr Somayach, 905-886-5730.

HIDDEN CHILD/SURVIVOR

The Czech Hidden Child Group is hosting an international Hidden Child/Child Survivor Conference in Prague Sept. 2-5.To register, **Hanna** 635-2883, ext. 153. Travel arrangements. **Lily Feder-Rosta** 231-7333.

NEW VILLAGE SHUL

Grand Opening Parade and Festival on Eglinton Ave. W. of the new Village Shul, Aish HaTorah Learning Centre, Sunday, May 9, 11:45 a.m. Meet at the old Village Shul, 884 Eglinton Ave. W. Live entertainment, food, kids' programs. **Joanna** 905-764-1818, ext. 216.

PARDS CONFERENCE

The Progressive Association of Reform Day Schools Conference is being held May 1-4. It brings together Reform day school educators from across the continent to study issues relevant in day school education, learn about the community, share experiences. **Sandy**, Leo Baeck Day School, 905-709-3636.

CHILD ABUSE

Holy Blossom Temple Brotherhood breakfast program Sunday, May 9, features **Eric Kirsh**, social worker, Jewish Family & Child Service, speaking on The Best Kept Secret: Child Abuse and Child Protection in the Jewish Community-plus discussion of other JF & CS services. Service 9 a.m., breakfast 9:30, lecture at 10.

BETH ISRAEL ACADEMY

Beth Israel Hebrew Academy is accepting registration for Sunday and evening programs, ages 5 to bar/bat mitzvah. Information session May 4 and 5. 905-770-1082

BAYCREST SPRING SALE

Baycrest Spring Sale, Thursday, May 13, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Centennial Arena, 580 Finch Ave. W. New merchandise, bargain prices – fashions, toys, hardware, notions, food, fashion auctions (10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m.) Major contributor, Tom's Place. Proceeds support Baycrest Campaign and Alzheimer research. 785-2500, ext. 2010.

BEGINNER HEBREW

Downtown Jewish Learning Council beginner Hebrew classes start Tuesday, May 4, 8:30 p.m. at Bloor Jewish Community Centre. For people with basic knowledge of the Hebrew alphabet. $75. Instructor **Nurit Gruber.** Register 924-6211.

VENDORS WANTED

For craft and gift show Monday, May 24, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Bayview Village Shopping Centre. Sponsored by Club Beersheba, Na'amat Toronto. 636-5425, 633-6538 evenings.

HEBREW CLASSES

Keren Hatarbut Institute of Hebrew Studies, 788 Marlee Ave., summer courses for adults, teenagers, preteens in conversational Hebrew, all levels. Tuesday mornings. May 25-Aug. 24; Wednesday mornings May 26-Aug. 25; Thursday mornings and evenings May 27-Aug. 26. Register, **Joseph Klinger** 787-0197.

THEATRE OUTING

Join Ilana chapter, Emunah Women, on a bus trip to the Orillia Festival Theatre to see *Annie* Wednesday, June 23. $45 bus and show. **Esther** 787-3736.

JF & CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups. **Pat Lieberman** 638-7800, ext. 215.

One Family: Two Homes, 3-session group for parents and children experiencing separation or divorce, begins May 19.

Looking Ahead: After Separation/Divorce begins May 4; Parenting the Young Child is Hard Work begins April 29; Younger Persons Bereavement Group (under 60) begins May 26.

FOR SENIORS

At combined meeting of **Beth Tzedec Seniors Haverim** and **Holy Blossom Lunch and Learn in Retirement,** art historian **Miriam Schneid Ofsayer** speaks on Let Us Understand Chagall, Monday, May 3, 1:30 p.m. at Beth Tzedec. $2.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: May 4, Bata Shoe Museum, Manning Cookie Factory; May 12, Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake; May 13 and 27, Casino Rama; May 16, Spring Fair and Bake Sale; May 23-25 Ottawa; July 5-11 Catskills; Every Wednesday, dance 7-9 p.m., free for members. 395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). April 29, bingo; May 6, members meeting; May 8, Yom Ha'atzmaut dance, for tickets call **Malka Colla** 630-5771; May 13, bingo. Activities in Hebrew. English, Yiddish. **Jerry Bengall**, president, 905-707-7334.

LZA Seniors Club in the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave., is open for socializing Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ladies Folkdancing Thursdays 1:30 p.m. Cultural Discussion Group Tuesdays 10 a.m. Register to see *My Fair Lady* at Stage West Wednesday, June 16. **Libby** 782-2059 or office 630-9444.

Young at Heart Seniors trip to kosher Raleigh Hotel in the Catskills, July 23 for 10 days. $1,399.95 Canadian, double occupancy. **Helen** 635-6343.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club: May 10, to celebrate Mother's Day, variety show with entertainer **Tanya Granonski**, 12:30 p.m., light lunch; Aug. 25, morning cruise, matinee *Move Over Mrs. Markham* at Gryphon Theatre; Oct. 12, *West Side Story* at Stratford. **Lena** 785-5773. Golden Book donations go to Laniado Hospital in Israel. **Dorothy Bloomfield** 787-1526.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 225-2112.

Low Vision Support Group, Tuesday, May 4, 1:15-2:15 p.m. **Mary Brown** discusses Becoming Independent-Blind.

Literary Luncheon, **Anne Balaban** reviews *The Notebook* by **Nicholas Sparks** Wednesday, May 5, noon to 2 p.m. members $10, non-members $12. Coffee, pastry/lecture $5. Reserve at Ticket Sales Desk.

Arthritis Management Clinic, therapist **Bev Tobe**, Thursday, May 6, 1-4 p.m. Make appointment at Wellness Desk, ext. 131.

Israeli Club Etrog: Do you speak Hebrew? Join club members every Tuesday at 7 p.m. for movies, lectures, dances, singalongs, bingo, picnics. Programs based on topics of interest to Israelis, and are conducted in Hebrew. **Anna** ext. 110.

Movie, *Fried Green Tomatoes*, Sunday, May 2, 2:30 p.m.

BLOOR JCC

Bloor Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 924-6211.

Song of Songs: Music, Drama and Dance, singers, dancers and theatre artists multi-faith celebration of Song of Songs. Three performances: Wednesday, May 26, Opening Night Gala (sponsored by Canadian Council of Christians and Jews), 8 p.m. Trinity-St. Paul's United Church, 427 Bloor St. W. $75 reserved seating, reception, tax receipt, $20 regular seating; Sunday, May 30, 3:30 p.m., Trinity-St. Paul's $12 seniors, students $10; Wednesday, June 2, 8 p.m., Leah Posluns Theatre, $20. Tickets, information Bloor JCC or Bathurst Jewish Centre 636-1880, ext. 0

Seniors Club: Thursday, April 29, 2 p.m., ABC's of Fraud. **Judy.**

BATHURST JC

Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 636-1880

Author/storyteller **Alvin Abram** shares stories of love, laughter and tears, Tuesday, May 4, 1-2 p.m. **Teme** ext. 364 or **Janet** ext. 259.

Check Bloor JCC item about Song of Songs performances.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

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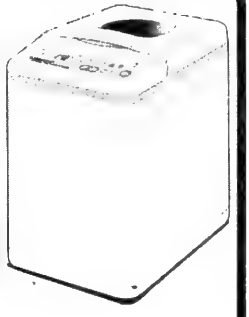

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Please submit application/resumé to the Executive Director, Jewish Family & Child Service, 4600 Bathurst St., 6th Floor, Toronto M2R 3V3, or Fax to (416) 638-7943 by May 12th.

Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

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SAJAC Seniors mark 20 years

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — SAJAC Seniors, an offshoot of the South African Jewish Association of Canada (SAJAC), is 20 years old this year.

"We joined as soon as we arrived," said Goldie Greenberg, who moved here from Johannesburg 10 years ago with her husband Sydney, to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

"Our children actually forced us to join," she admitted. "They reckoned we needed friends of our own."

Thea Abramson and Yossi Yaldor, her predecessor as chair of SAJAC Seniors, are seen with the Chai Dancers at an Israel at 50 event last year. [Gerald Berley photo]

Now the couple has a large circle of friends, said Greenberg, 77. Within SAJAC Seniors, Sydney serves as treasurer, and Goldie does the catering.

"I really do enjoy the fact of getting together with all these South Africans," she said. "We have so much in common."

Unlike the main group, SAJAC Seniors – which has grown from a handful of people to 320 – is primarily social, with monthly outings to places like Stratford or the race track in summer, and indoor events, often with entertainment, at the Banbury Recreation Centre during the colder months.

They also donate money to local and Israeli charities at the end of each year, and contribute to a SAJAC bursary fund.

SAJAC Seniors chair Thea Abramson, 80, enjoys telling the story of a conversation she had with a younger woman affiliated with SAJAC. "She said, 'You have much more fun than we do. When can I be a senior?'"

The seniors group was started by Len and Nancy Rubenstein with a nucleus of about 10 people. "It's a lot of fun," says Len, 83. Over the last few years, the group has tripled in size from over 100 to over 300, with about 45 or 50 regulars.

SAJAC "juniors" – as the seniors call them – was established 22 years ago to help integrate South African newcomers into the existing Jewish community here.

"We did not want to see created Hadassah or UJA groups that were South African – or anything that would isolate South Africans," said Alan Sandler, who co-founded SAJAC with Hilly Cohen and the late Ronnie Roth, shortly after he (Sandler) immigrated in 1976.

Rather, SAJAC offered practical information on Jewish organizations and schools, and other concerns of new immigrants.

Because there were relatively few South Africans here, newcomers turned to SAJAC whereas now they are more likely to turn to family or friends who are already here.

Sandler was 36 when he and his wife Lorraine immigrated with two school-age children. At the time, there was "no structure in Toronto to deal with English-speaking Jewry," he recalls.

Today, the SAJAC magazine – a twice-yearly publication featuring community news, household tips and a community yellow pages section – is sent to over 1,800 households, including those of the senior members.

According to UJA Federation statistics, there are up to 5,000 South African Jews in the Greater Toronto area.

The first wave of immigration was in 1961, following the Sharpville riots, with a second wave in 1976, and a third in 1985, said SAJAC magazine editor Heather Super, who has been here 12 years.

Current immigrants are predominately singles, young couples and seniors, she noted.

"The role of SAJAC has changed," Super said, explaining that the magazine and a "job find" program have superseded the social aspect.

"We help place quite a few people," said Colin Baskind, who serves as SAJAC president and co-runs the employment program.

When he arrived here 11 years ago, he said, he was helped by someone "who didn't know me from a bar of soap. I thought, 'When I get settled, I've got to return all this.'"

Abramson, a former concert pianist, is chair of SAJAC Seniors. She has been involved since shortly after she and her husband Abe immigrated from Johannesburg in November 1981. Their daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren were then living in Guelph.

Although Abramson joined a Hadassah-WIZO chapter and plays bridge with a Canadian woman, she and Abe have particularly enjoyed the "spirit of togetherness" they found with fellow South Africans at the seniors' group. "This was wonderful for us, as for a lot of newcomers," she said.

Abramson has no regrets about immigrating. "We adapted very well."

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Greater Toronto Area

CHAT teen gets top marks in math contest

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — There are days when Mark Daniels can't start his homework until 10 p.m., given his heavy schedule of extracurricular sports activities.

But the tall, well-spoken Grade 9 student at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT), enjoys and excels at his academic pursuits just as enthusiastically as he participates on his school track and volleyball teams.

Recently Daniels, 14, received the top mark possible in his category at the International Tournament of the Towns Mathematics Contest, which he wrote at the University of Toronto.

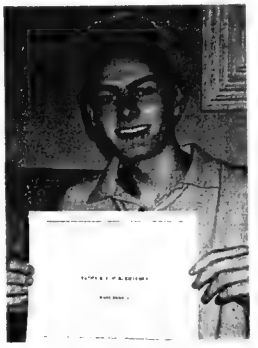
Daniels, who takes enriched Grade 9 math, wrote the junior "A" level exam, the more difficult of two levels open to younger high school students.

The Tournament of the Towns started locally in the former Soviet Union with three cities (Moscow, Leningrad and Riga) in the late 1970s. Today, high school students from 85 "towns" in more than 20 countries participate in the tournament, run under the auspices of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

Considered one of the most difficult mathematics contests, the tournament is 4½ hours long.

Daniels' score – 17.33 out of 14 – was based on his best three answers out of five. The marks added up to over 100 percent because they were multiplied by 1.3 so as not to put Grade 9 students at a disadvantage against Grade 10 students.

Daniels' South African-born parents, Steven and Janine, who immigrated here with their older son in 1982 after a stint in Israel, had no idea the competition would be such a challenge. "The kids came out white from the contest," Janine said.



Mark Daniels

Anthony, Mark's 18-year-old brother, is another all-rounder. A molecular biology student at Princeton University, he placed third in the International Avogadro Chemistry Contest, and brought home seven gold and two bronze medals from the JCC North American Maccabi Youth Games in Hartford two years ago.

"He's one of the people that really inspired me," said Mark.

Both brothers – who, their mother recalls, read at age 2 – hope to study medicine.

Mark prepared for the Tournament of the Towns, in part, by going over previous exams posted on the Internet.

He also takes part in a math club at the University of Toronto where "they give you problems and teach you how to think logically. That's a lot of fun."

As a student at Associated Hebrew Schools last year, he entered other math competitions such as the Gauss Mathematics Contest sponsored by the University of Waterloo.

Math comes easily to Daniels, he said. "I enjoy it. There's lots of thinking. It's interesting because there's always new things to learn and it's amazing how people think up all the theories. It's a lot different from all the other subjects, except for maybe Talmud."

The latter involves much logic, said Daniels, and "lots of math" in calculating appropriate payments for damages.

Math and science are his favorite subjects, but he also enjoys Tanach, Talmud and gym, Daniels said.

Although he admits to missing "a bit of school" because of his heavy involvement in sports – he also does track and field three times a week at York University and is just beginning track meet season – his Grade 9 average is over 90 percent.

"CHAT is a lot of fun," he said. "There is more freedom, and it's more of a challenge."

Jordan's King Abdullah answered letter

THORNHILL — When Barbara Mamann and her husband Michael wrote a letter of condolence to the family of the late King Hussein of Jordan, she didn't expect a response.

But a few weeks after she mailed a hand-written note to the royal family, expressing her sadness at the king's death from cancer, her phone rang.

On the other end was a representative of AT&T Canada, saying she had a telegram from the new king of Jordan.

"Dear Barbara and Michael," the operator read, "the Royal Hashemite family joins me in thanking you for your kind message on the very sad occasion of the death of my father." The message was signed by Jordan's new king, Abdullah Bin Al-Hussein.

"I felt all tingly," Barbara Mamann told *The CJN*. "It was very exciting, a very pleasant surprise. It shows there are still good people in the world."

She said she felt compelled to write the royal family because the late king "was such a good and brave man. I felt in my heart that I just had to write."

A few days after the call, the telegram arrived by mail. Mamann said she will have it matted and framed, and it will hang prominently in her Thornhill home.

According to the Jordanian embassy in Ottawa, it was common practice to respond to each and every letter of condolence received by the royal family following the king's death. Everyone who sent a note received a response, a spokesperson said.

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BAYCREST'S 'MOTHERS OF LEARNING'

Celia Silverman (left), a resident of the Baycrest Terrace, looks on as Baycrest Women's Auxiliary member Sandra Lewis delivers her d'var Torah at a recent ceremony, in which 10 Terrace residents were paired with 10 auxiliary volunteers for an emotional "Mothers of Israel" – Celebration of Learning service. The project, the first of its kind at Baycrest, gave Jewish women the opportunity to study the four matriarchs and explain how they relate to one of them. [Ron Csillag photo]

Christian service resists 'forgetfulness' of Holocaust

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Millions of lives could have been saved if other church leaders had supported Pastor Martin Niemoeller in his fight against the Nazis in Germany, according to the past president of the Canadian Council of Churches.

Dr. Heather Johnston, the main speaker at the 19th annual Christian Service in memory of the Holocaust at Metropolitan United Church, said Pastor Niemoeller had pleaded for a lifting of the boycott against Jewish shopkeepers in the 1930s, but other church leaders failed to speak out.

Johnston is the daughter of the secretary to Pastor Niemoeller, who was head of the Confessing Church of Germany.

She said the service sponsored by the Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto (CJDT) coincided with the infamous voyage 60 years ago of the *St. Louis*, filled with refugees from Germany who were turned away from Cuba and later from the United States and Canada.

Johnston said she was shocked to find a museum in St. Petersburg, Fla., offering "fun" rides to children in boxcars of the type used to carry Jews to concentration camps. The museum even advertised that it had the actual spikes used in the railways that took Jews to Treblinka.

"We should not allow the Holocaust to be the subject of such banality," she said.

One of the most powerful moments in the service came when the Metropolitan United Church's minister, Rev. G. Malcolm Sinclair, read out "the summons to remember."

"Our remembrance is a profound form of resistance and a radical act of solidarity," he said. "We resist the forces of forgetfulness and denial."

Candles representing the death of six million Jews were lit by survivors and members of their families. The first branch of the candelabrum was short to symbolize more than one million children who died. A seventh candle represented the Righteous Gentiles who risked their own lives to rescue Jews.

Those who lit candles were Max Eisen and his granddaughter, Amy; Judy Engel and her daughter, Tina; Dr. Sandor Tonelli, a Righteous Gentile; Dr. Wilfried Boothroyd, Canadian veteran of World War II; Case Ootes, deputy mayor of Toronto; Eligah Bemrose-Fetter, representing the youth of the church; and Inge Spitz, a hidden child in France and her son, Jack.

Following this solemn ceremony, K'El Maleh Rachamim was sung by Cantor Martin Steinhouse and then Eisen, a survivor, recited the mourners' Kaddish.

Holding lighted candles, the congregation then followed the participants to the parish house for a reception.

Poignant moments came when Joseph Steiner, president of UJA Federation, read the poem *Fear*, written by 12-year-old Eva Pickova in Theresienstadt, and Dr. Wiprecht von Treskow, consul general of Germany, read the words of Pastor Niemoeller, including the lines: "Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't object, for I was not a Jew; and then they came for me, and there was no one left to object."

Others taking part in the service were Rev. Karen Hamilton, an officer of the United Church of Canada; Rev. Friedhelm Pieper, general secretary of the International Council of Christians and Jews; Sister Jocelyn Monette of Our Lady of Sion, reading from The Diary ofAnne Frank; Rev. G. Cameron Brett, pastor, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church; Rev. Steven Bemrose-Fetter, minister of Metropolitan United Church; Rev. Brian Prideaux, chair, Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto; and Joanna Wilson, co-chair, Holocaust Remembrance Committee, CJDT.

CORRECTIONS

Barbara Teboul was misidentified in a photo taken at the Canadian Young Leadership conference. (*CJN*, Apr. 22)

Salomon Beldeb was misidentified in a photo from the Mimouna festival. (*CJN*, Apr. 22)

The CJN regrets the errors. In both cases, we received incorrect information.

TORONTO — In last week's *CJN*, a photo montage of events surrounding Yom Hashoah neglected to mention that the honoring of 10 Holocaust survivors at Queen's Park was co-sponsored by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem.

The information should have also noted that it was the first time Yom Hashoah was officially marked by the provincial government, which last year passed Bill 66, an act introduced by MPP Ted Chudleigh to mark Yom Hashoah as a day of remembrance and commemoration of Holocaust victims.

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On Campus

Queen's Hillel helps get frosh week events rescheduled

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

KINGSTON, ONT. — Frosh week at Queen's University is "a huge deal," according to Orrin Wolpert, president of Queen's Hillel. "You make your friends for life that week."

Which explains why Wolpert, a third-year engineering physics student, took it on himself to lobby for a schedule change when he realized last fall that Rosh Hashanah 1999 would coincide with the end of frosh week on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 11 and 12.

Although there is no Hillel staff at Queen's – which has 100 Hillel members among an estimated Jewish student population of over 500 – Wolpert was in contact with Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto staffer Tamara Kochberg, a Queen's alumna, about the situation. She served as "a sounding board," she said.

Wolpert, with hopes of getting frosh week moved, initially contacted dean of student affairs Bob Crawford, who referred him to university chaplain Rev. Brian Yealland, chair of the university's inter-faith council (made up of students representing different faith group).

Wolpert realized it would be more realistic to focus solely on the highlights of the week, among them semi-formals, "tamming" ceremonies (at which students receive a tam, recalling the Scottish roots of the university), and the engineering "grease pole" (an event at which students attempt to retrieve a hat at the top of a lanolin-covered football goal post), traditionally held on the Saturday.

Wolpert attended the next inter-faith council meeting at Rev. Yealland's invitation.

A motion was passed recommending that major orientation events be moved, and letters were sent by Wolpert and Yealland jointly to students and faculty members involved in organizing frosh week.

"With the biggest events normally happening toward the end [of the week], we wanted to make sure the Jewish students got full opportunity to participate," said Wolpert.

After a number of intermediary steps, the university senate – the highest governing body of the university – passed a motion in February that no traditional events be held after 2 p.m. on the Friday (erev Rosh Hashanah), said Wolpert.

Among the goals of orientation week are ensuring a welcoming environment and introducing students to a number of Queen's traditions, said Patrick McNeill, co-ordinator of Town-Gown Relations and secretary of the Senate Orientation Activities Review Board (SOARB).

This year, he added, a new goal will be to raise awareness of Rosh Hashanah among non-Jewish students so they will recognize that Jewish students are "leaving for an important reason."

There was no resistance at all to making the proposed changes, said McNeill.

"We were truly impressed with...the students involved and with Hillel in their willingness to come together and discuss ideas...so that everybody could participate well," he said.

SOARB supported "the need to accommodate students who observe Rosh Hashanah," noted Kathy Jackson and Peter Dawe, SOARB co-chairs in a memo to the university Senate.

A concert is set for one of the Rosh Hashanah evenings, "with our full endorsement," said Wolpert.

This is most likely the first time frosh week events have been rescheduled, although accommodations have been made on an individual basis in the past, said Rev. Yealland, to ensure, for example, that students missing a first class for Rosh Hashanah would receive handouts and an update on their return.

"This is the first time the whole university has said [it would] change our whole program to accommodate [a particular] group," said the chaplain. "To me that's great."

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4 SENSATIONAL MODELS TO VIEW

NATO criticized

Continued from page 1

American Jewish Committee described NATO's mission as "noble," saying that basic principles of human rights and collective security are at stake.

Musafija, two of whose three children were born in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, said he felt compelled to call *The CJN*.

"The Jewish people should stay by the Serbian people," he said, explaining that Serbs and Jews were persecuted by a pro-German Croat fascist state and Albanian sympathizers during World War II.

"If the Serbs hadn't resisted Nazi Germany's invasion in 1941, I wouldn't have been alive."

Born and raised in the Bosnian city of Sarajevo, Musafija said that 65 of his relatives were murdered during the Holocaust by the Germans and their local allies.

The survivors in the Musafiya family found refuge among the Serbian population of Croatia's Krajina region, he added.

What finally triggered his indignation, was an appeal issued by novelist Elie Wiesel on behalf of Kosovo Albanians. Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor, declined to equate Serbia's ethnic cleansing program with Germany's genocidal policies. But Mussafija was upset when Wiesel claimed that Serbian actions justified NATO bombing of Yugoslavia.

A television producer and a theatre critic in the old Yugoslavia, he acknowledged that the Yugoslavian regime is ousting Albanian Muslims from Kosovo. But he pointed out that the Kosovo-based Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) is a "terrorist organization" trying to break up what remains of Yugoslavia.

The Serbs, he said, are not barbarians, but "a civilized, democratic people."

Demonstrably pro-Serbian, he prefers to use expressions like "ethnic engineering" and "social rearrangement" to describe Yugoslavia's policy of ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

In his view, the Serbs are not attempting to destroy the Kosovo Albanians in Nazi-style fashion, but to resettle them.

Musafiya said that the concept of ethnic cleansing in Yugoslavia is nothing new. Tito, the former president, started the process by expelling ethnic Germans from Vojvodina after World War II. The Croatian government refined it in the early 1990s with the expulsion of hundreds of thousand of ethnic Serbs from Croatia.

"The Serbs did not invent ethnic cleansing."

Musafija said that Canada itself may be faced by the spectre of ethnic cleansing one day. "I'd like to see what would happen to Anglophones and native Indians who were not loyal to an independent Quebec nation."

And, he suggested, Israel practised ethnic cleansing of Palestinian Arabs during the 1948-49 War of Independence.

Asked whether Milosevic is a war criminal Musafija observed that this issue should be left to The Hague's war crimes tribunal. He said that, from a political vantage point, he disliked Milosevic.

Musafija immigrated to Canada in 1992 under the sponsorship of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services "to breathe fresh air."

His parents, Albert and Sara, currently reside in Corvallis, Ore., but lived in Israel from 1992 until 1997. Albert and Sara were professors in the faculties of medicine and political science, respectively, at the University of Sarajevo. They are now retired.

His two sisters, Tamara and Miriam, also live in Corvallis. By a quirk of fate, Tamara was born in Jerusalem in 1965 when her father was on a leave of absence at the Hadassah Hospital.

Musafija's cousin, Zelyko Mrcarica, is a resident of Belgrade, which has been bombarded by NATO. On April 3, Mrcarica sent him an e-mail message.

He wrote: "The beasts hit the building of federal and republic police this morning...I hope there is no one killed...this building is very close to a hospital, maternity clinic and psychiatric clinic...It is horrible to imagine what might have happened...All in all, this targeting of the centre of Belgrade...represents the biggest shock for me."

Kosovo refugees get aid

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — In the past three weeks, Winnipeg's Combined Jewish Appeal has raised $13,000 for the Kosovar refugees.

The campaign kicked off on April 8, the last day of Pesach, with appeals in the synagogues. That was followed by a press release to the media.

"The response has been gratifying," says Evelyn Hecht, director of community relations for the Winnipeg Jewish Community Council. "We have had people calling and walking in with cheques."

Hecht says that the Winnipeg community was one of the first to contact the Council of Jewish Federations (CJF) about taking action on the crisis. "We have had good support from the CJF and the Canadian Jewish Congress," she says.

The funds raised here are going directly to the Jewish Agency to support its non-sectarian work among the Kosovar refugees.

Scene in Ottawa

By
G.K. SIMCOE

Jews have being petitioning governments since they first went into exile. In Canada, there is a long tradition of representations to various levels of government on issues of concern to the Jewish community.

One of the best examples relates to pro-Israel activities, where the community has developed a specific structure, the Canada-Israel Committee, to act in its behalf. Another example is the Nazi war criminal file. In that case, both B'nai Brith Canada and the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) have advanced the community's position with the Department of Justice and the solicitor general.

Sometimes, various agencies believe that a "Jewish" perspective on general policy issues should be heard. Thus, organizations like CJC and B'nai Brith find ways to comment on the Constitution, social policy, federalism and the like.

All of the above implicitly claim that the positions are advanced in the "name" of the Jewish community. Increasingly, that may no longer be the case and the Jewish establishment had better watch out!

The so-called "ultra-Orthodox" in Montreal and Toronto are becoming very comfortable in the halls of government – any government. Learning from the successful experiences of their co-religionists in the United States, chassidic groups are lobbying governments for their own projects. And it would appear that they are doing so to great effect.

This all may sound innocent and benign, but it should be of serious concern to the "establishment" leadership. If they cannot co-opt these emerging forces to the broader community agenda, then chances are they will be bypassed and surpassed.

These groups have several advantages. First, they are extremely disciplined, and their leadership can direct uniform support to a particular candidate. Second, they tend to live in very concentrated areas, which makes for a very potent voting block. Third, they really look "Jewish," and politicians love to demonstrate how accessible they are and how comfortably they can interact with every constituency.

It may be time for the community to undertake a new lobbying initiative. Only this time, the target is within, namely, to move in a constructive way to heal divisions and possibly to prevent the image of a fractured community.

Coast to Coast

Canada's oldest shul to receive coat of arms

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Canada's oldest Jewish congregation, the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, will be presented with its own coat of arms from the Chief Herald's office in Ottawa, at a ceremony on Shavuot, May 21.

The congregation, founded in 1768, is receiving this honor thanks to the efforts of its two longest-standing members, Esther and Henry Blaustein. Esther Blaustein is a direct descendant of Aaron Hart, the first Jew to settle in Canada and one of the founders of the Spanish and Portuguese. Her husband's lineage is more modest: his grandfather became a member when he arrived in Montreal in the mid-19th century.

The coat of arms was designed by the office of Chief Herald R.J. Watt, using symbols that conform to the ancient art of armorial bearings and at the same time are suitable for a modern-day synagogue.

The Spanish and Portuguese's coat of arms features the colors blue, purple, scarlet, gold and silver, inspired by the Lord's biblical injunction to Moses: "The children of Israel shall make an offering of silver and gold, and twine of blue, purple and scarlet, and it shall be for a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them."

Red and gold are also the colors of the flags of Spain and Portugal, the lands of origin of the synagogue's founders.

On the shield are four silver pillars representing the four buildings in Montreal where the Spanish and Portuguese has been housed over its history. Beneath them is an unfurled sefer Torah, and below that a menorah, which is also inspired by the Exodus story, Blaustein said. ("And thou shalt make a candlestick of pure beaten gold.")

The sefer Torah is in the middle because, in Sephardi synagogues, the reading table is in the centre of the sanctuary.

These three symbols are imposed on a blue strip with undulating edges. This represents the St. Lawrence River, which brought the synagogue's founders to Montreal.

Above the shield, which is trimmed in purple, are the tablets of the Ten Commandments, sitting on a wreath of purple, red and silver. They are flanked by two Lions of Judah and topped by a maple leaf, a tribute to Canada, "where our people found a haven and security from tyrants in Europe and the Middle East," Blaustein said.

On the red and gold ribbon beneath the shield, the Shema is inscribed in Hebrew. Blaustein said he got the idea of applying for a coat of arms from Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, the first synagogue in Montreal and only the second in Canada to have one commissioned. It was presented to the synagogue by Gov. Gen. Roméo LeBlanc in 1995, on the occasion of the congregation's 150th anniversary. Chief Herald Watt also made a speech at the time.

The Blausteins, not the congregation, sponsored the coat of arms themselves, and the ceremony May 21 will be a low-key presentation, following the Shavuot service.

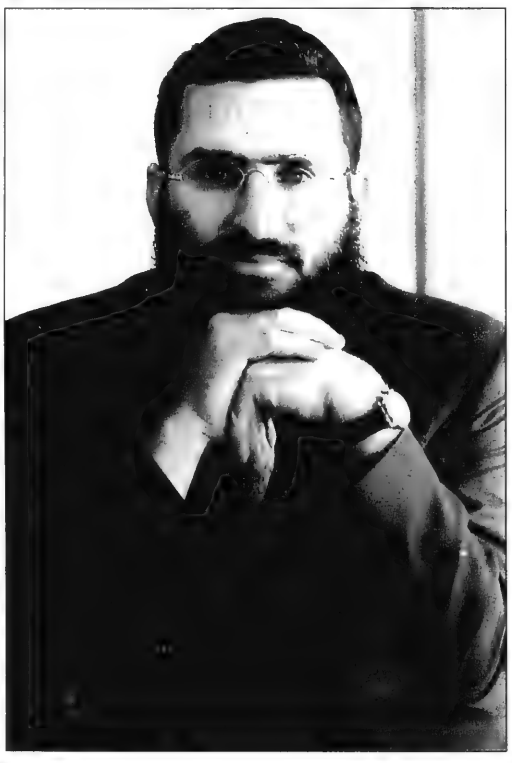
"A coat of arms gives a certain dignity," Blaustein said. "Heraldry exists so we can say, 'Here's who we are, here's where we have been, and here's where we are going.'"

Heraldry has deep roots in Jewish tradition, he noted. The 12 tribes had their own shields, and the practice of bearing coats of arms was common among the Jews of Spain, he said.

Today, the Spanish and Portuguese membership is a mix of Sephardim and Ashkenazim from many countries. The Blausteins are a symbol themselves of that blend: she came from the Sephardi tradition, he the Ashkenazi.

They met at a young people's program at the synagogue, when it was located downtown on Stanley Street, north of St. Catherine.

The new coat of arms of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue will be formally presented May 21.



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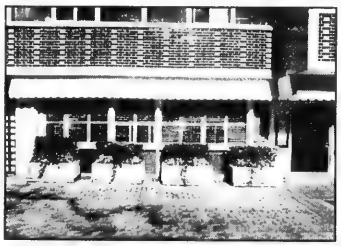

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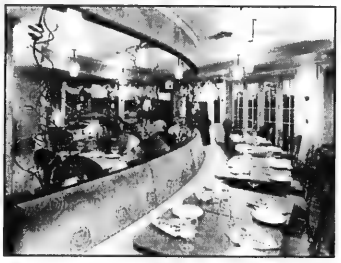

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International

Israel & the Jewish World

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Security Cabinet orders Orient House closed

By GIL SEDAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

A stately100-year-old mansion in eastern Jerusalem has repeatedly been the focal point of Israeli-Palestinian tensions over the city both sides claim as their capital.

Now, with Israeli elections only a few weeks off, and with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat still mulling whether to declare statehood when the interim period of peacemaking ends next week, Orient House has once again become the object of a tug of war.

Analysis

Last week, Israel called for the closure of offices at Orient House, which serves as the Palestinian Authority's de facto headquarters in Jerusalem.

The closure order against Orient House was issued by the Security Cabinet after the top Palestinian official in Jerusalem, Faisal Husseini, hosted some 30 diplomats there on April 21, Israel's Independence Day.

Although the order may take some time to implement through the proper legal channels, which will give Palestinian officials the opportunity to appeal the move, the Security Cabinet's decision was the latest sortie in the political battle for Jerusalem.

Defending the order, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described Husseini's decision to host the meeting as an example of "unusual chutzpah."

Not only had the meeting taken place on the day marking Israel's 51st birthday, the prime minister said, but Husseini had greeted the diplomats by saying: "Welcome to the capital of the Palestinian people, Jerusalem."

"The people of Israel are not willing to tolerate this," said Netanyahu, "and I am not willing to tolerate this."

Critics of Netanyahu – Israelis and Palestinians alike – linked the closure order to the election campaign.

For his part, Husseini, who serves as the Palestinian official responsible for Jerusalem affairs, said there was nothing new about the meeting with the diplomats; indeed, that he had held "thousands" of similar meetings in the past, with no Israeli intervention.

Netanyahu has in the past, explained the lack of Israeli action against Orient House by downplaying the importance of those meetings, Husseini said.

Husseini acknowledged that he referred to Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian state – "just as you refer to it as the capital of Israel."

He also accused the Israeli government of trying to sow unrest between Jerusalem's Arab and Jewish residents, adding that the Israeli government is attempting to return to the "days before" the Oslo accords, which call for the two sides to discuss Jerusalem – probably the most difficult issue facing them – as part of the final-status negotiations.

Warning that if Israel were to close Orient House, "the possibility of making peace would disappear," Husseini cautioned, "Don't push us."

The closure order was also criticized at home.

Political observers noted that the order reflected the Likud party's election strategy of showcasing Netanyahu as the custodian of Israel's "eternal capital."

Often a critic of the prime minister's policies in the peace process, President Ezer Weizman said he did not believe that the "sensitive issue of Jerusalem should be blown up over Orient House.

"Maybe it's necessary to calm down a bit," he added.

Two of Netanyahu's rivals in the race for prime minister also criticized the move.

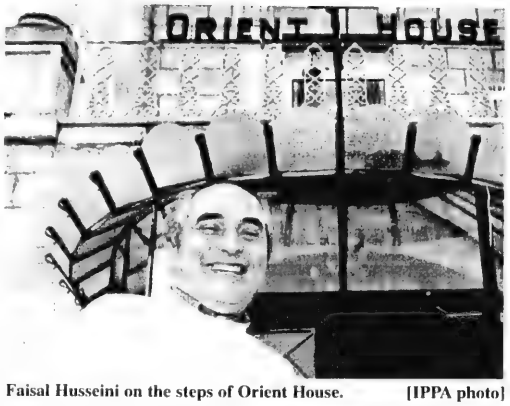
Yitzhak Mordechai, the Centre party candidate, urged the prime minister to remove the Jerusalem issue from the election campaign.

Ze'ev "Benny" Begin, the leader of a right-wing bloc in the race for prime minister, described the measure as "artificial, too little, and too late."

The Palestinian press, by Arafat's order, played down the significance of the closure order, hoping that the legal process surrounding it would drag on long past Israel's elections.

Orient House has functioned as the centre of Palestinian activities in Jerusalem since the late 1980s, long before the launch of the Oslo process in 1993.

Husseini, whose family owned the building that once served as a hotel, established his offices there as the head of an "Arab studies society," and later as head of the Palestinian negotiating team for the Madrid peace talks in 1991.



Faisal Husseini on the steps of Orient House. **[IPPA photo]**

The closure order was the latest in a series of measures and countermeasures taken by both sides to establish facts on the ground in Jerusalem before the start of the final-status negotiations.

Israel, for example, has approved the construction of a new Jewish neighborhood at Har Choma in southeastern Jerusalem, supported Jewish purchases of Arab properties in the eastern portion of the city, and has pursued a policy of confiscating the Israeli identity cards and revoking the residency rights of former Arab residents after they spend lengthy periods abroad.

As part of their ongoing Jerusalem campaign, the Palestinians have encouraged the return of former Arab residents to the city, and have repeatedly attempted to bolster the Palestinian Authority's presence in Jerusalem.

Moreover, Palestinian plainclothes police are known to operate in the city, the Palestinian Education Ministry controls the curricula of eastern Jerusalem schools – with the silent consent of the Israelis – and they have established a variety of organizations in the city, including offices devoted to health, sports, statistics and vocational training.

All Israeli governments, including Netanyahu's, have accepted the Palestinian presence in Jerusalem.

Every now and then, Israeli leaders have flexed their political muscles, issuing one closure order or another.

But they have generally managed to live with a clear reality: The Palestinian Authority operates in Jerusalem to a much greater degree than any of them would openly admit.

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Closing date: May 28th, 1999.

Shin Bet informer charged in Rabin case

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — An Israeli court has charged a former informer for Israel's domestic security service with failing to prevent the 1995 assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

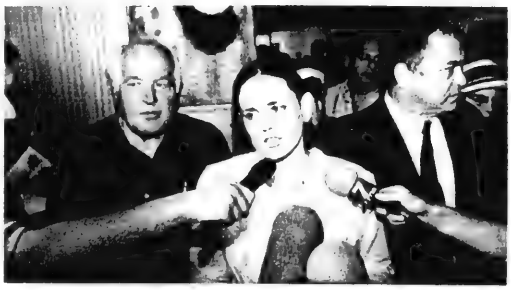
According to prosecutors, Avishai Raviv, who was recruited to join the Shin Bet in 1987, failed to inform his handlers that Yigal Amir planned to hurt or assassinate Rabin.

Raviv, known as "Champagne" by his Shin Bet handlers, was also charged Sunday with supporting a terrorist organization as a result of his involvement in founding the extremist group Eyal, which allegedly fostered violence.

If he is found guilty of all charges, he faces up to seven years in prison. Raviv and Amir knew each other from their student days at Bar-Ilan University.

Declassified portions of a government report issued in 1997 said Raviv failed to tell the Shin Bet about Amir's repeated boasts that he was planning to kill Rabin.

Raviv was closer to [Amir] than anyone else in organizing student demonstrations and weekends in Judea and Samaria," according to the Shamgar Commission report. It was surprising "that in his report on Yigal Amir, he did not mention or hint at Amir's known statements about plans to attack the prime minister, which he voiced more than once in his circle of friends," the report said.



Margalit Har Shefi after her appeal was rejected. [Israel Sun photo]

In a separate development, a Tel Aviv district court rejected an appeal from Amir's friend, Margalit Har-Shefi, who was sentenced last year to nine months in jail on similar charges.

Har-Shefi's attorney said he planned to file an appeal with Israel's Supreme Court.

Amir is serving a life sentence for Rabin's murder. His brother Hagai is serving a 12-year sentence, and a friend, Dror Adani, was sentenced to seven years for the crime.

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AOL CANADA

Jewish Agency provides aid for Kosovo refugees

Continued from page 1

according to information provided to *The CJN* by UJA Federation, which in turn, is briefed by Agency officials.

The latest arrivals are comprised of women with children whose fathers were unable to leave Belgrade.

The Jewish Agency held an information session for them at JAFI headquarters, with individual and group counselling made available.

Advice will be also available on all phases of aliyah, from immigrants' rights to educational opportunities and programs.

So far, local donations to Toronto UJA Federation's Kosovo Relief Fund totals more than $30,000. In excess of $10,000 has been channeled to a similar fund begun by Canadian Jewish Congress, which includes contributions to Montreal's FEDERATION CJA.

In the past three weeks, JAFI has sent over 100 tons of humanitarian aid and supplies on an airlift consisting of seven planes. Agency staff distributed tents, blankets, coats, mattresses and food to the thousands of refugees.

Although the team was stationed in Tirana, Albania, where the planes landed, Agency officials traveled to the camps needing help. The first planeload of aid and supplies was distributed in Pishcina and Mullet, near Tirana.

Convoys loaded with aid and supplies from the subsequent six planeloads travelled to southwest Albania to aid refugees who fled from Macedonia with nothing.

Chaim Chesler, co-chair of the JAFI aliyah & klitah committee, went to Tirana as part of the operation and reports that the chicken farm in Fierre that was turned into a refugee camp was absolutely shocking.

The physical and sanitary conditions were ripe for outbreaks of diseases; there were people sleeping on the floor among chicken droppings, and there were no toilets or other sanitary facilities, Chesler said. The Israeli team provided much-needed mattresses, blankets and food.

The 112 Muslim Albanian refugees brought from Kosovo by the Israeli government under Agency auspices earlier this month, are settled at the Maagen Michael Field School. They are slowly learning about life in Israel, and receiving necessary medical treatment and social work intervention, as well as learning Hebrew.

Meantime, the situation for the remaining 100 or so Belgrade Jews in Budapest is described as tense and strained. Women and children are displaced and separated from their loved ones. Although the children have been placed in local schools, there is still too much time on everyone's hands with no structure in their lives.

A small number of Jewish women have been travelling back and forth between Budapest and Belgrade to check on their possessions and property. Men are forbidden to cross the border.

The Week in Israel

April 19

• Chaim Pakovitch, 42, who had been convicted of plotting to throw a pig's head with the Koran stuffed into its mouth into the Al-Aksa Mosque, was sentenced to 42 months in prison.

April 20

• Yom Hazikaron.

April 21

• Yom Ha'atzmaut

• In a television interview, Chief of Staff Shaul Mofaz stated he opposed a unilateral withdrawal of Israeli troops from south Lebanon.

April 22

• Israeli media reported a Dutch parliamentary inquiry into the 1992 crash of an El Al cargo jet over Amsterdam, that killed at least 43 people, concluded that no toxic materials had been on the plane. The 350-page report also dismissed any links between the plane's cargo and health problems subsequently reported by people living near the crash site.

• Israel and Jordan resolved a water dispute that recently had raised tensions between the two countries.

• Doctors in Israel transplanted a single liver into two patients. The procedure was described as a "breakthrough" by a surgeon who conducted one of the transplants, noting the "serious shortage" of donor organs in Israel.

April 23

• Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani sent warnings to at least four Palestinian offices operating from the Orient House in Jerusalem that they will be closed. The warning came after PLO official Faisal Husseini and three members of the PA met with 30 foreign consuls general in Orient House on Wednesday.

• *Kadosh*, the latest feature film from Israeli filmmaker Amos Gitai has been chosen as an official entry for the 52nd Cannes International Film Festival next month, the first Israeli film to be so honored in 25 years.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz.

Israel Election Notebook

May 17

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Sources in One Israel say they are worried that party leader Ehud Barak's announcement that he will not give the Interior Ministry to Shas if he forms a government, will mean the haredi Sephardi party will declare "all-out war" against Barak in the second round of voting on June 1.

The sources say that until Barak's announcement, Shas planned to keep a low profile in the second round of voting. But after Barak announced that he would keep the ministry out of the hands of Shas, because of its policy of making life difficult for new immigrants unable to prove their Jewishness to the satisfaction of ministry officials, Shas will gear up to try to defeat the One Israel candidate in the expected runoff against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

According to the sources, this information was brought to Barak, but his headquarters hopes that the estimated 70,000 lost Shas votes will be replaced by those of new immigrant voters who will appreciate Barak's defence of their cause.

Meanwhile, at a campaign committee session led by Labor party secretary general Ra'anan Cohen, concerns were raised about whether Arab voters will turn out in the second round to vote for Barak.

"We could be in big trouble," said one participant, if the Arab vote doesn't come out in the second round. With regard to the Russian vote, participants said that there are signs that Barak is gaining votes in the sector, though he still doesn't have the 36 percent that Shimon Peres won among Russian voters in 1996.

Nonetheless, the session heard reports that many Yisrael B'Aliya activists are combining their party campaign with calls to vote for Barak.

Political foes hope Netanyahu is gone with the wind. [RNS photo]

Community building dedicated as Germany's Reichstag reopens

By TOBY AXELROD
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BERLIN — Last week, Monday was the day the nation's renovated Parliament building, the Reichstag, reopened as a gleaming, glass-domed symbol of democracy spun from the wreckage of Nazism.

The Parliament held its first session in the renovated Reichstag, marking the return of the nation's capital to Berlin.

But for the nation's Jews, the day had additional significance: The Central Council of Jews in Germany officially dedicated its new headquarters in Berlin. And in another part of town, work began on a new school for Jewish teachers sponsored by the New York-based Ronald S. Lauder Foundation.

As a mezuzah was nailed to the front door of the building housing the new offices of the Central Council, Ignatz Bubis, the group's president, joined Rabbi Joel Berger, the national rabbi of Germany, in chanting prayers of thanks for having lived to see this day.

Later, speaking to invited guests and reporters inside the building, Bubis said the move was a "logical consequence" of the reunification of Germany and the move of the government from Bonn to Berlin. But he called it a coincidence that the Reichstag opened on the same day.

German President Roman Herzog said the new Jewish office "opens a new chapter in the post-war history of German Jewry."

Also moving into the building, known as the Leo Baeck House, were Germany's Jewish newspaper, the *Allgemeine Jüdische Wochenzeitung*, and the European Jewish Congress (EJC), of which Bubis also is president – the first time the EJC opened an office in Germany.

The building formerly housed the College for the Science of Judaism, shut down by the Nazis in 1942. The school boasted such illustrious teachers as Leo Baeck and Martin Buber, and such students as Solomon Schechter and Abraham Joshua Heschel.

The new mezuzah on the Leo Baeck House is quite possibly the only one in Berlin on the outside of a building, a police guard said. Like most other Jewish centres in Berlin, the building will have a round-the-clock guard.

That Monday, renovations also began in the former East Berlin on the former Talmud Torah of the Rykestrasse Synagogue, which will house the new school for Jewish educators founded by the Lauder Foundation.

Lauder Foundation school

"This is Jewish life looking backwards and forwards, all at once," Joel Levy, the foundation's chair in Germany, said in an interview.

The synagogue was the only one in Berlin to survive the Third Reich intact, he said. Today, services are held there regularly.

Last summer, Rabbi Chaim Rozwaski arrived from New York to begin teaching. Currently he has 14 students, about half of whom are of Russian background.

Two young American Orthodox rabbis – New Yorkers Josh Spinner and Binyamin Krauss – are scheduled to join Rozwaski this year.

"We are making a statement of confidence that there is a future here," said Levy. "Jewish life is growing."

The German Jewish population has tripled to as many as 100,000 since Germany's reunification in 1990, mainly due to the influx of Jews from the former Soviet Union. Berlin has the largest community, estimated at about 20,000.

Before 1933, Germany had some 500,000 Jews, about 175,000 of whom lived in Berlin.

Today Berlin has seven active synagogues, a Lubavitch representative and a new egalitarian congregation. The Jewish Museum recently opened, although there is nothing yet on display. Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation has opened an office here; the American Jewish Committee has been here since the summer of 1997; and the Lauder foundation since 1966.

Last week, Berlin hosted the annual conference on Jews and Germany sponsored by the Bertelsmann Book Corporation. And in May, female rabbis and cantors from Europe and America will gather for a conference here.

Germany's dark past – particularly Berlin's status as capital of Hitler's planned "1,000-year Reich" – was in the air Monday, as legislators gathered for the symbolic first sitting in the renovated Reichstag.

Real business is slated to begin this summer, when some 20,000 government employees will have moved here from Bonn, capital of the former West Germany since 1949.

More than 100 years old, the Reichstag was destroyed by a suspicious fire after Hitler was sworn in as chancellor in 1933. It was further damaged during battles at the end of the war.

Far from a symbol of Nazism, the Reichstag was the "most democratic institution" in pre-Nazi Germany, said Israel's ambassador to Germany, Avi Primor. "The Nazis abhorred this building."

The Israeli Embassy will move to Berlin this summer, he added.

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Russian court bans Moscow neo-Nazi group

By LEV KRICHEVSKY
Jewish Telegrapic Agency

MOSCOW — Russia's largest and best organized far-right organization has come under fire on several fronts.

Last week, a court in the Russian capital banned the Moscow branch of the neo-Nazi Russian National Unity (RNU) movement, a group that may have been responsible for an attack recently on a synagogue in Minsk, the capital of the former Soviet republic of Belarus.

The court hearing was initiated by Moscow city prosecutors, who charged among other things that RNU members were involving minors in their political activities, and that the group was operating illegal branches in other parts of Russia.

None of the charges brought against the group, whose members wear black uniforms and sport armbands reminiscent of the Nazi swastika, centred on its neo-Nazi character or on its attempts to incite ethnic, religious or racial strife, a punishable crime under Russian law.

Just the same, Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, who last December blocked the RNU from holding its national convention in Moscow, hailed the court's decision and said his office will continue to work against the neo-Nazi group.

Before the verdict was announced, RNU leaders said they would ignore the court decision, adding that they plan to participate in Russia's parliamentary elections, which are slated for December.

Last year, the RNU's leader, Alexander Barkashov, said he may run in next year's presidential elections.

In a separate development, authorities in the Russian town of Borovichi banned neo-Nazi activities, granted a public space to the local Jewish community, and initiated a seminar to counter anti-Semitic and hate propaganda among the town's youth.

The moves followed an international campaign launched by U.S. Jewish groups after the tiny Jewish community of 200 in Borovichi, a town of 90,000 people about 300 miles northwest of Moscow, reported a dramatic increase in the neo-Nazi activities.

Last fall, hundreds of stickers saying "Jews Are Rubbish" and showing a man throwing a Star of David into a garbage can appeared in Borovichi.

And this year, dozens of posters proclaiming, "The Yid Is a Plot Against Russians" appeared across town.

According to Edward Alexeev, the leader of Borovichi's Jewish community, his repeated appeals to the town's mayor seeking support for the community yielded no results.

But, he added, the situation changed dramatically after a campaign was launched by the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews and the San Francisco-based Bay Area Council of Jewish Rescue and Renewal.

As a result of the campaign, Alexeev said, the mayor received during the past two months, at least 600 letters of concern from across the United States, including members of the U.S. Congress, and from such countries as Germany, Spain and Japan.

The authorities "immediately changed their stand," Alexeev said in a telephone interview, adding that he was amazed to see the result.

The anti-Semitic posters "disappeared overnight," he said.

The mayor also turned to the Jewish community for help in organizing a two-day seminar aimed at curbing the activities of neo-Nazi groups.

In the attack on the Minsk synagogue, which coincided with the Orthodox Christian Easter on April 12, arsonists set fire to the entrance of the Dauman Street Synagogue and the slogan "Bash the Yids, Save Russia" was spray-painted on the synagogue's wall.

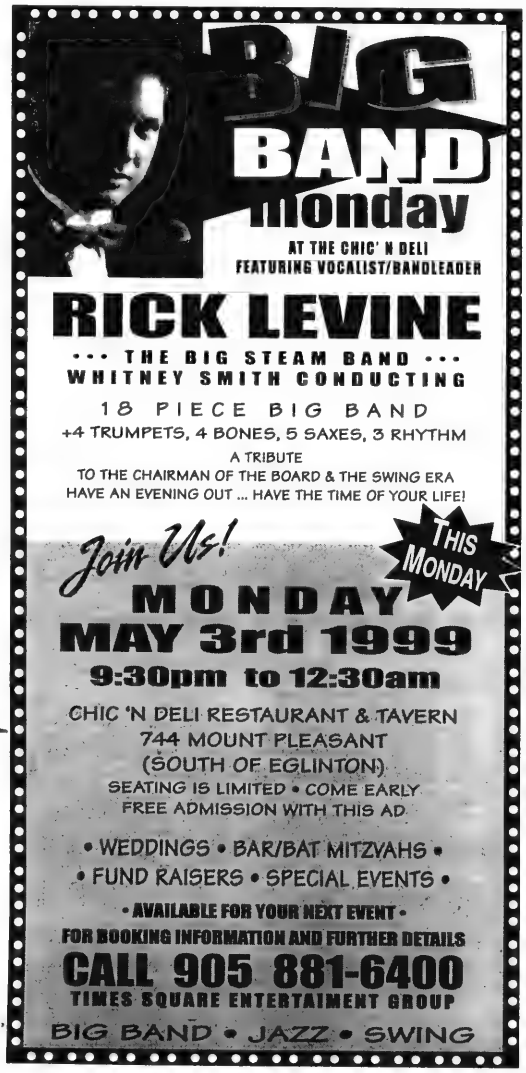
No one was injured in the incident, but the synagogue's door was destroyed.

Yuri Dorn, a Jewish leader in Minsk, said teenagers with the RNU may have been responsible for the attack.

Yakov Basin, a longtime Jewish activist and the director of the Minsk-based Belarus-American Bureau on Human Rights, which is affiliated with the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, said the incident was just another sign of rising anti-Semitism in this former Soviet republic.

According to Basin, RNU supporters have recently been distributing anti-Semitic materials throughout Minsk.

Earlier this year, a group of RNU supporters severely beat three members of a leading human rights group in Belarus.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Britain to get Holocaust museum

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LONDON — Leaders of Britain's Jewish community unveiled plans last week for the construction of a $12 million Shoah Centre, scheduled to open in 2005 in the city of Manchester.

The primary purpose of Britain's first national Holocaust museum will be to focus attention on the kind of prejudice that formed the foundation for the murder of six million Jews.

One display will depict modern manifestations of racism.

"In this way, we can show that the attitudes that caused the Holocaust still survive," said historian Bill Williams, chair of the project.

The museum was designed by architect Daniel Libeskind, who recently completed the Jewish Museum in Berlin.

The Manchester museum will be composed of the architect's trademark "fragments," representing the shattered shards of the globe, with each splinter housing a display.

The design is intended to complement the nearby Imperial War Museum, also designed by Libeskind.

The museum's exhibits will not emphasize the emergence of the Nazis or their tools of genocide, but rather will focus on the experiences of Holocaust victims, Williams said. "It will be about how the Holocaust was experienced by individuals, families and communities."

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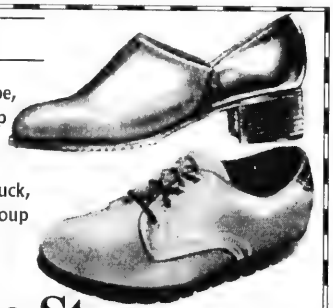

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Old box held a treasure of reels and memories

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

"Sometimes," Lisa Lewenz reveals at the beginning of her 62-minute documentary film, *A Letter Without Words*, "people put things away and they forget about them. My family tried to forget things about their past."

The secrets started emerging in 1981, when Lewenz was 13 and a singer in the choir of the Episcopal church that her family attended. One day, she discovered a box of old films in the attic.

The reels contained some very polished raw footage shot by her paternal grandmother, Ella Arnhold Lewenz, in her native Germany in the 1920s and 1930s, and subsequently forgotten after the family came to America in 1938.

Her grandmother's films held many surprises, the paramount being that the family had been Jewish.

In *A Letter Without Words*, Lewenz tells the story of this momentous discovery and delves into the lives of her grandmother and the rest of her family in pre-war Germany.

Lewenz interviewed many relatives, to learn as much as she could about her grandmother, a gifted amateur photographer, as well as other family members.

The family was wealthy and moved in important circles, apparently. Their associates included celebrated figures like Albert Einstein and Leo Baeck, and many noteworthy German-Jewish artists.

As the documentary relates, Lewenz returned to Germany in 1987, camera in hand, hoping to learn all she could about her ancestral past.

She visited the family's former home in Berlin, a stately mansion beside city hall. The house is now the civil records office for the city.

In a huge Jewish cemetery in Berlin, one of the largest in Europe, she found an enormous family crypt, overgrown with half a century's worth of uncleared brush.

Removing the weeds, she made a moving discovery: "There, in stone, was my family name, and something I had never seen with it before – the Star of David."

Lewenz spared no efforts to unravel the mysteries of her grandmother's life. She stood on precisely the same spots where her grandmother had stood.

She hired a lipreader to retrieve family conversations frozen in the silent footage. And she uncovered an amazing cache of letters and diaries, once belonging to her grandmother which provided much insight into the family's pre-war existence.

Though Lewenz' grandmother left raw footage rather than finished films, she indicated many marks where she would have spliced and edited. "Ella knew what she was doing," Lewenz explains. "It was like she was handing me a baton in a relay race."

Ultimately, grandmother and granddaughter share credit for making the film, though the honor is posthumous for Ella, who died in 1954. Still, Lewenz says her grandmother "worked alongside as a silent partner, leading me to a life I never would have imagined."

A Letter Without Words belongs to the school of modern Jewish art that seeks to re-establish a connection to a lost or forgotten world. Lewenz' discovery and her restorative quest make for an engrossing story.

A Letter Without Words is being screened at this year's Toronto Jewish Film Festival, May 4 at 2 p.m., with Lewenz in attendance. For tickets, call 324-8600.

Film bio studies 'mystery' man

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Who was Joseph Cassuto?

Was he, as some of his American colleagues contend, a man who lacked courage and conviction, someone afraid of his own shadow? Was he, as his son-in-law has said, "some obscure clerk in a Japanese cotton firm?"

Or was he much more – a beloved and trusted friend to the Japanese, a skilled unofficial ambassador who helped open diplomatic relations between Egypt and Japan, and a mysterious, almost angelic presence who knew how to make himself the centre of attention at gatherings?

As it happens, whatever else he was, he was the grandfather of American filmmaker Alan Berliner, who has made Cassuto the focus of a fast-paced, award-winning documentary, *Intimate Stranger*.

A Palestinian Jew, Cassuto was raised in Egypt, and served in Alexandria as the commercial representative of the Japan Cotton Trading Company. A Zionist, he is shown in one photo walking with Chaim Weizmann.

Was Cassuto a trusted advisor to Weizmann, or was this just one more example of his mystical talent for always appearing in photographs in the centre of activity, like Woody Allen's Zelig?

More mysteries surround Cassuto's dealings with the Japanese, whose language and culture he understood, and whose traditions he revered.

His many Japanese friends came to him often in Alexandria for advice. After trade between Egypt and Japan was halted during World War II, Cassuto was obliged to come to America. But even after Pearl Harbor he never forgot his Japanese friends. After the war, he sent many packages to them, earning their eternal gratitude.

In the late 1940s Cassuto was offered the right to be the exclusive distributor of Canon products in the United States, but he lacked the business confidence to move on the deal, which would have likely made him a multi-millionaire.

Instead, he left his family in America and returned to Egypt, where he felt most at home and where he resumed his former duties for the Japan Cotton Trading Company.

Intimate Stranger hints that Cassuto might have had a Japanese wife and perhaps even another family in Alexandria.

One thing is clear: not since Arthur Miller's play *Death Of A Salesman*, which focused on the angst-ridden Willie Loman, has so much artistic attention been paid to a travelling salesman.

Intimate Stranger is compelling not because it delivers an A&E *Biography*-style treatment for someone who is perhaps undeserving of it.

We are intrigued because of the multitude of questions and mysteries that Berliner raises about his own grandfather, a seemingly ordinary man whose life story has spun so fully into myth only 25 years after his death.

Punctuated by the beat of a typewriter, the film sensitively presents a parade of images and ideas that pause long enough in the right places for us to consider the big questions that underlie Berliner's inquiry.

How does one sum up the life of a human being? How well do we know the people, even our own kin, who are supposedly closest to us in all the world?

Intimate Stranger presents lively quotes from people who knew Cassuto, including family members.

For instance, a male voice says at one point: "I never met anybody who disliked him – other than the immediate family. I would have loved to have been his friend rather than his son. He would do anything for a friend."

His Japanese friends honored Cassuto posthumously in 1990 with a ceremony at which Berliner and his camera were present.

How did they regard him? As an American? An Egyptian? A Jew? According to a Japanese colleague, Cassuto was "an international man. He was just Mr. Cassuto."

According to his daughter, Berliner's mother, Cassuto left behind "the legacy of a good name." That, ultimately, may be the thing that she and other family members can be most certain about.

Berliner – who delved into his father's life in the film *Nobody's Business*, shown at last year's festival – obviously has much skill in bringing out the mysteries inherent in a human life.

Sixty minutes in length, *Intimate Stranger* is being shown with the 28-minute Israeli dramatic film, *Babcha*, a production of the Tel Aviv Film School, 4:30 p.m. May 6, at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival. For tickets, call 324-8600.

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Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

THE RIVER MIDNIGHT WINS FICTION AWARD

Lillian Nattel's *The River Midnight*, a rich evocation of life in a 19th-century Polish shtetl, is the winner of this year's Martin & Beatrice Fischer Prize for fiction. The award, which includes a $1,000 honorarium, is due to be given to the Toronto author June 9 at the Leah Posluns Theatre.

Several other winners in the 11th annual Jewish Book Awards were also announced. **Nora Gold** is winner of the Louis Lockshin Prize in short fiction for her collection *Marrow and Other Stories*.

Queen's University historian **Gerald Tulchinsky's** *Branching Out* has brought him the Joseph & Fay Tanenbaum Award for Canadian Jewish history.

Poet **Ken Sherman** wins in the category of literary criticism for his collection of essays *Voice & Void*, while **N. N. Shneidman** wins the prize in Jewish history for *Jerusalem of Lithuania*, his history of Vilnius.

The Yad Vashem Prize in Holocaust History goes to Winnipeg writer **Allan Levine** for *Fugitives of the Forest*.

The annual prizes, which celebrate books on Jewish themes published in Canada during the previous two years, are awarded annually by the Koffler Centre's Jewish book awards committee. Winners in the categories of poetry, Holocaust memoir and biblical scholarship should be announced shortly.

* * *

Film Fest Mini-Reviews: The Toronto Jewish Film Festival (324-8600) opens April 29 and runs until May 6, with some 63 screened offerings in two theatres at the Hyland Cinema on Yonge Street north of St. Clair. Here are brief reviews on a few more titles:

• *Shtick, Schmaltz and Shtereotypes: Jewish Images in the Cinema.* This is a compilation of rare footage from the early days of cinema to roughly 1960. We see a row of turbaned Jews dancing in Jerusalem in 1903, a Jewish pawnshop proprietor in a Charlie Chaplin sketch, and George Stanley as a cinematic shlemiel in *Cohen on the Phone*.

The two-hour compilation also features longish bits with **Eddie Cantor**, **George Burns** and **Gracie Allen**, **Willie Howard** and **Jack Benny**, and includes some stereotypically racist cartoons showing a bearded Jew frequenting a Chinese laundry.

Unless you're a film buff, you're liable to find the material too slow and formulaic. Curator Murray Glass will be in attendance to provide narration. May 2, 1:30 p.m.

• L.A. Mohel. This new U.S.-made video by Toronto filmmaker **David Bezmozgis** is an entertaining, smart look behind the scenes of ritual circumcision. What does it take to become a professional mohel? Who would willingly choose to make it his (or her!) life's work?

In only 22 minutes, Bezmozgis tells us all we need to know on this little-considered but intriguing subject. One can only wonder what he might have left on the cutting room floor. May 5, 7 p.m. (Shown with the Israeli film, *The Fifth Commandment*.)

• *The Personals: Improvisations on Romance in the Golden Years.* This recent U.S.-made film brought its director, **Keiko Ibi**, an Academy Award nomination earlier this year, and for good reason. The 37-minute documentary cleverly probes the romantic feelings of seniors in Manhattan who are performers in a play about the search for love.

Frank, optimistic and sometimes sad, *The Personals* offers a glimpse into the lives of old people without the usual stereotypes. May 6, 7 p.m. (Shown with *god@heaven* and *Visas and Virtue*.)

* * *

Yiddish Song: Yiddishland Café presents *The World and I: Songs by the Yiddish Poet Abraham Reisen*, featuring **Miriam Eskin**, **Sasha Luminsky**, **David Wall** and **Martin Van de Ven**. May 9, Workmen's Circle, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Doors open 7 p.m. $12 in advance, $15 at the door. 635-0720 or 787-2081.

* * *

More Yiddish: The Friends of Yiddish (FOY) is hosting a 15th anniversary gala dinner and dance, featuring **Harvey Atkin**, **Michael Mandel** and the **Jordan Klapman Trio**. All present and former FOY members are especially invited.

Black tie optional. Members $18, guests $25. Adath Sholom Synagogue, 864 Sheppard Ave. W. RSVP by May 10 to Min Grossman, 905-709-4602.

***L.A. Mohel*, a film by David Bezmozgis, to be screened at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival.**

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Authors helped reverse conviction

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Sam Chaiton and his colleagues are surprised and puzzled that they were not consulted about the making of a film in Toronto based on *Lazarus and the Hurricane*, a book co-written by Chaiton.

The film, bearing the same title as the book and directed by Norman Jewison, deals with how a Canadian group, with help from others, overturned the miscarriage of justice in the United States in which black boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter was imprisoned for 20 years for murders in 1967 in Paterson, N.J., murders he did not commit. Carter was freed without bail on March 7, 1985.

"Terry Swinton and I wrote the screenplay and the book, but Jewison and his crew did not get in touch with us," said Chaiton, 48. "We can only hope that the film will show how minorities like blacks and Jews can be subjected to racism as Carter was.

"My late parents were in a concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen, and I'm very sensitive on the subject of racism," he said.

The film is expected to be shown in movie houses at the end of this year.

Chaiton, Swinton and six other Canadians, who wish to remain anonymous, had been involved in a humanitarian mission that brought Lesra Martin, a young black from a deprived background, to Toronto from New York at the age of 15.

In a Toronto public library, Martin came across Carter's book, *The Sixteenth Round*, which detailed the fighter's long incarceration.

Inspired by that book, Martin and the Canadians, with the help of three attorneys in the United States, fought for Carter's release, researching the case and submitting many briefs to the courts over a period of years.

Martin became so interested in the legal questions around Carter's case that, after earning a graduate degree in anthropology, he studied to be a lawyer and now is a Crown attorney in Kamloops, B.C.

Lazarus and the Hurricane, published in 1991 by Penguin Books Canada, details the story of the battle to free Carter.

The boxer came to Toronto in 1986 as a result, and is now an activist in pursuing justice for people wrongfully convicted. His part in the film is played by well-known Hollywood actor Denzel Washington. Chaiton is portrayed by Liev Schreiber.

The Toronto man pointed out that the situation blacks face in the United States has not changed much from the days when he and his colleagues fought for Carter's release.

"At that time, one in every four blacks was involved with the criminal justice system in U.S., and now it is one in three."

Chaiton and his colleagues are still helping underprivileged people, this time from Jamaica, through a project called Big it Up, which makes hats for companies. (Big it Up is a popular positive expression in Jamaica, Chaiton says.)

This project started when the group met Damein Royes, a Jamaican in his 20s, and got interested in helping find employment for other people in that country.

Rubin "Hurricane" Carter is seen with *Lazarus and the Hurricane* co-authors, Terry Swinton (left) and Sam Chaiton. [Silvia Pecota photo]

Actress crashes audition, gets part

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A juicy part and her first big break came for 26-year-old Lisa Baylin when she crashed an audition for *Better Living*, the George Walker play being revived at Factory Theatre, April 30 to June 6.

Lisa landed the part of Gail, the youngest daughter in a weird family that inhabits Walker's play, and she's ecstatic about it.

"It's my first big part in a leading Toronto theatre, and my first extended run," said the Ottawa-born actor whose mother Kayla, is still performing in amateur musicals in Ottawa. Her father Michael, a businessman, is on the board of the Canadian Theatre School.

"I never had an appointment to audition for Walker, who is directing his own play, but he let me read for the part, and this is part of his generous nature."

Lisa Baylin

Though most of her high school and Queen's University theatre experience has been in musicals, Baylin said she wants "to do it all," and her non-singing role in *Better Living* fits the bill.

She plays the role of a no-nonsense teenager, wise beyond her years, in a cast of seven which includes Nancy Beatty, David Fox, Michael Healey, Thea Gill, Fiona Highet and Jamie Robinson. Gill and Highet play her older sisters.

What Baylin likes about Walker's direction, is his willingness to accept suggestions from the actors. For example, this "tweaking," or minor adjustments, resulted in dropping one line, "Not really," in a scene with boyfriend Robinson, which Baylin said has improved it beyond measure.

Doing it all, in her own words, means that she has done TV commercials and acted in *Strange Justice*, a movie shot in Toronto, for a cable network in Unitd States, not yet shown.

An honors graduate in drama/history at Queen's University, Baylin moved to Toronto three years ago to pursue a professional career in theatre.

She hopes *Better Living* willl open the door to that future.

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Historic synagogue a centrepiece of Budapest area

By DEREK CASSOFF
Special to The CJN

BUDAPEST — The authorities call it District VII, a rather bleak name for an area so steeped in history and culture. But for tourists visiting the site of Budapest's former Jewish quarter, there is no mistaking the sights and sounds of this compact neighborhood, once the centre of Europe's fifth largest Jewish community.

The kosher bakeries and butcher shops that once lined the area's narrow streets have long since disappeared, replaced by a crop of taverns and travel agencies. But a few lasting remnants in this district just east of Budapest's bustling downtown core offer visitors a glimpse into what was once a thriving Jewish precinct.

The Dohany Street Synagogue, a towering mosque-like structure at the corner of Dohany and Tanacs streets, serves as the gleaming centrepiece of this otherwise run-down area, much as it did when it first opened its doors to Jewish worship in 1859. The largest synagogue outside of the United States, the colorful brick building stands out because of its Moorish design, inspired by the Turks who ruled Hungary for 150 years and left their mark on many of this country's older buildings.

Inside the 4,000-seat synagogue, seven years of restoration work are beginning to yield results. While the barren, worn-out seats hark back to an era of humility, the ornate stained glass windows and chandeliers provide an interesting contrast to the otherwise modest synagogues that dot the rest of the eastern European landscape.

The restoration work was started in 1991, when the fall of Soviet-inspired communism gave way to a new era of religious freedoms. The Hungarian government, looking to curry favor with western nations, has agreed to foot 80 percent of the $6.4-million bill, with the remainder being covered by contributions from world Jewry.

In fact, Budapest city planners hope to use the synagogue restoration as a springboard to a grand-scale renovation of the entire neighborhood that would include the redevelopment of apartment blocks and the construction of underground parking garages. Thoughts of attracting a small Orthodox community back to the area are also tossed about by politicians and the local media.

Next door to the synagogue, on a site that once housed the flat where Theodor Herzl was born, sits the Jewish Museum of Budapest, a two-storey structure whose simple exterior belies its rich and varied collection of Jewish artifacts. From old mezuzot and prayer books to kiddush cups and sets of tfillin, the museum describes the routines of daily religious practice and sheds light on Jewish holiday celebrations.

It's a worthwhile stop for its wealth of religious treasures, which include a four-foot high menorah and a seder plate from Hungary's famed Herend china factory. The museum offers guided tours in English – a welcome relief, since most of the descriptions are written only in the complex Hungarian language.

A dimly lit chamber at the back of the museum chronicles the plight of Hungary's Jewish community during the 11 months of Nazi occupation when three-quarters of the country's 800,000 Jews perished. Among the starkest displays are Torah scrolls turned into drum covers and a tallit knitted into a skirt, both retrieved from the Nazis following the war.

The walls of the room are lined with maps and photographs from the Budapest ghetto; they describe, in chilling detail, the horrible living conditions to which the residents of the ghetto were subjected. A portrait gallery near the exit pays tribute to those who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust, including Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who is estimated to have saved thousands of lives by issuing passes to safe houses set up throughout Budapest.

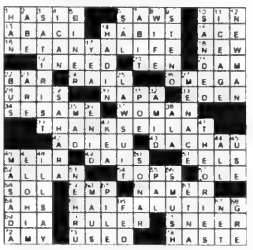
Directly behind the Dohany Street Synagogue, in a spacious courtyard that once served as the departure point for Jewish transports to the Nazi death camps, visitors stumble upon the metallic *Willow Tree*, the city's largest and most impressive monument to its Holocaust victims. Designed by renowned Hungarian sculptor Imre Varga, the memorial was erected in 1989 to coincide with the 45th anniversary of the Nazi occupation of Budapest.

The tree and its eight branches are in the shape of an inverted menorah and are said to represent the final resting place for the hundreds of thousands of Hungarian Holocaust victims who have no proper graves. The end of each branch is marked by a scar from which hundreds of smaller leaves sprout – symbolic of the resuscitation of Jewish life in Hungary after the Holocaust.

In fact, despite 45 years of repressive Communist rule and the current economic hardships brought on by the move to capitalism, Hungary's Jewish community of 100,000 remains strong and defiant. It may be the biggest attraction of all in Jewish Budapest today.

Budapest's Dohany Street Synagogue. [Erika Gyarmati photo]

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



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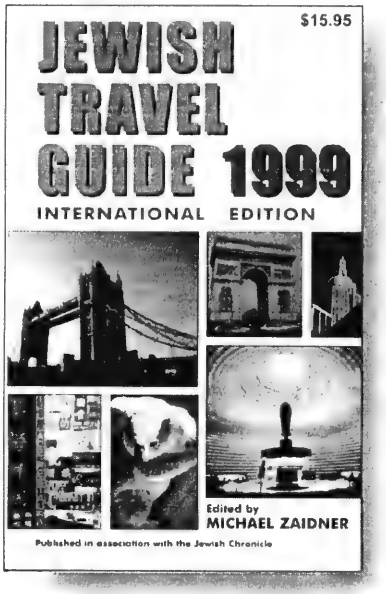
Jewish sites abound from A to Z

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter



A hypothetical situation: You've visited Buenos Aires, Athens or Paris, and have seen all the sights. Now you've got one or two more days left before you head back home.

Why not visit a kosher restaurant, a synagogue or a Jewish museum? But where do you go and who do you phone?

You'll have no such problems if you've tucked the *Jewish Travel Guide 1999* (Sepher-Hermon Press, New York) into your handbag. It's your key to Jewish communities around the world.

The latest edition, which runs to 419 pages, is encyclopedic in terms of countries listed. The first brief entry deals with Albania, which is home to about 100 Jews. Zimbabwe, with 900 Jews, rounds off the list.

Canada, in case you wondered, is allotted 11 pages. Community organizations, synagogues, museums, restaurants and the like are included.

Strangely enough, Toronto is credited with having one single Jewish bakery, while Montreal has seven. What gives?

As expected, the entries on United States, Israel, Britain and France dominate the book.

As the TV pitchman is fond of saying, don't leave home without it.

Travel books prepare you for trips to exotic locales

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Travel requires careful preparation. It's not enough to get up and go. The following guides, published mainly by Lonely Planet and distributed by Raincoast Books, will help you plan your trip.

Are you thinking of a grand European tour? *Europe on a Shoestring*, whose range extends from Andorra to Yugoslavia, is a useful primer.

Andalucia, that picturesque, historically important, sun-kissed province of Spain, attracts tourists by the plane load. And *Andalucia* is the perfect guide.

Panama, as the travel writers never cease to proclaim, is waiting to be discovered. It's a country of vast jungle wilderness (especially the Darien gap), deserted Caribbean beaches and great deep-sea fishing. If you're willing to take the plunge, immerse yourself in *Panama*.

Southern India is extraordinarily diverse in terms of peoples, cultures and landscapes. It's really a world onto itself, as you'll find out by reading *South India*.

Africa is exotic, and if you've never had the fortune of travelling there, why not start with *Zimbabwe, Botswana & Namibia*?

A feast for the eyes, the Amazon is amazingly rich in flora and fauna. So curl up with *Amazon Rainforest*, an Oxford University Press publication to which younger and older readers alike can relate.

The grandeur of rocky peaks inspires travellers. Through the medium of crystal-clear photographs and stirring text, *Distant Mountains* captures the spirit and awe of high mountains around the world.

Star-crossed lovers will love *Romantic Days and Nights in Vancouver* and *The Best Places to Kiss in the Northwest*. They're your guides to romantic destinations in British Columbia (as well as Washington and Oregon). *Ski Canada*, on the other hand, is the last word on skiing resorts.

Last but not least, Michael Kluckner's *Canada: A Journey of Discovery* is a talented watercolorists' impressions of a scenic land, while the 1999 edition of the *National Geographic Road Atlas* should set you on your way in Canada, the United States and Mexico.

Advertising Feature

New for Spring at Cookstown Manufacturer's Outlet Mall

Spring is here and Cookstown Manufacturer's Outlet Mall is even bigger and better than ever! The newest edition to the mall is the ***Cadbury Factory Store***, Cadbury's first-ever retail store in North America. "The new Cadbury Factory Store gives consumers a glimpse of the world of chocolate while providing them with the opportunity to purchase all their Cadbury chocolate favourites," said Arthur Soler, president of Cadbury Chocolate Canda Inc.

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Spring marks the annual opening of the mall's **Farmer's Market**. The market is open May through October and boasts locally grown fruits and vegetables, a greenhouse for your gardening needs, and other homemade goodies, including jams and honey.

A new **food court** will be opening early in May, adding to the mall's existing food services of Harvey's/Swiss Chalet and Coffee Time. This "village square" style eatery will offer Italian, Asian, and deli-style menus in a delightful and relaxing setting.

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Community explores future of NYGH's Branson

By BEN ROSE
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The emergency unit at the Branson division of North York General Hospital (NYGH) should be kept open, even after it closes as a hospital in 2003.

This was the clear sentiment of 150 people who attended a community meeting on the future of the Branson division, sponsored by the hospital.

"Without an emergency unit [at night], it is not a hospital," said one audience member to loud applause and shouts of "hear hear."

The statements asking that an emergency unit be maintained and that the present shut-down at night be eliminated all drew applause.

"It's absolutely wrong to close the emergency at night. At least keep it open at night when it's needed most," said one angry resident.

In response to the many questions on the future closing of the emergency unit, NYGH president Murray MacKenzie said the Ontario government has already directed that Branson be closed as a hospital.

The aim is to make Branson a state of the art ambulatory centre, as a model of the future.

Urgent care centre

He told *The CJN* that 95 percent of the patients who now come to the Branson emergency department would be able to get attention at the division's new urgent care centre.

These patients would be stabilized at Branson, and if necessary, transferred by ambulance to NYGH.

When a resident said he could drive his wife to NYGH faster than an ambulance could take her, MacKenzie warned that it would be dangerous to do this.

"If your wife is suffering severe chest pain, you – or no member of your family – should be driving her to hospital; you should be calling an ambulance."

There was no answer when the resident asked who would pay for the ambulance in that case.

Though it will have no acute care in-patient beds, in its new life, Branson will serve more patients than it did before, MacKenzie said.

The new Branson will have an urgent care centre operating 16 hours a day, and an after hours clinic operating from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. and on weekends to look after patients whose doctors' offices are closed, said Dianne Anderson, NYGH vice-president. The urgent care centre will be staffed by personnel from the NYGH's emergency unit.

It will also have a day medicine unit, a geriatric day hospital for people who have had strokes and cardiac problems, and a geriatric day treatment unit with bathing facilities for those who cannot bathe themselves.

The present Branson has 98 interim long-term care beds, and an application will be made to have 150 more long-term beds after it closes as a hospital, Anderson said.

At the moment, only patients in acute care hospitals who are waiting for long-term beds are eligible.

The seniors' health centre at the NYGH has 36 long-term beds and 25 percent of its patients are Jewish, she said. It also serves many other ethnic groups.

MacKenzie noted that seniors require six times more medical services than other patients, and this is one reason the new Branson will emphasize services to them.

Within four kilometres of Finch and Bathurst, there are 14,000 residents over age 65 today and within 26 years, this age group will be 25 percent of the total population in that area, he said.

In answer to a questioner, he said seniors in the hospital's catchment area, from Dufferin to Victoria Park, could go to any hospital for service.

Ideas for the new Branson are still welcome from the community, Anderson said, noting that many proposals have come from 400 family physicians on the NYGH and Branson staffs.

The new Branson will have offices for family doctors but none will be forced to come in, she said. (One resident objected that it would take him longer to see a doctor at Branson than in the doctor's old location.)

Day surgery will still be done at the new Branson, but it may cover different areas than before, Anderson said. Mental health services will be expanded on an outpatient basis.

Home oxygen services and an ophthalmologic diagnostic centre, as well as diabetes and asthma education centres, will be part of the new Branson, said Jeff Brown, NYGH planning director.

An audience member wanted to know if people using the ambulatory care centre after 2003 will have to pay parking fees, which at present are $2 for a half-hour.

The parking fee problem has not been addressed but something may be worked out, said MacKenzie.

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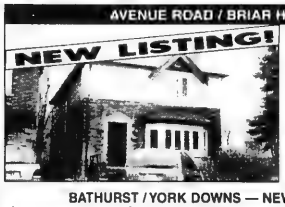
AVENUE ROAD / BRIAR HILL



Hot property, **won't last!** 4 + 1 bdrms., fam. rm., blend of contemporary & traditional, hardwood floors, marble fireplace, leaded windows, wainscotting ++, only $569,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / YORK DOWNS — NEW LISTING
Country in the city! Spacious side-split on gorgeous 70 x 200 ft. lot (irreg.), backs onto Earl Bales Park, serene private setting. Asking $679,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

CLANTON PARK — NEW LISTING
Renovated & decorated — shows to perfection! Spacious 3 + 2 bdrm. bungalow, nicely finished basement, sep. entry to in-law, desirable location, only $349,900. Call Esther Rubenstein (416) 787-1712.

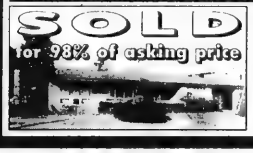
BATHURST / LAWRENCE / WILSON — CUSTOM BUILT!
Modern design, open concept, quality craftsmanship, 4 + 2 bdrms., large principal rooms, ideal for entertaining, cathedral ceilings. Call for details. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

UPPER FOREST HILL — ONLY $499,000
Spacious 4 bdrm., huge family room addition, gleaming hardwood floors. Breakfast room overlooks gorgeous garden, 50 x 125 ft. lot, fabulous location! Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

HOT LOCATION! CEDARVALE — BATHURST / EGLINTON

Charming 3 bedroom, 2 storey home on 45 ft. lot, marble fireplace, hardwood floors, fabulous location, nicely finished basement, only $439,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — BATHURST / LAWRENCE — SPACIOUS RANCH BUNGALOW!



California-style, 2,700 sq. ft. (approx.), 4 bdrms., oversize fam. room, 69 x 120 ft. lot, eat-in kit., only $319,000. **ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

SOLD

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — EXECUTIVE RENTAL
Spacious side-split, family room, sun room addition, private street, asking $3,400 / month. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — APARTMENT FOR RENT
Spacious 3 bedroom, 2 baths, desirable Fraserwood Ave., only $1,100 / month. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / WILSON
Fabulous building lot! 40 x 130 ft., close to all amenities, only $299,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

THORNHILL — BATHURST / CLARK
2 storey, 3 bedroom home on generous lot, family room, finished basement, only $269,900. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / WILSON — ESTATE SALE!
3 bdrm. brick bungalow on 60 x 131 ft. lot (irreg.), quiet street, fabulous location, $279,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

AVENUE ROAD / WILSON / 401 CONDO — MAKE AN OFFER!
2 bedrooms + solarium, 2 parking spaces, ensuite laundry, priced for immediate sale at $209,000. Call David Eichorn (416) 787-1712.

REAL ESTATE Section

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

THORNHILL – WALK TO BAIT!
Court location. Detached, all brick, 4+1 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2 kitchens, finished basement. Very bright, move-in condition. $449,900.

BATHURST & STEELES – SIDE SPLIT
Beautiful all brick, 3+1 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2 kitchens, hardwood floors, double garage, walk-out basement. Move-in condition. $339,000.

LUXURY at YONGE & EGLINTON
3 years freehold custom designed Georgian Townhouse, 3 bdrms., 2 baths, finished basement, skylight, single garage, hardwood floors., upgraded ceramics & 40 oz. broadloom.

Rose Printz @ Re/Max Realtron
(905) 764-6000

DENISE ABRAHAM
Coldwell Banker Pinnacle Real Estate
(416) 485-2299

JUST LISTED

Glencairn W./Subway - $279,900. On Hillmount, 3 bdrm. bungalow on 45' x 140' Lot.

Bathurst/Glencairn - $569,000. Custom built 5 bedroom + family room, den, over 3,600 sq. ft.

CONDO-CONDO-CONDO

Bathurst/Glencairn - 2 bedroom + den, over 1,400 sq. ft., and 2 parking spaces.

Glencairn W./Subway- $159,000. 3 bedrooms, pool, sauna, parking, with a fabulous view.

COLDWELL BANKER PINNACLE REAL ESTATE

BATHURST / CLARK
Reduced to sell at $305,000! Four bdrms., 4 w/r, strip hardwood floors, new windows, new furnace, 2 car garage, fin. bsmt., demand location. Clean! Owners want it sold. Call **Marilyn Daniel,** Sutton Group Admiral Realty, **416-739-7200.**

10 HOUSES FOR SALE PRIVATE

Bath./Clark - 3 + 1 bdr., 4 bth., lge. fam. room. 905-709-9296.

Bath./Glencairn - Spac. 3 + 1 bdr, 4 bth, dble. gar., den, CAC, deck, 50' lot. $409K. 785-1347.

No agents please! Bathurst & Lawrence area, brick, 2 stry., 3,000 s.f., 4 bdrm., 2 car gar., fin. bsmt., CAC, huge kit., main flr fam. rm. $469,900. 783-8335

25 HOUSES WANTED TO RENT

FOREST HILL, Toronto
Family in England wants to rent 3-5 bdrm. home in Forest Hill area, near schools. 6 mos -1 yr. from June approx. or possibly swap our lux. 5 bdrm. home (with pool) in London suburb. Contact between 2 - 6pm Toronto time.
Fax: 011-44-181-502-4331
Tel: 011-44-181-502-3256.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

TORRESDALE (BATHURST/FINCH)
$169,900. Gorgeous 2 bdrm. condo + solarium & eat-in kitchen. Hardwood & ceramics. Very Clean.
David Nuernberger, Sales Representative, Coldwell Banker Golden Key Realty Ltd.
(416) 281-2200

30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

SANTEE REALTY INC. (416) 441-2003

SKYMARK
DON MILLS & FINCH (TORONTO)
SKYMARK II Renovated, open concept, 2 bdrm. + sun den, approx 1,700 s.f., S. exp., overlooks skyline
SKYMARK II Park-like setting. Handsome PH., approx 1,940 s.f. + 430 s.f. wraparound balc w/panoramic view, o.b.f.p., jacuzzi, Snaidero kit., 2 ½ baths, 2 park. Price won't last. For our updated inventory, contact Santee Leung, F.R.I., Skymark Specialist
THE MULTI-LINGUAL CONNECTION

10 TORRESDALE AVE.
2 Bdrm., 2 Bath, Balcony, Low Floor
$199,000
Call . . . **ED GELERNTER**
RE/MAX GOLDENWAY RLTY.
(416) 299-4488

BATHURST/TORRESDALE
Reduced to $223,000. Gorgeous 2 bedroom condo, huge solarium, 1,500 sq. ft., 2 baths. Quiet secure building, close to all amenities.
SALLY ROSEN, Sales Rep.
(905) 884-4425
CENTURY 21 SMITH LTD. BROKER

3000 Bathurst - 2 bdrm., 2 bth., excellent condition, 2 appl., Asking $219,500. Call 364-1063

3000 Bathurst - 2 bdrm., 2 bth., lau., eat-in kit., 5 appl., Shabbat elev. Private. Call 781-3949.

Bath./Clark - The Promenade. Gorgeous 2 bdrm., huge sol., 2 bth., 2 pkg., beautiful view. Call 416-879-1657 or 905-882-8259.

Tridel "The Excellence"
Don Mills & Finch.
New 2 bdrm. lux. condo + den, 1835 sq. ft. pkg. Selling below market. 226-1500.

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Yonge/Finch-PH condo, 2 bdr. +den, 5 appl, locker, pkg, hydro & fac. incl; TTC, GO buses. Mid July. $1,650/mo. 416-223-0949

45 CONDOMINIUM WANTED

Professional couple looking to rent lge. 2 or 3 bdrm. condo at Bathurst/Clark/Hilda. Penny & Eric Bowman. 905-882-1537. No Shabbos calls please.

60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION

Bath/Steeles, 2 bdr furn apt. to share,n/smkr,$420/m. 665-9967

75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

BATHURST WILSON

CONVENIENT NORTH YORK LOCATION

NEWLY DECORATED SPACIOUS 1, 2 & 3 BDRMS.
- Large balconies
- Central air conditioning and heating
- Hardwood Floors
- Sunken living rooms
- Surveillance cameras and card access system
- Outdoor swimming pool
- Close to conveniences and TTC
- Underground parking available

125 Neptune Dr.
(416) 787-7171

BATHURST SOUTH OF LAWRENCE
Large 1 bedroom. Available June. $700/month. Steps to TTC & shopping. Quiet small building with elevator.
Call Eva at 782-0479

BATHURST-SHEPPARD
Very lg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms., ample closets, some 1½ baths & 2 balc., roof, laundry, ravine setting, pool, ind. pkg., 6 apts. per flr. From $900.
960-3238 - Bus.
631-9377 or 631-0388 - Super

75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

FOREST HILL EXCLUSIVE RESIDENCE
TOWER HILL EAST
330 SPADINA ROAD
Luxury, spacious suites, magnificent view, bachelor, 1,2 and 3 bedrooms (some of the 3 bedrooms are 2-storey), valet parking.
416-929-0579
or
416-966-9054

81 APARTMENT TO SUBLET

Bath./Steeles - 2 bdrm., pkg., June - Aug. N/smkr. 663-6788.

105 COTTAGE FOR SALE

Belle Ewart - Lakefront, shared lot, 3 bdrm., equipped, no agents. 905-881-3317.

Muskoka/Bracebridge,modern 3 bdrm, lkfrnt, encl. porch, safe, sandy bch., Jewish community, low carrying cost, 905-731-4466

110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

Lake Simcoe - 40 min. from Toronto, 4 bdr., safe swimming for kids. July only.905-385-6080

Lake Simcoe, lakefront estate, Beaverton area,lux. 4 bed. Sandy beach. Sunsets. Tennis. Seas/mo. 226-0009, 749-6600.

Lake Simcoe, Orillia 3bd, lg. priv. lot, 110' wtfrt. Great swim, canoe incl. June/July. 223-6824

125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

Del Ray Beach, Village of the Orioles, furn. 2 bdrm., 2 bths., encl. terrace can be conv. to 3rd bdrm., liv & din. rm., eat-in kit. $52,500 US. 973-239-3636, ask for Lew Kerman.

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

Aventura Bch. Resort, 1 bdrm. studio w/kit., ocean front, sec. & fac., high flr. Wkly & mo. avail. 305-262-3955 or 305-975-7442

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT

Hemispheres - 2 bdrm., 2 bth., oceanfront, high flr., furn., tennis, etc. 954-454-2935.

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT

ANBER MOVERS
(LOCAL MOVING)
SPECIALIST IN:
TORONTO ↔ VANCOUVER
NEW YORK ↔ FLORIDA
(514) 735-8148
1-800-561-MOVE

160 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR RENT

House swap avail. 4 bdrm., kosher kit. In Jerusalem's German colony for similar in Thornhill. Mid July - mid Aug. Call Herb Green 416-445-6900 ext. 216.

Jerusalem - 3 bdrm. apt., comfortably furnished, spec. view, May 15 - June 15 or longer. $1500/mo US. 416-920-6794.

225 INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Investor wanted for high end luxury watch comp. 691-6135.

238 PROGRESSIVE POSITIONS

TEACHERS WANTED for permanent afternoon positions in English & Math, grades 3-8, in an observant Jewish school. Only exp., certified teachers will be considered. Fax resume with references by May 15, 1999 to 905-764-3130.

240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ADMINISTRATIVE/ SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT
required for six months (possibility of permanent post) to help with major project in school setting. Must be superbly organized & reliable, highly computer literate and available immediately.
Fax CV's to
(416) 636-7717
Attention: Mr. Shaviv

Established Luggage & Leathergoods retail chain store is seeking individuals to join our winning team of full-time sales associates. Positions available in Toronto and Thornhill. Fax your resume to 905-475-7782.

International Freight Forwarding Company looking for someone who is interested in the international transportation industry. Must speak Hebrew. Experience not required but would be an asset. If interested, send your resume in confidence, attn: Tova @ 905-670-9291.

SECRETARY WANTED.
Observant Jewish school in Thornhill is seeking an exp. F/T school secretary. Must be able to type Hebrew. Yiddish knowledge pref. Must have good communication & organizational skills, be able to manage school office. Fax resume w/references by May 15 to 905-764-3130.

Telephone Sales. High energy level and willing to work hard? Quick mind? Good voice? Persistent? Leads supplied, hourly rate/commission, in business over 17 years, Thornhill location. Call Bob at 905-731-1636.

Warm, loving, ECE teachers for Sept. '99. P/T. Call Goldie at 905-886-0420 or fax resume to 905-886-0421.

Nursery School Assistants
Mornings only for September 1999. Fax résumé to Temple Sinai Nursery School at 416-487-5499.

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Excellent housekeepers, companions, nannies & nursing aides. Please call **Flor De 'Liz International Employment Agency.** Tel/Fax 416-533-5905 **No Employers Fee.**

Frustrated by trying to find a suitable nanny? Let us help you. We have dependable, caring nannies who are thoroughly qualified, personally interviewed & pre-screened. All refs. are checked. Some are CPR trained. Low finders fee.
Wee Care Placement Agency
416-789-3070

Harvscott Domestic Services
"Five stars above the rest"
Housekeepers, elderly care, nannies, cleaning ladies, party helpers. 905-771-6543.

Nannies, live-in &out, full &part-time, cleaning. In-home elderly care by RN's & nurses aides. Bonded, refs. **416-224-9907.**
Servicing Toronto since 1985.
NUMBER 1 DOMESTICS.

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

GOLDEN CARE LTD.
There's *no place* like HOME!
*Exper. Senior Caregivers, HCA's, PSW's & nurses. Live-in & Live-out
*Reference & Police Checks
*We only hire **THE BEST!**
*In-hospital hourly care
THE BEST PERSONAL SERVICE
Honey Hecker
665-4229 or 665-1435

Local & Overseas Nannies & Housekeepers, Eldercare, live-in/out, F/T, P/T
MEGA NANNIES
- Professionally Screened
- Police Check
- Licenced & Bonded

MOVED TO NEW LOCATION
Bathurst & Baycrest area
416-781-8198

NEED A NANNY?
• No Fee to Employer
APPLE
DOMESTICS
(416) 730-0127

Gillian's
CAREGIVING AGENCY
QUALITY CARE
of the Elderly, Mentally Challenged and Physically Handicapped, in Hospital, Private Residence or Retirement Home
COMPANIONS • NANNIES
HOMEMAKERS
• We guarantee quality care at affordable rates
• On-going contact with you after placement
TEL: (905) 707-6291

Sponsor Qualified
Filipino Nannies,
Nurses, Caregivers
Amazing Selection
Screened + references
ShineX Caregivers Inc.
416-218-9537
No fee for Employers • We supply temps & do your paper work

High quality house cleaning. Call Dora, 736-1179.

Experienced cleaning lady avail., refs. Sophia 532-6693.

255 DOMESTIC HELP WANTED

Are you looking for exp. cleaning ladies, housekeepers, baby-sitters? Look no more! Lynn's Cleaning Services. 686-1230.

Req'd: Lady to teach Hebrew & supervise meals while mom is running around in restaurant/pensione in Tuscany, Italy. Call or fax 011-39-0572-409137

257 HEALTHCARE AVAILABLE

Cert. HCA avail. to care for elderly. Refs avail. 905-856-2258.

Gentle Care Nursing Agency. Catering to the sick, elderly, & children. High quality service. 24 hrs/day. Prof. trained RN's, RPN's, HCA's companions, attendants. Call us: 905-839-0602

HCA w/PSW to care for disabled/elderly wkends at home or hospital. After 6pm, 449-8368.

260 BUSINESS PERSONALS

Eliminate blind date disasters in a safe & secure environment. **INTERNET DATING SITE.** Free registration, 416-545-3283. **jewish.qualitysoulmates.com**

Jewish Singles Registry. Over 1730 registered. **416-483-4151.**

264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michael & Anne Kozinets are very please to announce the engagement of their daughter, **Jennifer Tracey** to **David Martin** son of the late Jerry & Minnie Rosen. Nuptials to take place in October 1999, B"H.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Heimish mensh. Prof. male, 55, n/smkr, tall, young, loves dancing, walking, music (jazz), gardening. Warm, sensitive, down-to-earth, European background, enjoys Yiddishkeit, funny, seeks slim, attr. lady, with the above interests, for a lasting relationship, CJN Box # 7174.

Prof. lady, 54, quiet, nice looking, sense of humour would like to meet a nice gentleman for marriage. CJN Box # 7173.

SJM, 38, great cook, fit, great dresser, great looking. Ethical, authentic, empowering, dependable, nutty & good for you too! Seeks his unconventional Jewish cutie soulmate. Absolute silliness a must! CJN Box 7177.

Slim, feminine lady, 37. Interests: film, nature, art, politics wishes to meet a man to share life with. 416-398-9931.

70 yr. old JDM would like to meet marriage minded lady in her 60's. CJN Box # 7175.

*** CJN Boxes for Personal Companions Wanted ads are valid for 30 (thirty) days only (from 1st publication date). Replies must be received within this time frame in order to be forwarded to the correct CJN Box #.**

CLASSIFIED ADS/ SERVICE DIRECTORY ADS
· CUSTOMER SERVICE ·

The CJN requires that advertisers check their advertisement upon publication, as *The CJN* will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion, and there shall be no liability for non-insertion of any advertisement. Liability for errors in advertisements is limited to the amount paid for the space occupying the error. All copy is subject to the approval of the management of *The CJN*. *The CJN* reserves the right to classify all advertisements.

Service Directory & Classified Ad Deadlines are Wednesday, 8 days previous to the issue, by 4 pm.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Replying to a Companion ad with a CJN Box Number?

Address your mail to:

The Canadian Jewish News
1500 Don Mills Rd.
Suite 205
North York, Ontario
M3B 3K4
Box # _____

280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Bridge Group for hearing impaired players. Call 932-3303 or fax 932-8894.

300 ARTICLES FOR SALE

Furniture for sale. Good cond. Beds,wall unit, desks, dressers, tables, chairs. Jodi at 588-2894

Wildlife Art Collection
Over 100 Ltd. Edition framed prints from private collection. All Canadian Wildlife. $25,000.
1977 Cadillac Fleetwood
Brand new cond., Beige/Beige. 17,000 original miles. MINT cond!! $25,000. (905) 761-9611

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Cash for jewellery, diamonds, coins & stamps. **416-605-1640.**

330 OBITUARIES

KOLTUN, Harry - on Apr. 8, 1999, late of 138 Sultana Ave.
ROSS, Tillie - on Apr. 8, 1999, late of 6200 Bathurst St., #710.
ROTENBERG, Geoffrey - on Apr. 8, 1999, late of 255 Duncan Mill Rd., #808.
CASS, Anne - on Apr. 10, 1999, late of 6200 Bathurst St., #204.
GORMAN, Benjamin - on Apr. 10, 1999, late of 23303 Don Mills Rd., #2504.
ISENBERG, Eileen - on Apr. 10, 1999, late of 38 Barksdale Ave.
TOREM, Molly - on Apr. 10, 1999, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
GAUM, Bernard - on Apr. 11, 1999, late of 44 St. Joseph St., #1913.
MILLER, Annette - on Apr. 11, 1999, late of 660 Briar Hill Ave., #504.
GOLDMAN, Lily - on Apr. 13, 1999, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
BLOOM, Tillie - on Apr. 14, 1999, late of 8 Bonnacord Dr.
EISEN, Harry - on Apr. 14, 1999, late of 11 Townsgate Dr., #309.
GREENSPOON, Louis - on Apr. 14, 1999, late of 55 Skymark Dr., #2807.
BLACK, Sue - on Apr. 15, 1999, late of 21 Mayfair Ave., #207.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

KILLEN, Lorne - on Apr. 12, 1999, late of 3008 Olympus Mews.

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
HEBREW BASIC BURIAL
TRADITIONAL JEWISH FUNERAL SERVICE

330 OBITUARIES

IZENBERG GOLDBERG Monuments

Serving the Jewish community for over 80 years

•Finest quality memorials crafted in our own factory - under our supervision
•Very reasonable prices

LIFETIME GUARANTEE ON ALL MONUMENTS

EXPERIENCE QUALITY - SERVICE

3173 BATHURST ST.
(just north of Lawrence)
(416) 787-0319

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SIMON FELD ז"ל
loving husband, father and grandfather
will take place
Sunday, May 2nd at 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Ostrovtzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LOUIS KESTEN ז"ל
loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother
will take place
Sunday, May 2nd at 11:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Ave.
Beth Sholom Section (New Section)
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
EVA LEON ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 2nd at 10:00 a.m.
Dawes Rd. Cemetery
Linitzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
RABBI HAROLD LERNER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 2nd at 12:30 p.m.
Mt. Sinai Cemetery
Pride of Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JOAN HALBERSTADT ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 2nd 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Temple Har Zion Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MYNA LAZER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 2nd, 10:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Beth David Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MORRIS (MOISHE) NASH ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 2nd 12:30 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Kielcer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HARRY WEINSTOCK ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 2nd 11:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Farband Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HERMAN NEWMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 2nd, 11:00 a.m.
Mt. Sinai Memorial Park
Beth Radom Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

338 SHIVA CATERING

KING SOLOMON'S CATERING
COR
630-0666
SHIVA CATERING

338 SHIVA CATERING

SAME DAY SERVICE
*Tasteful Presentation
*Hot/Cold Platters
and Full Course Meals
• DELIVERY AVAILABLE
789-7651
3457 BATHURST ST.

milk 'n honey
THE DAIRY RESTAURANT

TO PLACE AN UNVEILING NOTICE
PLEASE CALL AT LEAST
14 DAYS
PRIOR TO THE DATE
OF THE UNVEILING

LIVE LONG AND PROSPER! (BY ADVERTISING)

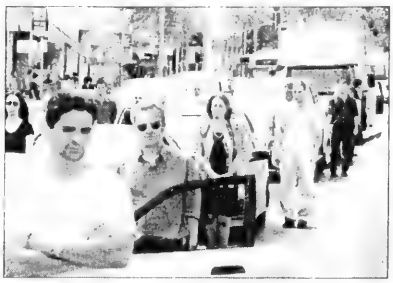
CALL TANYA AT (416) 391-1836
FOR ADVERTISING RATES

CJN Classifieds Really Really Work!

FROM SORROW TO CELEBRATION

Israelis set aside the 4th day of Iyar, Yom Hazikaron, to remember their fallen soldiers, (outer columns of photos). Then, as sunset falls, they transform their sorrow into celebration as they take to the streets, many waving flags, in praise of Yom Ha'atzmaut (inner column of photos).

[Israel Sun and RNS/Reuters photos]



To **Listen** & **Respond** To Ads call **1-900-451-4552 *Ext.#* 65**

The cost of the 900# is only $2.49 per minute

To Place Your **FREE** Ad **call 905-276-6167 *Ext.#* 65**

The *Meeting Place*

Brought to you by the Canadian Jewish News

Women seeking Men

To respond to an ad, call 1-900-451-4552 Ext. 65

INNER & OUTER BEAUTY
Single female, slim, fit, 37, attractive, bright, sincere, outgoing. Seeking a male, 35-42, with similar interests, for a fun loving times, possibly more AD#2009

BRIGHT & UNIQUE
Attractive Jewish female, bright, slim, professional, passionate, athletic, enjoy9y the outdoors Seeking a Jewish male in his 40's, who is sincere, athletic, no dependents, for a vibrant, long term relationship AD#2010

LIFE IS BEST SHARED
Single Jewish female, 45, with a positive attitude and a great sense of humour, know how to enjoy life Seeking a male, who is fun, honest, intelligent, affectionate, for a committed relationship AD#2116

LET'S CONNECT
Single female, 20, student, enjoy movies, dining & dancing, trying new things Seeking a male, 21-26, for a meaningful relationship AD#2013

LET'S CHAT
Single Jewish female, 41, seeking a male, 35-43, who is warm, considerate, understanding, easy to be with, for a long term relationship. AD#2001

HIGH MORAL STANDARDS
Single Jewish female, intelligent; love to dance, seeking a Jewish male, under 50 yrs, who is intelligent, honest, strong eagle with high moral standards, positive attitude, who stands up for what he believes in AD#2004

NICE GUY WANTED
Single Jewish female, 38, 5'5", brown hair & eyes, attractive, honest, caring, down to earth, fit, enjoy movies, dining out, dancing Seeking a Jewish male, 35-45, who is active, non smoker, honest, caring, down to earth AD#2005

SINCERELY YOURS
Very attractive, intelligent female, with varied interests, seeking a male, who is unattached, established, intelligent, kind, honest, affectionate gentleman, non smoker, 55-65 AD#2007

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single Jewish female, 36, cute, petite, long brown hair, hazel eyes, smoker, sincere, down to earth, enjoy movies, cooking, dining, dancing. Seeking a single Jewish male, 35-40, spontaneous, ambitious, for long term relationship, possible marriage & family AD#1991

NON SMOKERS ONLY
Divorced mom of 2, Jewish, 41, 5'2", smart, cute, affectionate, passionate, energetic, enjoy movies, concerts, dining & dancing. Seeking a male, well educated, kind, good natured, only non smokers please. AD#1998

COUNTRY DRIVES
Single Jewish female, widow, 50, enjoy movies, theater, long walks, dining out, sports, travelling, drives in the country. Seeking a Jewish male, 47-57, non smoker, with a great sense of humour. AD#1987

SIMPLE TWIST OF FATE
Single mom of 2 children, interesting, intelligent, 34, unique, awesome Seeking a Jewish male, 36-46, for friendship, fun and trouble AD#2037

COMEDY CLUBS
Single Jewish female, 5'4", attractive, professional, stylish, dark brown hair, hazel green eyes, enjoy theater, movies, camping, roller blading, bowling, comedy clubs, dining out Seeking a male, attractive, 32-43, similar interests & qualities AD#1967

SOULMATE
Divorced female, 33, red hair, blue eyes, slim, physically fit, enjoy theater, movies, working out seeking a male, 30-41, who is physically fit, university educated, caring, open minded and a non smoker AD#1971

CALL ME
Single female, Toronto born, 37, 5'8", medical professional, enjoy sports, dining and dancing, boating, travelling Seeking a male, 5'9"+, who is a medical or legal professional AD#1978

DOWN TO EARTH
Single female, slim, 5'6", professional, enjoy dancing, art, sports Seeking a male, educated, down to earth, athletic, 28-38, with similar interests AD#1929

CLASSY LADY
Single female, 5'7", 136lbs, long auburn hair, honest, good values, love people, reading, gardening, nature, travelling Seeking a male, mid 40's to mid 50's, with integrity, for long term relationship AD#1975

CALL ME
Single Jewish female, professional, petite, attractive, family oriented, enjoy dining & dancing, theater, movies, romantic evenings Seeking a Jewish male, kind, easy going, for a possible long-term relationship. AD#1955

TRUE ROMANTIC
Single female, 35, 5'4", slim, attractive, true romantic, enjoy theater, movies, dining out, cottage life Seeking a male, 36-44, down to earth, settled in his life, ready to settle down with the right person AD#1961

LONG LASTING RELATIONSHIP
Single female, 40's, Orthodox, kind, caring, friendly, helpful, outgoing, enjoy travelling, dining out, movies. Seeking an Orthodox male, educated, intelligent, kind, caring, easy going, honest, outgoing, attractive, employed, good sense of humour AD#1930

Men seeking Women

To respond to an ad, call 1-900-451-4552 Ext. 65

FUN LOVING
Single male, 33, 6', blue-green eyes, slim, attractive, financially secure, fun loving, enjoy dining out, movies, dancing Seeking a Jewish female, 28-35, tall, attractive, with similar interests AD#2008

MARRIAGE MINDED
Single Jewish male, 46, fit, easy going, sincere, hard working, enjoy art, music, movies, long walks. Seeking a female, 25-35, for marriage minded, serious relationship AD#2086

WHAT A CATCH!
Single Jewish male, 36, 5'10", 190lbs, enjoy tennis, squash, reading, movies, dining & dancing, TV. Seeking a Jewish female, 28-47, fit, outgoing, personality is a plus AD#2014

ATTENTION LADIES!
Single male, reformed, 40, tall, slim, handsome, fair hair, hazel eyes, non smoker, social drinker, medical specialist, enjoy movies, blading, the outdoors, trying new foods. Seeking a slim, educated, fit, employed female, with a car and blue jeans, no kids or cats AD#2000

WHO'S YOUR FAVORITE TELATUBBIE
Single dad of 2 little girls, 5'10", 190lbs, 41, fit, athletic, Health Care professional, enjoy sports, movies, dining & dancing, extensive knowledge of Barney and telatubbies Seeking a female, 34-42, easy to look at, proud of her looks, smart, fun loving AD#2003

ATTENTION LADIES!
Single white male, 56, self employed, romantic, warm caring, enjoy travelling, movies, quiet times, good conversation Seeking a female with similar interests and qualities AD#1996

LET'S CHAT
Single male, employed, tired of the bar scene, seeking a fun loving female, with wide variety of interests, for friends first relationship AD#2056

SHARING HIS LIFE
Attractive, athletic male, 5'9", brown hair and eyes, employed, no children, enjoy reading, foreign movies, tennis, basketball, weight lifting Seeking an honest female, who is open minded, compassionate, with a great sense of humour AD#1957

HIGH QUALITY
Divorced male, mid 50's, 3 grown children, well educated, tall, slim, life in British Columbia, enjoy the outdoors, travelling, camping Seeking a female, warm sensitive, serious, and ready for intense relationship AD#1962

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single male, Jewish, 26, handsome, non smoker, enjoy long conversations, movies, music, animals, camping Seeking an attractive, single female, non smoker, with similar interests AD#1964

GOING OUT FOR COFFEE
Single Jewish male, 5'8", 180lbs, easy to get along with, healthy, down to earth, old fashioned, kind, man of many talents, enjoy art, sports Seeking a single Jewish female with similar interests AD#1937

WARM AND CARING
Single white male, 56, self employed, romantic, enjoy travelling, movies, quiet times, good conversations. Seeking a female with similar interests AD#1933

EASY GOING
Single Jewish male, 41, fun loving, easy going, great sense of humour, enjoy movies, theater, long walks, skiing, skating. Seeking a female, 34-42, with similar interests AD#1939

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SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP
Single male, Jewish, professional, late 40's, handsome, intelligent, good sense of humour, caring, sincere, enjoy dining & dancing, movies, good conversation Seeking a warm hearted female for serious relationship AD#1945

SEEKING SOULMATE
Single white male, professional, Jewish, computer engineer, good sense of humour, outgoing, gourmet cook, enjoy outdoor activities Seeking a female for long term, lasting relationship AD#1944

SENSE OF VALUES
Single Jewish male, smart, intelligent, strong, outgoing, with strong sense of values Seeking a female, who is fun, trustworthy, 25-32 AD#1921

COLLEGE STUDENT
Single Jewish male, 22, 6'2", college student, enjoy sports, golf,baseball, movies, dining out, dancing.Seeking a female, 18-23, similar interests AD#1922

LOVING
Single male, 5'10", black hair, green eyes, non smoker or drinker, happy going person, enjoy cooking, dancing, dining out, movies, caring, loving Seeking a very nice and sincere female with similar interests AD#1923

LATIN MUSIC
Single Jewish male, 5'6", 147lbs, healthy in body and mind, enjoy Latin music, great outdoors, tennis and fine dining. Seeking an attractive, slim female, with similar interests AD#1906

ATTENTION LADIES!
Single male, professional, mid 50's, Israeli-European background, enjoy walks, movies, dining, dancing Seeking a female, attractive, petite, down to earth AD#1470

LONG DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish male, 36, tall, fit, professional, easy going, live in Western Canada, enjoy travelling, movies, weekends at the lake Seeking a Jewish female, sincere, outgoing, 25-40, willing to relocate or have a long distance relationship. AD#1886

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Sports

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The Canadian Jewish news

Port Perry wrestler captures Canadian juvenile title

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — There was a time when Jonathon Blain was pretty definite about the style of wrestling he preferred. Freestyle was the brand for him, definitely not Greco-Roman.

Lately, he's begun to rethink that view – and for good reason. Winning a gold medal in Greco-Roman at the National Juvenile Championships in St. Catharines will do that to you.

"I used to like freestyle a lot more," Blain acknowledges. "Now that I've won the gold in Greco-Roman, I like them the same."

Fighting in the 68 kg class (149.6 lbs.), the 18-year-old resident of Port Perry, Ont. (north of Oshawa) dispatched four opponents, including last year's champ, on his way to the medal podium.

His victory over last year's winner was a nail-biter and barn-burner all at the same time. Blain was trailing three points to one with only 30 seconds remaining when fate – and lots of training – gave him the advantage. He spotted an opening in his opponent's defences, and managed to throw him for three points. He added an extra point by holding him down, giving him the win to the astonishment of many onlookers.

Those last-minute heroics vaulted him into the semi-final, which he won relatively easily. From there, it was on to the gold-medal match versus an opponent from Calgary.

Even though he had lost almost 11 pounds to get down to his fighting weight, his opponent had cut even more, closer to 15 lb., Blain said. "The guy was a lot bigger than me. He'd cut down and he was still a lot stronger than me."

Although he was concerned going into the match, Blain stayed focused, and concentrated on the technical part of the fight. Instead of being psyched by his opponent, he tried to devise a strategy to take him down.

"It was hard to get in close on him," he explained, "but it turned into a very quick match. It lasted about 45 seconds."

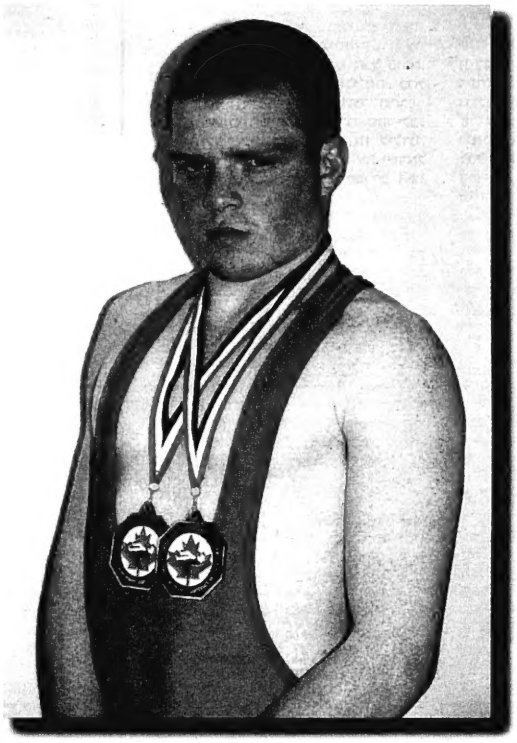
Blain took advantage of a momentary lapse, a careless move by his opponent in which he unexpectedly lifted his arm. "I caught him, threw him and pinned him," he said.

The pin, like a KO in boxing, brought the contest to an abrupt end and gave him the gold. Earlier, he'd won a bronze medal in the freestyle event. For Blain, it was mission accomplished and on to the medal podium, a fairly familiar location for Blain at the end of each wrestling season.

Blain has wrestled competitively and has been provincially ranked since Grade three.

He started by training with the Durham XLs in Pickering, later switching over to the Oshawa Olympic Wrestling Club under coach Don Westlake. The club is known for developing young wrestlers.

Westlake believes Blain has "great potential," including a good chance of making the national junior team next year.



Jonathon Blain

"Jay trains very hard," Westlake said. "Like any individual sport, it's based on dedication" and Jay has "great family support."

In his first-ever tournament while still in Grade three, Blain finished third. Later that year, he won a freestyle silver at the provincial championships.

"I've finished first or second ever year since then in the provincials," he said.

Two years ago, as a 16-year-old, he won the national freestyle Cadet title at a competition in Fredericton. Last year, expecting to repeat, he had to pull out of the event after an early season head injury knocked him off the mat for about a month.

The injury, which led to a gland infection, didn't scare him, though it did tick him off. "I was just upset that I missed the tournament," he said.

It also kept him away from the second sport he loves, rugby.

Blain is a member of the Port Perry High School team, and he also laces up his cleats for the Ontario provincial team.

"I like aggressive sports and I like winning," he explained.

For Blain, wrestling and rugby share another thing in common. They're both "thinking games. In wrestling and rugby, you have to use strategies to beat your opponents," he said. "It's like a chess game. You stay away from his strengths, you work on his weaknesses."

Blain has always preferred freestyle wrestling, which allows fighters to use both the upper and lower body, over Greco-Roman, which limits grappling to the upper body. But mostly, he just likes to wrestle.

Next year will be Blain's OAC year and he'll decide between pursuing a career at either Brock or Lakehead universities. He plans to study social work and sociology while participating in the wrestling program at one of the schools.

Westlake said Blain could well develop into a national senior team member.

Living in Port Perry, Blain doesn't have much contact with other young Jews, but he has made some friends at Camp Robin Hood in Markham where he's a summer counsellor. Blain would love to visit Israel as part of a Canadian Maccabiah team, he said.

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Senior skater makes comeback

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — At 71, Meyer Cosman can truly be called the comeback kid of senior speed skaters.

After a five-year absence battling throat cancer, Cosman, a Winnipeg furniture retailer, laced up the skates and picked up where he left off – winning the 70-plus national speed skating championship in Quebec City in mid-February.

A month earlier, he won the Manitoba Masters title. (The masters category includes any skater over 30.)

Cosman's first go round on skates took place when he was a kid. As a teen, he won several medals at three Canadian Junior Championships. At 20, he hung up his blades to concentrate on raising a family and earning a living running the family furniture store.

In 1988, he turned the business over to his son, Jeff, and went into semi-retirement. Looking for something to do, he decided to try skating again. He joined a local masters club in Winnipeg called the Idle Blades and began to skate competitively. He won the Manitoba Open and the Canadian Masters Championship in Ste. Foy, Quebec, in the 60-to-69-age group.

Around that time, Cosman developed a persistent cough which was diagnosed as throat cancer. He hung up his skates while he was being treated for the illness.

Although he stopped speed skating, he continued his rigorous exercise schedule. He put on hundreds of miles a year on his road bikes during the time he was treated for cancer.

Last year, he decided to return to competitive ice skating. His training involves biking three days a week and running and lifting weights in the gym two days a week.

If he would have had a partner to travel with, Cosman says he would have liked to have competed overseas this past winter. His times, he says, would have been good enough to win championships in Europe.

The Inside Back

ספרותנו

מאת: יעל זליגר

ישראל הקטנה

יאני וגם הסבתא, ישבנו פה בצותא
...וסבתא שוב...היא מספרת... איך
ישובים בנתה היא... ובלילות שמרה
מפני אויב בדממה והניטה, ושרה עם
כולם מתוך הלב...היום הכל פורח,
גדל ומתפתח... הדגל שלי הוא כחל
ולבן, אתמול היום וגם מחר...'
(קטעים משירו של 'זורח טהר-לב:
הדגל שלי). כך סיפרנו אז לילדנו.
והיום? אוהבים, אוהבים את ישראל
שלנו, אך בין השאר מספרים זאת
כך.

אבא, בספרו ההיתולי, העכשווי של
מאיר גולדברג, מביא חביתה כדור-
בלון מצויר ואומר לבנו דניאל: זה
העולם ולבלון הזה קוראים גלובוס.
שואל דניאל: ואיפה ישראל? אבא
לוקח את כדור הארץ, מחזיקו קרוב
לאף, ממצמץ בעיניו ולבסוף מכריז:
מצאתי! והילד מאוכזב: מה, זה כל
ישראל? מדוע לא יכולה ישראל
להיות הכתם הצהוב הענק על
הגלובוס? אבא אומר שואת סין ולא
ישראל. לטענת הילד שישראל הכי
קטנה בעולם, האב אומר שיש
מדינות עוד יותר קטנות, כמו
לוכסמבורג, מונקו וליכטנשטיין.
אולי, אומר דניאל, אבל יש ארצות
שמנות כמו לוב 'ירוק ישראל קטנה
כמו זבוב.' אבא עונה שיותר כיף
לגור בישראל מאשר בלוב. (כאן
מופיע בספר איור משעשע של זבוב
מחזיק בדגל ישראל.)

כאשר סבא וסבתא באים לביקור
מראה להם דניאל את הגלובוס
שקנה אבא. סבא מסובב את הבלון
חמש וחצי פעמים, מקמט מצחו
ולבסוף פוסק: "לעזאזל, אני לא
מוצא את ישראל!"

שוב פונה דניאל הקטן לאביו
שיסביר לו בבקשה מה בעצם כל כך
מיוחד בישראל שכן בעניין הגלובוס
ושטחה של ישראל בעולם יש בהחלט
בעיה. ובכן, ממהר אבא להשיב,
ישראל יושבת כמעט באמצע העולם
ובשטח הקטן הזה יש גם חוף ים, גם
מדבר, נחלים, נהר, יער, הרים, יש גם
ים המלח שהוא המקום הנמוך
ביותר בעולם ויש עוד כהנה וכהנה
אלא שעכשיו, מסביר אבא, הוא
רוצה להסתכל בטלוויזיה במשחק
כדור רגל; ישראל נגד בולגריה.
גם לאמא דעה בנושא אלא שדניאל
טוען שהיא בדרך כלל חושבת על
סוגי מאכלים. אמא כל הזמן רעבה
ומדברת על ארצות שונות כאלו
העולם אינו אלא מסעדה אחת
גדולה. ואכן אמא מיד אומרת שמה
שהיא רוצה זה להיות עכשיו בפריז
ולאכול באגט! אך לאחר מכן היא
בכל זאת מציינת במילים רכות שיש
בישראל שמש וריח פרדסים,
מוסיקה של יום ששי אחר הצהרים,
ספורי התנ"ך וירושלים וכן זיתים,
פלפל בפיתה וטחינה מטפטפת.

בינתיים אבא "נח" ממשחק הכדור
רגל ומזכיר מעלות נוספות של
ישראל שבה יש סוגים רבים של
אנשים וגם טנק, מטוס ורובה
ישראלי. אך דניאל לא רוצה
מלחמות בסיפור שלו. אבא מסכים
ומוסיף שאף אחד לא מנצח
במלחמות ובעיקר אנשים טובים
שיירוצים לחיות בשלום, אבל זה לא
תמיד מצליח להם."

בשעת משחק מגלה דניאל בארגז
כלים אולר שויצרי, מפוח שבדי
וסכין יפנית. ובשבידיו האוצרות
הללו הוא חוקר את אמו: ומה יש
בישראל? ואמא זאת אמא והיא
עונה: "ילד אחד שאני אוהבת אותו
הכי בעולם. דניאל מישראל."

עבר יום ולילה אצל משפחתו של
הילד דניאל ואז מגיע איזה איש
לתקן את תנור האפייה במטבח ותוך
כדי סידורים ותיקונים, מתפוצץ
כדור הבלון-גלובוס ומהכדור
המפואר לא נותר אלא חתיכת בלון
עלובה אך, ראה זה פלא, דווקא בעת
מתיחת פיסת הבלון הנפוחה נגלית
ארץ ישראל הקטנה בשלמותה!
דניאל משתולל משמחה: יש, יש
ישראל! יהי ישראל! וגם לאבא כבר
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הפסידה נגד נבחרת בולגריה.

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המשעשע לעזאזל, אני לא מוצא את
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ידיעות אחרונות, ספרי חמד)ותמוסיף
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WE SELL JENN-AIR FOR LESS

GARDEN VEGETABLE LATKES

1/2 lb. Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled, cut into 1" pieces
2 large carrots, peeled, cut into 1" pieces
2 large parsnips, peeled, cut into 1" pieces
1/4 cup chopped fresh dill
1/4 cup chopped green onions
1/4 cup flour
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
2 large eggs, beaten
1/4 cup vegetable oil

Using food processor fitted with medium grating disk, shred potatoes, carrots and parsnips. Place towel on work surface. Spread vegetables over. Roll up towel; squeeze tightly to absorb moisture from vegetables. Blend flour, dill, onions, salt and pepper in large bowl. Add vegetables; toss to coat. Mix in eggs.

Heat 6 tblsps. oil in large skillet over medium heat. Working in batches, drop 2 heaping tblsps. batter per pancake into hot oil. Using spoon, spread to 4" rounds. Cook until brown, about 3 minutes per side. Repeat with remaining batter, adding more oil to skillet by tablespoonfuls as necessary. Serve hot. Mix some chopped dill and green onions into sour cream for topping. Makes about 12.

About Food

Dear Norene

Most of you probably know me best from my cookbooks. Thanks for letting me into your kitchen for the past 30 years. My cookbooks have travelled more than I have! People often come to my signings proudly carrying a food-stained copy of one of my books!

I'm delighted with this opportunity to share "food for thought" and to get your feedback in the form of culinary questions, recipes and food memories.

My life is a four-letter word: *food*. I thought Y2K compliant meant "Yes, 2 Knaidlach!" I love when people have food names, like Honey, Cookie or Alfredo (my doorman)! I have over 1,500 cookbooks, but my most treasured is a copy of my *Processor Cookbook* autographed by Julia Child: "Dear Norene, Vive la kosher cuisine!"

I've just returned from a culinary conference in Phoenix where I met "foodies" from all over the world. I attended a workshop on Beyond Kosher with American cookbook authors Ethel Hofman and Joan Nathan. Did you know the first kosher cookbook in America was *Jewish Cookery* by Esther Levy, published in 1871!

Food manufacturers perceive kosher certification as an exploding marketing opportunity. Two million people keep kosher. Another 2.5 million buy kosher because they consider it purer and therefore better. The remaining market includes Muslims, Seventh-Day Adventists, vegetarians and the lactose intolerant, totalling10 million consumers!

I sampled foods of every kind, from Jalapeno Pepper Brownies to Kasha Chili! Kasha (buckwheat groats) can be enjoyed by vegetarians, diabetics, dieters and those with lactose intolerance. Because it is a fruit and not a grain, kasha is wheat and gluten-free, ideal for those with celiac disease. It is 20 percent higher in fibre than oatmeal (largely soluble), which helps lower cholesterol. An excellent source of plant protein, kasha is available in whole, coarse, medium and fine grains. You don't need an egg to coat whole kasha because the thin seed coating shields each kernel while it cooks, keeping it separate and fluffy.

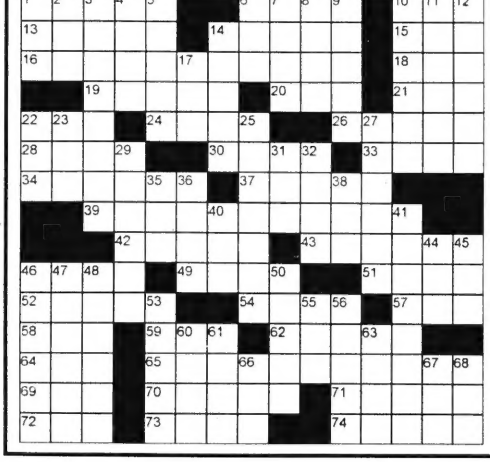
FAT-FREE KASHA CHILI

28 oz. can diced or stewed tomatoes
3½ cups vegetable broth
19 oz. can pinto or kidney beans, drained and rinsed
1 onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, crushed
1 tbsp. chili powder (to taste)
1 tsp. each paprika, cumin and oregano
¼ tsp. pepper (to taste)
¾ cup whole kasha (uncooked)

In a large pot, add all ingredients except kasha. Bring to a boil and simmer uncovered 10 minutes. Add kasha, cover and simmer 15 minutes longer, until kasha is tender, stirring occasionally. Makes 8 cups. Freezes well.

Variation: Substitute ½ cup dry lentils for beans. Increase cooking time to 20 minutes before adding kasha.

Norene Gilletz, leading Canadian author of Kosher cookbooks, gives lectures and cooking demonstrations throughout North America. Submit cooking questions to The CJN. *Contact Norene at www.gourmania.com*



The Canadian Jewish news

City Talk

By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

Across

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30 California Valley
33 Hebrew for "paradise"
34 Middle Eastern seed
37 Justice Ginsberg or Senator Boxer
39 Show of appreciation, in Israel?
42 Bye in Bordeaux
43 Concentration camp site in Bavaria
46 Israeli Prime Minister raised in Milwaukee
49 Speaker's place
51 Electric creatures
52 Part of 31-down's name
54 Dreidels
57 "Bravo!"
58 Wise king, for short
59 Nero or Augustus: abbr.
62 Parent, vis-a-vis a child
64 Relaxed sounds
65 Pretentious, in Israel?
69 Day, in the Dominican Republic
70 President Assad, for example
71 Derisive look
72 Former Spielberg partner Irving
73 Previously-owned
74 Speed

Down

1 ____ Solo ("Star Wars" character)
2 Justice Fortas
3 Art Buchwald, for instance
4 "Yes, ____" (Sammy Davis, Jr.'s autobiography)
5 Barry Levinson film of '82
6 Actor Mineo
7 Somewhat
8 Ruth, to Boaz
9 Shorthand taker
10 Smoothed, in woodworking
11 Cold spell of a sort
12 Musician Randy
14 ____ mind (intended)
17 Vote for Representative Gilman
22 Greyhound vehicle
23 Exist
25 Case for Jacoby & Meyers
27 Dennis, for one
29 Negev's "big brother"
31 "The Raven" writer
32 Surrounded by
35 Alfred E. Neuman's magazine
36 Geraint's wife, in Arthurian legend
38 In the style of
40 Hawaii's Mauna ____
41 Einstein "products"
44 "____ About Eve"
45 "What's the ___?"
46 Site of a 1st century AD siege
47 Torah's third word
48 "Amen to that!"
50 Submarine locator
53 India's first Prime Minister
55 Chum
56 Flatten
60 Art Spiegelman book
61 Mound
63 Sicilian volcano
66 Government agent
67 Court barrier
68 SAT big brother

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(This week's answers are on page 41.)

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